



**Kansas transfer Jordan Webb is CU's 2012 starting quarterback.**  
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



## Brooks: Embree Makes Quick QB Decision - It's Webb

Release: 08/15/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

*(Note: Fifth in a series previewing the Buffs position-by-position during training camp. Today: Quarterbacks.)*

**BOULDER** - Turns out that Saturday's first full scrimmage of August camp will indeed shed light on Colorado's quarterback lineup: It should go a long way in determining a backup.

In only [Jon Embree](#)'s second season as a head coach, this much we've learned as being indisputable: When he develops a gut feeling on personnel decisions, it doesn't stay in his mid-section too much longer.

As he did in last August's camp in quickly naming then-freshmen [Will Oliver](#) as his No. 1 kicker and [Darragh O'Neill](#) as his No. 1 punter, Embree on Wednesday again went up-tempo and named Kansas transfer [Jordan Webb](#) as the Buffs' starting quarterback.

### BUFFALO EXTRAS



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"You know how I am," Embree said. "If I feel it's right, I'm going with it."

In this case, he went with it was because he believed it was the right call at the right time for all the right reasons. In a surprising story of arrive and conquer, Webb needed only eight days of training camp to separate himself from sophomores [Nick Hirschman](#) and [Connor Wood](#).

"He's been very accurate," Embree said of Webb. "He's showed good discipline in taking care of the football. He makes plays."

"Obviously, the experience shows, the poise shows," added CU quarterbacks coach [Rip Scherer](#). "He was able to transfer terminology. Concepts are concepts, but he was able to transfer the terminology relatively quickly. There's still a learning curve for him, but he really progressed quicker than I thought he would."

Webb, a graduate student with two years of eligibility remaining, said he was "definitely excited, but humbled, sure. I know this is just the beginning; I definitely haven't made it. I hope the guys rally around me. I think I've earned their confidence and their trust, but now's the time to really step it up a notch."

Scherer believes the offense has accepted Webb as its leader. "It seems like they have (but) we'll find out," he said. "I think they have rallied around him. He's made the most plays of anybody by far in training camp . . . you don't have to be brain surgeon to figure it out."

Of the three QBs who entered camp on the morning of Aug. 6 competing for the starting job, Webb - strictly from a physical standpoint - might have been the easiest to overlook. Hirschman is 6-4, 230; Wood is 6-3, 225. Webb is generously listed as being 6-1 and 205 - figures whose accuracy might depend on the benefit of cleats, helmet and full pads.

As much as the quarterback position is about numbers, it's also about intangibles - and it didn't take long in his new environment for Webb to demonstrate those. He might have made his move to the front last weekend. Embree told Media Day attendees on Saturday that he would begin testing the trio of QBs in situational work, and true to his word, it began in that afternoon's practice.

In a word, Webb excelled. In one situation - second-and-18 near mid-field with the offense needing a field goal with time running out - Webb threw a pair of incompletions and faced fourth-and-18. Then he threw for 22 yards and a first down to [Nelson Spruce](#), positioning [Will Oliver](#) for a successful field goal.

"The most impressive thing about that," recalled Embree, "was on third-and-18 it was the same play call. He and Spruce almost connected . . . then he came back and hit Spruce on the back shoulder. Both times it was against (corner) [Greg Henderson](#) and it was tight coverage.

"But that was where you wanted to go with the ball. The fact that he had enough confidence to try and make that throw the first time, then to come back knowing this is to win the game . . . to come back again and make that throw against two man, which is difficult coverage to complete, for him to do that, it was the only place you could put it. For me, it was like, 'OK' . . ."

Asked if that sequence was a turning point in the camp QB competition, Embree answered, "It was one of them . . . each day I try to go in with an open mind and see how they responded. Sometimes when you're in a competition you get in a situation where maybe a guy in front of you does something so you try to come out and do what he did or do better. What you have to do is what's in front of you. If it's a situation where you have to check it down, check it down. Don't force it . . ."

"It's not H-O-R-S-E. You don't have to match shot-for-shot. I think sometimes the guys got caught up in doing that a little bit. But as we move on for competing for No. 2, we've just to keep moving forward."

In his two seasons (20-plus games, 19 starts) directing KU, Webb passed for 3,079 yards, with 20 touchdown

passes against the same number of interceptions. His final 12-game numbers at KU last season: 179-of-281; 1,884 yards, 13 TDs, 12 interceptions.

But one of his stats also demonstrates growth and a settling in at the position: His completion percentage rose from 56.5 in 2010 to 63.7 in 2011.

Webb was recruited by former Jayhawks coach Mark Mangino as the heir apparent to Todd Reesing, who guided the Jayhawks to a 3-1 record against CU and a 12-1 season in 2007 that culminated with an Orange Bowl victory against Virginia Tech. Webb recalled that his time at KU with Reesing, who was very close to Webb's size, wasn't so beneficial in terms of "X's and O's or playbook stuff, but how to carry yourself, how to be a leader. He's the type of guy when it comes to crunch time you can really count on him making a play. That's a quarterback, really the definition of a quarterback."

Webb graduated from Union (Mo.) High School early, then enrolled early at KU, allowing him to graduate in 31/2 years. When KU changed coaches (Mangino to Turner Gill to Charlie Weis) Webb was shelved in the shuffle.

Weis wanted his own QB; Webb said he understood and began shopping for a new school/team. CU's interest was sparked by Webb sending emails "to some schools that I knew had graduated quarterbacks, places I knew I'd like to go," he told CUBuffs.com shortly after his arrival in Boulder. "Coach Scherer was able to get back in touch with me and we kind of kicked it off. I had a really good time talking to him and we kind of hit it off from the beginning. I'm lucky it all worked out."

On Media Day, Embree characterized Hirschman and Wood as "having big arms" that allowed them to make "all the throws." On Wednesday, Scherer said this of Webb: "What he lacks in arm strength he makes up in anticipation, accuracy. It's not a punt-pass-and-kick contest all the time, not who throws the farthest, the hardest. It's who gets the ball there on time and puts it where it's supposed to be."

By making the announcement three days before the Buffs' first major scrimmage of camp, Webb gets even more reps with the No. 1 offense leading up to the Sept. 1 opener against Colorado State (2 p.m., Denver). Embree said that was a consideration as well as relieving the rest of the team of having to field the on-going question of "Who's your starter?" Said Embree: "That's not a question they'll have to answer from momma and daddy or whoever . . . it just allows to continue to move forward."

In situational scrimmages, Embree said Webb's decisions were right more often than not, as was his down-and-distance awareness: "He's just got a great feel (for the game) and has a great presence in the pocket. He just continues each day to get better and better."

Although Webb entered the fray late, Embree noted that Wednesday's decision said more about Webb's experience and maturity than it did about his competition. The Buffs' QB roster includes redshirt freshmen [John Schrock](#) and [Stevie Joe Dorman](#), and true freshman Shane Dillon, who is scheduled to redshirt.

But Wood and Hirschman will compete for the backup spot, and Embree said he wasn't down on either: "First off, I think Nick and Connor are still young. Second, they're still competing for the backup spot. It's football, right? It could happen quickly where it's yours; you have to keep preparing and working in that manner. Those two guys need to keep battling it out."

The decision to elevate Webb, said Embree, was his but it came via staff input: "As a staff - offense and defense - it's something we talk about it. When we're looking at tape, we're seeing the same thing, whether it's a passing situation . . . (the defensive staff) doesn't know some of the details, but when they see No. 4 (Webb) doing the things he's done, it's impressive. He's just got a good grasp and real good feel for things."

Before Wednesday's announcement, Embree said he wasn't sure if his players had a growing sense that Webb was emerging: "I had told them all before camp to focus on their jobs, on them getting better. I think as time goes on, sometimes as a receiver or a tight end you're aware of who the quarterback is. Usually the fat guys up front have no idea of who's behind them . . .

"But having said that, when you're in the huddle with a guy, you kind of have an idea of who takes command. I'm not saying those other guys didn't, but (Webb) has a presence. He's just natural."

## THE INSIDE LOOK AT ...

### Quarterbacks

**Coach:** [Rip Scherer](#), second season on CU staff.

**Returning starters:** None.

**Returnees:** [Nick Hirschman](#), Soph.; Steve Joe Dorman, Fr-RS; [John Schrock](#), Fr-RS.

**Newcomers:** [Connor Wood](#), Soph. (transfer from Texas); [Jordan Webb](#), Jr. (transfer from Kansas); Shane Dillon, freshman.

**Key losses:** [Tyler Hansen](#), [Brent Burnette](#) (left program).

**Stat line:** Hansen accounted for 2,883 yards and 20 TDs passing last season, with another 200 yards (115 after sacks) and three TDs on the ground. Hirschman is the only QB from CU's 2011 roster with college game stats (192 passing yards, no TDs).

**Bottom line:** Best-case camp scenario for the Buffs would have one of the three main competitors - Hirschman, Wood, Webb - assuming control early. And that happened Wednesday when Embree announced he was going with Webb, the KU transfer. Although he's got 19 games under his belt as a Big 12 Conference starter, it's still vital for the Buffs to open with a running game that will take some of the pressure off of the new guy in control of the offense.

*Next: Running backs*

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SHOW MENU



## Football: Jon Embree names Jordan Webb CU Buffs' starting quarterback

By Ryan Thorburn Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

The Buffs are hoping good (KU) things happen in threes.

Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn, who led the realignment charge west from the Big 12 to the Pac-12, is a Kansas graduate.

Wildly popular CU head basketball coach Tad Boyle played for the Jayhawks.

And now Jon Embree has tabbed former KU quarterback Jordan Webb to lead the football program in the Buffs' 2012 quest for a bowl game.

Rock, chalk ... CU.

"I'm not into playing games, sitting around waiting. I think it's fair to the players and the team that when we knew, we let them know," Embree said after Wednesday's practice of his decision to officially name Webb as CU's starter before the first scrimmage of fall camp. "I felt really good about it last night, slept on it, and decided to let it go out today."

Playing games is actually what helped give Webb the advantage over Texas transfer Connor Wood, who took all of the first-team reps during spring drills, and redshirt sophomore Nick Hirschman, who served as Tyler Hansen's backup in 2011.

Webb, who has two years of eligibility remaining and is allowed to play immediately because he has already graduated from KU, saw action in 19 games for the Jayhawks.

In 12 starts last season, Webb completed 179 of 281 pass attempts (63.7 percent) for 1,884 yards with 13 touchdowns and 12 interceptions. After a 2-0 start, KU lost its final 10 games of the season, which resulted in the firing of Turner Gill just two years into his rebuilding job.

Webb didn't fit into Charlie Weis' plans for the program and transferred to CU in July. A month later he has ascended to the top of the depth chart.

"I am surprised. I guess the coaches just felt it was the right time," Webb said. "Definitely not going to argue with it."

So are the Buffs better equipped to win in Embree's second season as head coach than KU was a year ago?

"We went into last season in Kansas thinking we were going to be a pretty good team. Unfortunately, it didn't turn out that way," Webb said. "We feel the same way here. I see a lot of talent out there. The biggest thing as far as the offense out there is we have an experienced offensive line."

Embree said he knew Webb was a "smart kid" during his visit to CU last spring. The coach's son, Connor Embree, a sophomore wide receiver at KU, also gave his dad a positive review of the new quarterback on Boulder's campus.

"He's a gym rat as far as football," Embree said. "I expected him to have a great opportunity to compete for it and that he'd pick up the system."

Webb, generously listed at 6-foot-1 on CU's roster, proved during the first 10 days of fall camp that size doesn't have to matter at quarterback.

Wood (6-3, 225 pounds) and Hirschman (6-4, 230 pounds) will continue to battle for the No. 2 position before holding clipboards on Sept. 1 at Sports Authority Field when Webb leads the Buffs against Colorado State in

Denver.

"I call him the Smurf," CU quarterbacks coach Rip Scherer said of Webb. "He's really about the same size as Tyler (Hansen) and the Drew Brees kind of thing. I'm not putting him in that league, but those guys find ways to find throwing lanes between windows, and they don't always have to be in shotgun to do that."

Embree met with all three of the QB candidates individually to break the news. Then he hinted at the decision to his Twitter followers by posting the following riddle:

"Buff fans do you like Sunflower Seeds? The Buffalo is the official animal of what state?"

That would be Kansas. Now a lot of those Buffaloes from the plains are roaming in Boulder.

Fans can only hope Webb enjoys as much success over the next two years as Bohn and Boyle have over the last two years.

"I think my competitiveness is one thing that is going to make me successful in any aspect of my life," Webb said. "I want to win, I want to be a leader, and I think that's the most valuable thing you can have as a quarterback."

Follow Ryan on Twitter: @RyanThorburn

## Football: CU Buffs' Connor Wood still plans to push Jordan Webb

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Connor Wood came to Colorado to play.

Now is not his time, though.

On Wednesday, CU head coach Jon Embree named newcomer Jordan Webb as the Buffs' starting quarterback, leaving Wood and Nick Hirschman to fight for the backup spot.

"Personally it's disappointing, but again, you have to look at it as what's best for the team," Wood said after Wednesday's practice. "I've got to respect coach's decision and I've got to support Jordan going into that first game and going into the rest of the games. At the same time, I've got to compete with him and drive him, too."

Wood went into the fall of 2011 fighting for the starting job at Texas. When he didn't get it, he left the Longhorns program and came to Colorado because he felt it gave him the best chance to play.

Wood figures to stick around this time and said he will continue to prepare himself to make an impact.

"I think if you look at a situation like this in my position and you feel this 'Oh, woe is me' mentality, you can't move forward," he said. "You've got to step in a positive direction. It's going to be hard for the first couple of days kind of getting used to it, but again you've got to step forward and the past is the past and you've got to support Jordan again and be a good teammate."

Wood has three years of eligibility left, so he's certainly got time to get on the field. He also knows that the opportunity could very well come this year if he continues to work hard.

"You're one play away and that was evident last year with them (Texas) and how that went," he said. "Always have to be ready, always have to prepare like I always do. That's my plan."

Webb, Wood and Hirschman were battling to replace graduated starter Tyler Hansen.

Wood had to sit out last season after transferring, but took just about all the first-team snaps during spring ball with Hirschman nursing a foot injury. Hirschman is entering his third year in the program, giving him a bit of edge in time spent with the Buffs.

Webb didn't arrive on campus until this summer after transferring from Kansas, where he spent two years as the Jayhawks' primary starter.

"With Nick's situation with his foot and (true freshman) Shane Dillon's issue with his shoulder, it made sense," Wood said of bringing Webb on board. "This is a business and you've got to respect what the coaches do and you've got to be professional about it."

> Short-order QB

Webb, who is generously listed at 6-foot-1, knows he doesn't exactly have prototypical quarterback stature.

That's the only bit of weakness CU's new starter would acknowledge.

"I wish I was a little taller," he said. "Other than that, I won't give anybody any help out there."

Riddle me this

Embree sort of broke the news to fans through a riddle on Twitter early Wednesday. Embree tweeted: "Buff fans do

you like Sunflower Seeds? The Buffalo is the official animal of what state?"

Kansas, of course, is the Sunflower State and the buffalo is its state animal. Embree was asked how he learned that fact about Kansas.

"Colorado education," the CU grad said with a smile. "When you get a degree from here, you learn those kinds of things."

## Bloom joins Pac-12

Former CU wide receiver/punt returner Jeremy Bloom has joined the Pac-12 Network as an on-air analyst for football games.

Bloom will help the Pac-12 for in-studio and game broadcast coverage. He will make his debut on Sept. 8 when he works as an analyst for CU's game against Sacramento State.

The Pac-12 Network launched on Wednesday. The network is available to Comcast customers on channel 430 (840 for high definition). Pac-12 Mountain will be on channel 31, with its HD location yet to be determined.

For those on the CU campus, Pac-12 Mountain will be on channels 24 and 90.7 (HD).

Other providers, including DirecTV, Dish Network, are in negotiations with the Pac-12 to pick up the networks, as well.

## Notable

In addition to the network, the Pac-12 launched its new website, Pac-12.com, Wednesday. ... Defensive end Kisima Jagne, part of the 2012 recruiting class, was cleared academically by the NCAA. However, because of the timing and the fact that he's already missed a large chunk of camp, Jagne will greyshirt and not enroll at CU until January. "He's a guy that has a chance to be a good player for us," Embree said.

Follow Brian on Twitter: @BrianHowell33.

## Colorado tackle Jack Harris believes it's his time to avoid injury bug

By Tom Kensler *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER — Wonder about the toughness and tenacity required of an offensive lineman? Colorado junior tackle Jack Harris has missed 23 games the past two seasons because of injury, and he calls that "part of the job description."

Job description?

"Yeah, injuries are part of the whole deal," Harris said this week after a practice. "You just have to look ahead and not look behind."

Frankly, and through no fault of Harris, there isn't much to see when looking for his past accomplishments — at least not at the college level. A four-star recruit out of Chaparral High School in Parker, Harris (6-foot-5 and 305 pounds) has played in just two games. That was last year, and both were starting assignments. But he suffered a lower leg fracture in the second game, against California, and sat out the remainder of the 2011 season.

In 2010, as a redshirt freshman, Harris was a standout in spring drills and appeared ready to make a move up the depth chart. His season ended before it began. Ten days into August camp, he injured his left shoulder and it kept him sidelined for the entire fall.

Steve Marshall, the Buffs' second-year offensive line coach, said he believes Harris, who is pegged as the starter at right tackle, has pro potential. Marshall should know. He coached NFL offensive lines for six years, at Houston (2002-05) and Cleveland (2007-08).

"Jack is a good football player," Marshall said. "Really, the thing he needs to do is stay healthy and stay out there playing. You just have to do it on the field now."

"He did it for two games, but anybody can do it for two games. As I told Jack, if he can stay on the field he's got a great future in football. He's big, he's athletic, he's smart. He's tough. He's 21 years old now, so his body has grown up. The guy likes to play football. If he continues to grow in the game, he and David Bakhtiari (the starting left tackle) have a chance to be NFL players."

To say Harris has been "snakebit" by injuries is an understatement. His left shoulder "blew out," as Harris put it, when, during a collision, the shoulder was hit just right. Or perhaps better put, just wrong.

Last year, Harris suffered a fracture of his lower tibia due to friendly fire, so to speak. On a quick pass play in the home game against California, Buffs tailback Rodney Stewart inadvertently kicked out Harris' left leg. Awkwardly, all the tackle's weight suddenly went to his right leg, and it snapped.

For the better part of two years, Harris has spent the rehabilitation time trying to get stronger.

"I feel good," Harris said. "I feel a lot better. I'm more flexible and strong. I couldn't play, so I just asserted myself in the weight room. When my leg was broken, I did a lot of upper-body work."

The potential has always been there. He picked CU from an offer list that included Arizona State, Oregon, Texas Tech, Vanderbilt and Washington.

"Jack always had a good, tough mentality," Chaparral coach John Vogt said.

At least Harris was able to give a glimpse of what he can do by grading out at 82 percent for his 2011 games against Hawaii and California. That compared favorably with the season grades of last year's seniors, Ethan Adkins (85 percent) and Ryan Miller (83 percent).

Harris is called a "road grader" by Bakhtiari because he ranks among CU's most physical linemen.

"Jack is one of our cornerstones," Marshall said. "This is his time."

Long overdue, the team might add.

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## Jordan Webb named as Colorado Buffs' starting quarterback

By Tom Kensler *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER — Jordan Webb didn't join the Colorado quarterbacks derby until July. But having started 19 games at Kansas the past two years, he was bound to have an advantage in experience.

However, it was more than experience that earned Webb the title of Colorado starting quarterback, CU coach Jon Embree said Wednesday after making the announcement. Webb, listed at 6-foot-1 and 205 pounds, simply made more plays during August camp than the more physically imposing Connor Wood (6-3, 225) and Nick Hirschman (6-4, 230), the coach said.

Playing on bad Kansas teams that ultimately cost coach Turner Gill his job, Webb threw for 3,079 yards and 20 touchdowns in those 19 starts, with 20 interceptions and a 4-15 record.

"Each day, it was becoming more and more evident," Embree said of Webb separating himself. "He just consistently made plays, made good decisions. He's very accurate with his ball.

"I wasn't into playing (mind) games. I was going to let the team know as soon as I made a decision. I felt good about it last night, slept on it and decided to let it go out today."

Embree said he wasn't surprised Webb was able to pick up the offense so quickly.

"He's a smart kid," Embree said. "He graduated from high school (Union, Mo.) in 3 ½ years and about the same from college. (The offense) all makes sense to him. It's a testament to how hard he works."

Webb has two years of eligibility remaining; Wood and Hirschman both have three. Webb earned a degree at Kansas in three years and was eligible immediately under an NCAA rule directed at rewarding student-athletes that graduate but have remaining eligibility.

"I'm very happy to say the least," Webb said of being told he won the job. "I came here with the mindset that I knew I could (earn the starting job). Nick and Connor really pushed me. We made each other better."

Four days earlier during CU media day, Embree had said the quarterback battle may even go into the regular season, leaving open the possibility that the Buffaloes could play more than one quarterback against Colorado State in the Sept. 1 opener in Denver. That likely will not happen now.

"I am surprised (at the timing)," Webb said Wednesday. "I guess the coaches just felt it was the right time, and I'm definitely not going to argue with that. I actually thought they would let it play out in our scrimmage on Saturday. But I think it's great to get it done now, so I can (get more repetitions) and get used to our receivers and we can get better together."

After arriving last month, Webb spent hours in the film room learning Colorado's offense and the new language. "I'm humbled, honestly," Webb said. "But I know this is just the beginning. We've got a lot of goals, for myself and for the team, which really matters."

Embree said the battle for the No. 2 job will continue between Wood, a transfer from Texas, and returnee Hirschman.

"Personally, it's disappointing," Wood said. "But you have to look at it as what's best for the team, as hard as it is to hear that because I'm a competitor. But I have to respect the decision and I have to support Jordan going into that first game. At the same time, I have to continue to compete with him and drive him too."

AUGUST 16, 2012, 7:45 AM

## CU Buffs position breakdown: Offensive line sports big potential

By **TOM KENSLER** |  No Comments

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BOULDER — Although coaches say the Colorado defense has gotten the upperhand during the early practices of August camp, the offensive line isn't to blame.

"They've been great," CU coach Jon Embree said recently.

Colorado returned three starters off last year's unit: junior left tackle David Bakhtiari (6-foot-4, 295 pounds), junior center Gus Handler (6-3, 295) and sophomore right guard Daniel Munyer (6-2, 295, started at center last year). Bakhtiari and Handler have all-conference potential and are listed on national awards "watch lists."

Expected to earn starts at the other spots are sophomore Alex Lewis (6-6, 285) at left guard and junior Jack Harris (6-5, 305) at right tackle.

Harris has missed 23 games the past two seasons due to a shoulder injury in 2010 and a leg fracture last year. He started the first two games of 2011 before breaking the leg against California.

Munyer began his CU career as a center, where he made three starts in 2011. He shifted to guard during spring drills and immediately looked comfortable there.

Lewis and Munyer supply athleticism to the line. An indication of Lewis' potential and quickness is his ability to also play left tackle.

"Two years ago, our offensive line had (All-American) Nate Solder with Ryan Miller," said CU quarterback Nick Hirschman, a third-year sophomore. "But I really think this offensive line has the potential to be up there with that one."

As with much of Colorado's roster, proven depth is lacking. That is, except for senior Ryan Dannewitz (6-6, 300) who made 11 starts at right tackle in 2011 after Harris was hurt. In the pre-camp depth chart, Dannewitz is listed as a backup at three positions: left tackle, right guard and right tackle.

That's a testament to Dannewitz's versatility. But it also indicates a lack of developed talent behind the starters. Other top reserves include redshirt-freshman tackle Marc Mustoe (6-7, 280), sophomore guard Kaiwi Crabb (6-3, 280), sophomore center Brad Cotner (6-4, 280) and freshman guard Alex Kelley (6-3, 310) and redshirt-freshman tackle Stephane Nembot (6-8, 305). Nembot was converted from defensive end to offensive tackle last fall.

Bottom line: Colorado's offensive line can be a team strength. But it must remain healthy.

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ARTICLE PRINTED FROM THE FIELD HOUSE

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2012/08/16/cu-position-breakdown-offensive-line-sports-big-potential/24241/>

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AUGUST 15, 2012, 7:48 PM

## Colorado quarterbacks coach Rip Scherer praises new starter Jordan Webb

By **TOM KENSLER** |  No Comments

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BOULDER — It's all about execution on the football field, Colorado quarterbacks coach Rip Scherer said Wednesday when asked about what went into the decision of naming Kansas transfer Jordan Webb the Buffs' starting quarterback over returnee Nick Hirschman and Texas transfer Connor Wood.

"Jordan just made plays," Scherer said Wednesday after the announcement. "He's a playmaker. We charted every throw up to this point, his accuracy was much better (than the other two candidates), his decision making.

"The bottom line as a quarterback is to take your team across the goal line. For every situation we were in, every opportunity he had ... for a guy that didn't know the offense when he first got here (in July), to pick it up that quickly, it's a credit to him."

Scherer said making the decision now rather than waiting will benefit Webb and the team.

"Jordan has a big upside because he's been splitting the reps," Scherer said. "Now that he's going to get more reps, he'll benefit even more.

"I think the team sensed it. Jordan was starting to separate himself by making plays. I think that's why Coach (Jon) Embree decided to make the announcement now."

Webb, who has two years of eligibility remaining, didn't arrive in Boulder until July but picked up the offense quickly, Scherer said.

"The game is pretty similar everywhere," Scherer said. "It's a matter of learning the language, like going from French to Spanish. They're similar, but you just have to translate the difference in concepts. But to pick it up as quickly as he did, we get our quarterback more involved in the run game and in protections, and he had no problem.

"He's just got a football IQ. He's a football player."

Webb is listed at 6-foot-1. Wood (6-3) and Hirschman (6-4) have more prototypical size for a quarterback.

"Those (shorter) guys just find ways to find throwing lanes between windows," said Scherer, pointing out that Webb is about the same size as NFL star Drew Brees.

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<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2012/08/15/colorado-quarterbacks-coach-rip-scherer-praised-starter-jordan-webb/24254/>

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# CU Buffs name Jordan Webb starting Quarterback

7:02 PM, Aug 15, 2012 | [comments](#)

Written by  
[David Hunt](#)

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BOULDER - The three-man battle to see who will take over the reins at quarterback for the University of Colorado is over, as on Wednesday, head coach Jon Embree named junior Jordan Webb the starter heading into the team's first major scrimmage of the fall this Saturday.

Webb joined the CU program in late July after completing all his degree requirements at the [University of Kansas](#).

He took advantage of an NCAA rule which allows a player to continue his career, provided if he has time remaining on his 5-year eligibility clock, and the school he transfers to has a program that is not offered at his previous university.

He started 19 games at Kansas (4-15 record), throwing for 3,079 yards with 20

touchdowns and 20 interceptions.

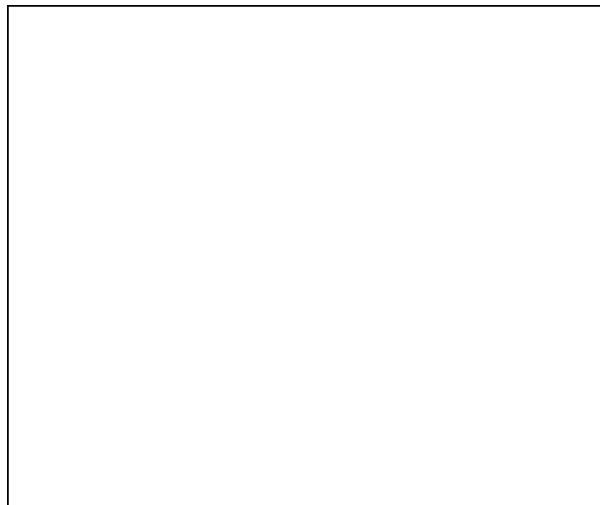
"You know how I am," Embree said. "If I feel it's right, I'm going with it." Webb and sophomores Nick Hirschman and Connor Wood (a transfer from Texas) separated from three others at the position fairly quickly, but it took only eight days of [training](#) camp for Webb to emerge as the clear-cut leader in the minds of the coaches.

"He's been very accurate," Embree said of Webb, who stands 6-1 and weighs 205, the smallest of the three as he gave up a couple of inches and 20 or so pounds to his competitors.

"He's showed good discipline in taking care of the football. He makes plays. There were a lot of things he had to overcome, being in town for all of three weeks, [learning](#) an entire new system, while competing for a starting job."

"Obviously, the experience [shows](#), the poise shows," added CU quarterbacks coach Rip

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Scherer.

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"He was able to transfer terminology. Concepts are concepts, but he was able to transfer the terminology relatively quickly. There's still a learning curve for him, but he really progressed quicker than I thought he would."

Embree said the decision to select Webb as the starter was his but it came with plenty of staff input.

"As a staff - offense and defense - it's something we talk about. When we're looking at tape, we're seeing the same thing. The defensive staff doesn't know some of the details, but when they see No. 4 (Webb) doing the things he's done, it's impressive. He's just got a good grasp and real good feel for things."

Webb is majoring in Educational Equity and Cultural Diversity at Colorado; he graduated from the KU last month with a degree in Psychology (and a minor in Public Policy).

Embree said that the backup has not yet been determined and that Hirschman and Wood will continue their battle for the second-team spot.

Colorado opens the season two weeks from Saturday, on Sept. 1 against Colorado State at Sports Authority Field in Denver. Kickoff will be at 2 p.m. and the game will be televised nationally by FX. Tickets are available for the game at CUBuffs.com.

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## Colorado football: Kansas transfer Jordan Webb wins QB job

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Associated Press

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BOULDER, Colo.—Jon Embree enters his second season at the University of Colorado with just eight seniors and countless questions, one of which was answered Wednesday when he named Kansas transfer Jordan Webb as his starting quarterback.

Webb, a grad student with two years of eligibility remaining, beat out strong-armed sophomores Connor Wood and Nick Hirschman.

Hirschman broke a foot for the second time earlier this year, so Wood, a transfer from Texas, got all the snaps in the spring before Webb transferred to Boulder this summer and made it a three-way race to replace graduated senior Tyler Hansen.

Webb, who threw for 3,079 yards with 20 touchdowns and 20 interceptions while going 4-15 with the Jayhawks, joined the Colorado program late last month after completing all his degree requirements at Kansas. He took advantage of an NCAA rule which allows a player to continue his career, provided he has time remaining on his five-year eligibility clock, and the school he transfers to has a program that is not offered at his previous university.

At 6-foot-1 and 205 pounds, Webb is the smallest of the three quarterbacks, but he separated himself after just eight days of training camp. Quarterbacks coach Rip Scherer said Webb, "really progressed quicker than I thought he would."

"He makes plays," Embree said. "There were a lot of things he had to overcome, being in town for all of three weeks, learning an entire new system, while competing for a starting job."

Wood and Hirschman, who will continue battling for the No. 2 job, have more powerful arms, but Webb has the deeper resume.

"His biggest attribute is that he's played in 19 games," Embree said. "None of these other guys have played in a game. Nick played a little bit against Arizona State. None of these guys have played meaningful minutes. You can see that he's played in some games. He does a good job of working the pocket. He reminds me of Koy Detmer a little bit in that he has unique ways of getting the ball to the right guy. He doesn't have the biggest arm. But he generally gets it there on time and it's a fairly catchable ball."

Webb is majoring in educational equity and cultural diversity at Colorado after graduating from Kansas last month with a degree in psychology and a minor in public policy.

The Buffaloes, who open against archrival Colorado State on Sept. 1, had a rough initiation into the expanded Pac-12, going 3-10, and could be in for some more difficult times this season with one of the youngest teams in the nation after losing 28 seniors.

Other questions being answered during fall camp include who will back up starting running back Tony Jones, a 5-foot-7 sophomore sparkplug who'll take over primary ball-handling duties from Rodney Stewart.

Embree is proudly declaring a bowl berth as the Buffaloes' goal for 2012 regardless of who's directing an offense that will be without star receiver Paul Richardson, who underwent knee surgery in April.

"You know me, I'm not afraid" to say it. "I think it is important that we put it out there, what it is we are trying to accomplish," Embree said. "It's like last year when I challenged our players to end that road streak."



Jordan Webb moves from a Big 12 school to a former Big 12 school. (AP Photo)

It took until their season finale last year, but the Buffaloes finally snapped their school record 23-game road losing streak with a 17-14 win at Utah, their fellow Pac-12 newcomer.

After losing their annual Nebraska showdown when both schools left the Big 12 last year, some wonder if the Utes will become Colorado's new "Big Red" rivalry.

"They're a great team and will always be a great opponent," senior safety Ray Polk said. But, he wants to shoot higher.

Why not USC or Oregon, two schools they'll visit in October?

"You look to the best team and you want to play that team, you want to make that team your rival," Polk said.

"Like Ray said, we're shooting for the top," junior tackle David Bakhtiari said. "Everyone wants to aim for the top dog and that's who we want to pinpoint as being our rival. Utah, it is a media-forced thing, but it's not 100 percent. They're a great team. We love playing them, but at the end of the day, I see every team as a rival and we want to be the best. You've got to beat the best if you want to be the best. We're going to try to beat all of them."

After facing Colorado State in the annual Rocky Mountain Showdown at Sports Authority Field, the Buffaloes host Sacramento State and then visit Fresno State before beginning league play at Washington State on Sept. 22.

The Buffaloes return just nine starters, six on defense, led by Polk in a revamped secondary.

The Buffs' strength is their linebacking corps with senior stalwarts Doug Rippey and Jon Major along with junior Derrick Webb and sophomore Brady Daigh. They'll team with defensive tackles Will Pericak, a senior, and Nate Bonsu, a junior, to try to curtail the Pac-12's speedy offenses.

Colorado's offense will be almost entirely new, and it will be without its star receiver, at least for a while. Richardson tore an ACL in the spring but Embree is hoping his junior star receiver will return at some point this season.

"Paul Richardson is running in the side and doing some stuff. He's trying to help the younger receivers. I don't know what the next phase, the next step is for him, whether it's routes or cutting. He is still progressing," Embree said.

Richardson said he thinks he can still play this season, and Embree is "a lot more optimistic about it" than he was in the spring.

"He's already ahead of probably what he should be doing. I know those injuries typically are nine months. Whether he's a six-month guy or seven-month guy, I don't know what the timetable will be," Embree said.

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Wednesday, August 15, 2012

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*Information from The Associated Press was used in this report.*

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