

## Football: CU Buffs' Eric Bieniemy adding to offensive playbook

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Eric Bieniemy says there is new stuff in his offense this season. He isn't saying how much.

The Colorado offensive coordinator is entering his second season calling the plays for the Buffs, and he says he spent part of his offseason studying other offenses and picking out pieces he believes fit in well with the long-term vision he and coach Jon Embree share for the Buffs.

But here is the thing. It figures to be tough to tell what is new and what might be something the Buffs just never got to in 2011.

Bieniemy estimates CU only used 35-40 percent of the offense last season. He said the primary reason was it took a year for players just to get players used to the basics of the pro-style, West Coast system and 35-40 percent was all they could handle.

"I was taught as a player to learn from the dinosaurs," Bieniemy said. "You've got to make sure that you're willing to adapt and keep it moving."

"Obviously we've done a little studying with different offenses and different people across the country, but you've always got to be willing to experiment with things and be willing to try something new. Just because you've done it a certain way your whole entire life doesn't mean you can't change for the better."

Bieniemy and Embree have tinkered and will definitely have some wrinkles, possibly even whole new chapters in the playbook, but with such a young roster, are they likely to use more of the offense this season?

The Buffs will have a new quarterback, albeit an experienced one, in Kansas transfer Jordan Webb. But Webb will be working with young and inexperienced players at running back, tight end and wide receiver. Bieniemy said he doesn't expect that to be an issue because the players who were on the roster last year did a good job coaching the freshmen this summer before camp started. That allowed coaches to start from a different place than they did last year, even though there were 28 seniors on last season's team.

Bieniemy stopped short of grading veteran players and their summer coaching with an A.

"Here is what you've got to understand, we've got a lot of guys who played in that offense a year ago, returning players," Bieniemy said. "Those guys have done a great job of teaching these kids. They did all their own little stuff and these kids are a lot further along than where we were a year ago. They've adapted pretty fast."

CU fans will get their first look at Year Two of Bieniemy's offense in less than two weeks when the Buffs open the season Sept. 1 against CSU at Sports Authority Field in Denver.

### Monday's chat

The regular Monday live chat on Buffzone will be done via Twitter this week. Send your questions to @KyleRingo and look for the answers starting at noon.

AUGUST 20, 2012, 6:51 AM

## CU Position Breakdown: Linebackers a strength

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

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BOULDER — If there is one unit on the Colorado football team that is solid and set, it's at linebacker. One national college football preview magazine ranked CU linebackers unit fifth-best among Pac-12 teams, by far the highest ranking for any Buffs unit on defense or offense.

Jon Major (6-foot-2, 235 pounds) and Doug Rippy (6-3, 245) return for their senior year and, barring injury, should be one of the Pac-12's top one-two punch at that position. And, yes, they are considered physical players.

Major, a Ponderosa High graduate, plays the "Sam" (outside) linebacker spot. He led the Buffs in tackles in 2011 with 85 and had three sacks, seven tackles for loss and six third-down stops.

Rippy, who mans the "Mike" inside linebacker position, was leading the team in tackles (62) before he was lost for the season with torn knee ligaments in the seventh game, at Washington. He recorded three sacks.

Also, CU coach Jon Embree has cited junior Derrick Webb (6-0, 230) as ranking among the most improved players of August camp. Webb plays the "Will" (inside) linebacker spot. As a parttime starter in 2011, Webb finished ninth on the team with 54 tackles.

In a rarity, Colorado did not sign any linebackers in February. The reason? The CU coaching staff likes the deep sophomore class of linebackers led by Brady Daigh (Mike), converted safety Kyle Washington (Will), K.T. Tu'umalo (Will) and Woodson Greer III (Sam).

No worries here.

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## College Football RapidReports

# Colorado: 3 players who must shine in 2012

By Craig Morgan | CBSSports.com

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Not many outside Boulder are giving [Colorado](#) much of a chance to compete in the Pac-12 this season, despite a highly favorable early season schedule. If the Buffaloes are to surprise, they'll need some big-time contributions from the following players:

### Offense: RB [Tony Jones](#)

Colorado must replace one of its best backs in a long time, Rodney Stewart. Jones may be the guy for the job. He's shifty, he hits the hole hard, he can catch and he plays tough, but at 5-foot-7, 185 pounds, there are questions about his durability over the course of a season. Jones showed promise as a rookie, carrying 78 times for 297 yards and two touchdowns, and catching 27 passes for 168 yards and two more scores. With a new quarterback ([Jordan Webb](#)), the Buffaloes desperately need a consistent running game.

### Defense: CB [Josh Moten](#)

The Buffaloes were brutal defensively last season, but with DT [Will Pericak](#), breakout DE [Chidera Uzo-Diribe](#) and a talented group of linebackers, Colorado may be OK up front this season. The question is whether a secondary that ranked last in the conference in pass efficiency defense can improve. Given the nature of the league, every Pac-12 team needs a lock-down corner. Moten must be that guy. Moten is fast and has good reactions, but if the mental part of his game doesn't take a big leap, he may have a hard time fending off fellow sophomore [Jered Bell](#) who was closing in on a starting job when he tore his ACL last August.

### Special teams: Kick returner

Coach Jon Embree hasn't named a starter to fit this role yet. One thing is certain: Colorado must improve in this area. The Buffs ranked dead last in the Pac-12 at a paltry 18.6 yards per return with no TDs.

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Tags: [Chidera Uzo-Diribe](#), [Jered Bell](#), [Jordan Webb](#), [Jordan Webb](#), [Josh Moten](#), [Tony Jones](#), [Will Pericak](#), [Pac-12](#), [Colorado Buffaloes](#), [NCAAF](#)

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