



*Coach Jon Embree conducts 2012's first team meeting Sunday night.
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com*



Brooks: Embree Challenges Buffs To Be True Believers

Release: 08/05/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER - [Jon Embree](#) welcomed his second Colorado Buffaloes football team on Sunday night with a stark look back and a stirring look ahead.

"Who are we? Who are the Colorado Buffaloes?" Embree asked his assembled players, assistant coaches and other athletic department staffers in the Dal Ward Athletics Center auditorium. "They're the defending fifth-place team in the Pac-12 South. Sounds pretty good doesn't it? The defending fifth-place team that's predicted to finish sixth. Is that who we are?"

Embree doesn't believe it is, telling of "having the privilege" of being part of a CU team in 1984 that finished 1-10 with 20-plus point losses to Notre Dame, Missouri, Oklahoma and Kansas State.

But the 1985 Buffs took a huge bounce up, finishing 7-5 and laying the groundwork for incremental improvement that would carry CU to its first national championship in 1990.

"I share that with you because I've been in your situation; I've been in your seat," he said, then reminding his

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players that last season's team goal was to win a road game and this season's goal is to reach a bowl game, which would require at least six wins.

"This team has more talent than that one (that rebounded for a 7-5 finish)," he continued. "The difference was, we really believed it . . . You've heard me say it: We *hoped* to win a lot last year. We didn't really believe we could win. Part of that belief is confidence and confidence comes about through preparation."

The Buffs, who finished 3-10 overall (2-7 Pac-12 Conference) in Embree's debut season, begin preparations Monday morning for a season in which not much is expected of them by outsiders. Embree addressed that, too, asking this season's seniors to stand up and for their underclass teammates to take mental snapshots.

"What are we going to say about you guys?" he asked. "Next year's coming . . . is winning one road game in five years an impressive resume? What do we want to say about you guys (next season)? That we won a road game? That's it?"

"Are you going to be about what we say we want to do? If we will be about what we say we want to do, there's no doubt we'll be doing something in December or January (at a bowl). We've got talent on this team. People outside this room don't know it, but we've got some players. And I believe we've got heart. I believe that heart's been developed. I believe that mental toughness we need to win has been developed."

Embree reminded his players that they "were chosen to be here, we chose to bring you here. You chose to be a part of it . . . you got it? And it starts (Monday). Understand this: you guys do what you're capable of doing, it'll be one of the best experiences of your life. But you've got to truly believe. You understand that? And the way I can tell if you truly believe that is by what your actions say. Are you about what we're trying to be about? (Monday) starts the first day of our journey and it's not going to end until January."

CU's second August camp under Embree will include 105 players, including 31 newcomers, who attended a team dinner Sunday night followed by their first team meeting.

Freshmen, walk-ons and several new staffers (graduate assistants, technical interns) had pictures taken Sunday, with some completing physical examinations and equipment sizing. Among the new faces was **T.C. McCartney**, who will be an offensive graduate assistant this fall after graduating from Louisiana State in May; he is the grandson of **Bill McCartney**, the winningest coach in CU football history (93-55-5 record from 1982-94).

Embree and his coaching staff, which for only the second in the last 24 seasons at Colorado remains unchanged from the previous year, signed 28 players in last February's recruiting class. Four of those players will be grayshirting, meaning they will delay enrollment at CU in January.

That foursome includes **Peyton Williams**, a receiver from South Lake, Texas; he suffered a knee injury (torn ACL) in the state playoffs last December and is still undergoing rehabilitation following surgery. Also grayshirting are **Kisima Jagne**, a defensive lineman from Phoenix (Chandler); **Gerrard Kough**, an offensive lineman from Pomona, Calif. (Pomona); and **Derek McCartney**, a defensive lineman from Westminster (Faith Christian). Kough and McCartney were ticketed for grayshirts from the outset; McCartney is T.C.'s younger brother.

The group included seven recruited walk-ons: **Vincent Arvia** (OL, 6-0, 285, San Diego/Torrey Pines High School); **David Bagby** (WR, 6-1, 180, San Diego/Torrey Pines); **Trevor Carver** (SN, 5-11, 180, Louisville/Monarch); **Luke Hartung** (OL, 6-6, 230, Danville, Calif./DeLaSalle); **Jesse Hiss** (FB, 6-1, 225, Bonner Springs, Kan./Bashor-Linwood); **Harrison Hunt** (WR, 6-0, 180, Cleveland Heights, Ohio/Gilmour Academy); and **Jordan Murphy** (FB, 6-1, 230, Soph., Castle Rock/Denver Lutheran). All are true freshmen except for Murphy, who is transfer from Colorado State who will have to sit out this season per NCAA rules.

The team will begin practices on Monday, first with an early morning walk-through. With CU's second session of summer school in its final week, most of the players will head to classes and will then reconvene in the afternoon for meetings and a 90-minute practice. The same schedule will hold through the week as summer school wraps

up. Embree has closed practices to the public and media this year, as with so many new faces and competition at most positions being wide open, he wants to limit as many distractions as possible.

Monday's practice will be the first of 29 practices (walk-throughs do not count) prior to the season opener against Colorado State at Sports Authority Field at Mile High in Denver on Sept. 1. Game time is 2 p.m., with FX televising the game nationally.

Murphy, one of the invited walk-ons, was recruited at linebacker/fullback by CSU. He appeared in the Rams' first two games last season at linebacker, but CU invited him to join the roster as a fullback.

Following the school's coaching change (Steve Fairchild to Jim McElwain) after last season, Murphy was told he didn't fit CSU's criteria for the position. Not the case at CU, which last season introduced a pro-style offense that features a conventional fullback.

CSU, said the 6-1 Murphy "moved to more of spread offense with an H-back, hybrid tight end, so they were looking for 6-5 guys and I don't really fill that role. So there really wasn't a place for me there anymore. It's a really a good opportunity at a better place."

Murphy said he was not opposed to playing either position at CU: "I have the athletic ability to do both. I'll do whatever helps the team."

But under NCAA transfer rules, he will have to wait a season for that. He admitted it will be tough: "Yeah, I've been playing football every year since I was seven, so it's going to be different. But it'll only help me learn the system and get better."

The transfer of schools and teams notwithstanding, Murphy's summer was far different than any previously. He was in the Aurora theater last month with three high school friends when the mass shooting occurred.

"I'm lucky to be alive, yeah," he said. "(But) I've been able to move past it with the help of family and friends. I really don't think about it much anymore, which is nice."

Murphy, who is classified as a sophomore and has a redshirt season available, said CU didn't recruit him out of Denver Lutheran High School two years ago. But he said the current Buffs staff "really went out their way to help me get here and get the paperwork done. They were really receptive to this."

Among the freshmen reporting Sunday was running back **Terrence Crowder**, of Galena Park, Texas. Crowder is expected to be prominent in the competition at that position as the Buffs try to upgrade a ground game that averaged 108.7 yards a game last season.

"At a lot of colleges, freshmen won't get the chance to compete like we will here," said the 5-11, 210-pound Crowder. "I think I'll have a good opportunity to compete and get a spot. I feel like I'm capable; I feel like I'll do what I need to do."

Arriving on campus on June 4, Crowder said two days were required to acclimate to Boulder's altitude. Once past that, he said he felt "settled in" and believed speed, strength and conditioning director [Malcolm Blacken](#)'s summer program was of great benefit.

"I gained a lot of strength under Malcolm and Steve (Engelhart) - they definitely know what they're doing in the weight room," Crowder said.

CU's 2012 freshman class is among the largest in recent years, but Crowder contended the big number didn't hinder bonding in the group: "This is a very good class, a tight class; we're being held to a higher standard than everybody else. We're going along with it, realizing it's going to make us better."

Football: CU Buffs' David Bakhtiari making name for himself

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

His teammates call him "Two Face." Turns out, Colorado offensive lineman David Bakhtiari isn't the same easy-going, fun-loving jokester on the field that he is off of it.

Bakhtiari has developed a reputation for hard-nosed physical play in his first two years of significant playing time. It earned him a nod of appreciation from Pac-12 Conference coaches last season when they selected him to the second team all-conference team at left tackle as just a sophomore on a 3-10 team.

Coach Jon Embree recently referred to Bakhtiari as "mean" when describing his playing style. That is not to suggest that Bakhtiari is a dirty player. It speaks to his intensity.

"I think I'm a nice guy," Bakhtiari said with a wry smile. "...On the field, I'm a little more of a different character. I guess that's where (Embree) gets his mean from. I guess the film kind of shows me not being the nicest player out there.

"I don't consider myself a dirty player, but I consider myself a player who definitely will play to the whistle on every play. I'm the type of guy when I'm on the field, I really don't care who is in front of me. I'm going to do what I do to the best of my ability until I hear the whistle and if I happen to not hear the whistle, that's not my fault entirely."

Bakhtiari was among the 105 players who reported Sunday for the start of fall camp Monday in Boulder. The Buffs will have a walk-through in the morning before kicking off camp with a late afternoon practice in shorts and helmets. The schedule remains the same for much of the first week. The Buffs won't be in pads until Friday.

It's safe to say Bakhtiari, a junior from Burlingame, Calif., is one of the most important players on a young roster as the Buffs begin their second-year under Embree and his staff. Bakhtiari will be leaned on heavily as the Buffs try to produce a more effective and efficient offense with a new quarterback and a slew of inexperienced players at the skill positions.

Who that quarterback is and who fills the holes at the other skill positions are among the biggest questions coaches must answer in the next month through 29 practices leading up to the season opener against Colorado State on Sept. 1 in Denver.

Bakhtiari is the anchor of an offensive line that is easily the most experienced part of the offense. Barring a shakeup in the depth chart from competition during camp or injuries, Bakhtiari will team with guards Daniel Munyer and Alexander Lewis, center Gus Handler and right tackle Jack Harris as perhaps the most pivotal part of the team, particularly early in the season.

Bakhtiari doesn't necessarily see it that way. After spending the summer watching freshmen teammates in the weight room and player-run practices, he believes some are underestimating the Buffs by placing too much emphasis on the fact the team will be among the least experienced in the nation.

"I've got faith in some of these guys coming in," Bakhtiari said. "Yeah, everyone talks about a lack of experience, but experience doesn't conquer over talent. If you can ball, you can ball. I've seen some of these kids, some of these guys who are going to step into these new roles, and a lot of them can ball. I'm excited to watch that.

"With the offensive line, I know that no matter what, cause we're all real close, we're going to come out and play hard, play fast and play efficient."

Embree is happy to have a guy like Bakhtiari taking a leadership role among the offensive linemen and with the rest of his teammates as well.

"I'm excited for him," Embree said. "I think he has a chance to be an All-Pac-12 player for us."

Embree said while Bakhtiari does not have the prototypical height of a left tackle at 6-foot-5, he has good length, which allows him to be effective at the position. Embree said Bakhtiari's best asset is his drive to win and succeed.

Some of that comes from watching his older brother succeed in the sport. Eric Bakhtiari is a defensive lineman with the Tennessee Titans.

"I see myself as a guy who loves the game, loves the team he plays with and a guy who is willing to do anything and everything he needs to do to ensure we win," Bakhtiari said.

Bakhtiari's play so far in his career not only earned him respect from Pac-12 Conference coaches, it served as a spring board to the Lombardi Award and Outland Trophy preseason watch lists in 2012. Bakhtiari said when people informed him during the summer that he had earned spots on those lists, he couldn't believe it.

"Are you sure?" Bakhtiari said was his response. "I was very honored to be put up next to some of those guys for those awards."

Bakhtiari said he has given very little thought to the possibility of turning pro after his junior season. He said the only time it has really crossed his mind is when reporters or others have asked him about it. He said it's a decision he won't make until after the 2012 season is complete and he said much of the decision revolves around how his season goes. If he doesn't play up to expectations, turning pro might not be a realistic option.

"I have no idea," Bakhtiari said. "It may be this. It may be that."

Notable

CU announced that two more members of the 2012 recruiting class will grayshirt this fall and enroll in classes in January. Peyton Williams, a wide receiver from Texas, will grayshirt because he is still recovering from a December knee injury. Kisima Jagne, a defensive lineman from Chandler, Arizona, will grayshirt while he attempts to improve his academic qualifications. That means four members of the 2012 class will grayshirt this fall. ... CU announced seven recruited walk-ons have joined the program for camp. They are Vincent Arvia (OL, 6-0, 285, San Diego/Torrey Pines High School); David Bagby (WR, 6-1, 180, San Diego/Torrey Pines); Trevor Carver (SN, 5-11, 180, Louisville/Monarch); Luke Hartung (OL, 6-6, 230, Danville, Calif./DeLaSalle); Jesse Hiss (FB, 6-1, 225, Bonner Springs, Kan./Bashor-Linwood); Harrison Hunt (WR, 6-0, 180, Cleveland Heights, Ohio/Gilmour Academy); and Jordan Murphy (FB, 6-1, 230, Soph., Castle Rock/Denver Lutheran).

CU Buffaloes appoint grayshirts and walk-ons

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

Posted:

DenverPost.com

Colorado welcomed 105 players Sunday to officially begin its 2012 football season. That includes 31 newcomers, although a touted defensive lineman from Arizona who signed in February was not among the arrivals.

CU announced that Kisima Jagne of Chandler (Ariz.) High School in the Phoenix area will be among four "grayshirts" that will delay their enrollment until January.

Jagne, 6-foot-5 and 235 pounds, was considered one of Colorado's top signees, ranking sixth among Arizona's seniors after recording 10 sacks in 2011 and 17 as a junior. CU coach Jon Embree said recently that he had been waiting word on whether Jagne would be academically eligible, and if Jagne did not qualify "we still want him as part of our program."

Other February signees who will grayshirt are wide receiver Peyton Williams of Southlake (Texas) Carroll High School in the Dallas area, offensive lineman Gerrad Kough of Pomona (Calif.) High School and defensive end Derek McCartney of Faith Christian in Arvada.

Williams is coming off a knee injury suffered in the Texas high school playoffs. Kough (6-5, 270) and McCartney (6-4, 215) could use the extra year to gain size and strength. McCartney is a grandson of CU legendary coach Bill McCartney.

Colorado also announced seven recruited walk-ons, including two in-state players: freshman snapper Trevor Carver of Monarch High School and sophomore fullback Jordan Murphy, who played high school football at Denver Lutheran. Murphy is a transfer from Colorado State and must sit out the 2012 season under NCAA transfer rules.

Players reported Sunday for physicals, photos, meetings and other functions. The first of Colorado's 29 practices during August camp is Monday afternoon. Practices are closed to the public, including the media.

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The Field House — Blogs — The Denver Post

AUGUST 6, 2012, 8:54 AM

Who is Colorado's Pac-12 rival? Players weigh in

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

Speaking during the recent Pac-12 football media day, Colorado junior offensive tackle David Bakhtiari said every other Pac-12 team should be considered the Buffs' rival, especially the best teams.

"Everyone wants to aim for the 'top dog,' and that's who we want to pinpoint as being our rival," Bakhtiari said. "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 our rival.

"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."

Said senior safety Ray Polk: "As far as rivalry goes, (Utah) is a great team and will always be a great opponent. We're still young in this conference, and we're trying to figure out where we want to fit in.

"For me looking at it, you look to the best team and you want to play that team, you want to make that team your rival. You look to the best and you expect the best out of your players."

ARTICLE PRINTED FROM THE FIELD HOUSE

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2012/08/06/colorados-pac12-rival-players-weigh/24036/>

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ESPN.com: Pac-12

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Monday, August 6, 2012

Q&A: Colorado OC Eric Bieniemy

By Ted Miller
ESPN.com

Colorado opens preseason camp Monday, officially beginning its second year in the Pac-12 and second season under coach Jon Embree. It's obviously hoping for better results after going 3-10 overall and 2-7 in conference play in 2011.

Yet the Buffaloes have plenty of holes to fill, particularly on offense. The Buffs ranked last in the conference in scoring in 2011 -- 19.8 points per game -- and they need to replace their quarterback and leading rusher, as well as injured receiver [Paul Richardson](#).

With so many questions, it seemed like a good time to check in with offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy.

Let's talk quarterbacks first. Without anyone else around to compete with, tell me what you saw with [Connor Wood](#) during spring practices.

Eric Bieniemy: The thing I saw with Connor was, early on, he would make mistakes and that would really faze him. But he did a great job of correcting his mistakes. That's something you always want to see -- can a player, regardless of position, be coachable and clean up their deal. I thought that was a very good positive.



What do you know at this point about Kansas transfer [Jordan Webb](#)?

Bieniemy: The only thing I really know is he started 19 games. So he has some playing experience and ability and that he has shown improvement on a big stage. One thing we do know: He can throw it around the park and he is very athletic. Now, obviously, we want to see what he can do in training camp. Now he's going to compete against Connor, he's going to compete against Nick [Hirschman]. The beauty and excitement I always look forward to is competition breeds success. I'm looking for one of those three guys to step up and assert himself.

Seems like it's completely wide open at quarterback. How long do you want to wait before you make a decision?

Bieniemy: There really is no timetable. Obviously, everybody would like us to say, 'Such-and-such is our starting quarterback' today. But that's just not the case. We want to make sure we give [Nick Hirschman](#) a fair opportunity to show what he can do. Before he got injured last year, he was coming on pretty strong. He could be the future of this university here. We want to make sure we are providing all of our guys an ample opportunity to compete and show what they can do. When the time is right, we'll make that decision.

The biggest drag of spring practices was WR Paul Richardson's knee injury. There have been whispers of a rapid recovery. How is he doing and who steps in for him?

Bieniemy: First of all, yes, it was a tremendous disappointment. But if you saw him and spoke to him, he has the greatest attitude. He's doing everything and anything to make sure he can make it back this season. He's making tremendous strides and growth in his rehab process. As far as a player stepping up, there are some huge shoes to fill. We've got some kids coming back. [Nelson Spruce](#) did a hell of a job this spring for us. [Tyler McCulloch](#) came on late in the spring. He played a lot of games for us last year. [Keenan Canty](#) has stepped up big time. We've also got two young kids coming in, Jeffrey and Gerald Thomas, who we're counting on seeing big things from them. So there are a number of guys that we are counting on. But we want to see the developmental process early in this camp, to see who we can count on.

Heard some nice things about [Tony Jones](#). How do things stack up at RB with the departure of Rodney Stewart?

Bieniemy: You don't ever replace a Rodney. He was a tremendous football player. He did so many things well for us. The thing Tony has done is he has learned a lot playing behind Rodney. The thing I'm excited about is Tony has put on 12 pounds of muscle from last season and he has not lost a step on anything. I'm excited about the mental and physical growth he's made. Behind him, we've got a number of backs. We've got [Malcolm Creer](#), who's coming off a torn ACL. He's done an outstanding job this offseason and he's cleared and good to go. We have [D.D. Goodson](#), he's a kid who moved back to running back after playing a little bit of defensive back for us. And we've got a number of freshmen that we are counting

on, Donta Abron, Davien Payne and Terrence Crowder. I don't know who is going to be the guy behind Tony, but I'm excited about the competition that is about to start.

Seems like you guys might be sneaky solid on the offensive line: What's your take there?

Bieniemy: The beauty of our offensive line is every guy in that room has played. That's the good thing. The other good thing is they are the heart and soul of our unit. Those guys work their tails off. They are very smart. They have a high football IQ. I'm looking forward to watching them take their game to another level. We've got some athletic linemen who can do a lot of great things for us. I'm excited to watch these guys play.

What is your biggest concern heading into for fall camp? What tops your to-do list?

Bieniemy: We've got to find a quarterback, that's the No. 1 deal. On top of that, we've got to develop some depth at some key position -- we've got to develop depth at the wide receiver position, we've got to develop depth in the tight end position, we've got to develop depth at the running back position. Those are the things that are at issue. Now, do we feel we have to talent? Yes. We as a coaching staff have to do a great job of teaching and coach these guys and get them ready for day one.

Are we going to see any obvious tweaks to the offense this season, something you can describe in general terms that won't give away team secrets?

Bieniemy: You'll see a number of changes. Obviously, everything starts with the run. We've got to be able to run the ball. I won't go into the plans, but I think everybody will be excited about what we're doing. Our kids have done a great job of buying in.

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College Football RapidReport

Colorado: Schedule Breakdown

By Craig Morgan | CBSSports.com

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August 5, 2012 4:56 pm ET

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Colorado's Pac-12 debut was brutal. The Buffaloes lost their first seven conference games. They went 3-7. They finished 109th in the nation in scoring offense, 109th in scoring defense and dead last in the Pac-12 in three categories.

CU coach Jon Embree wants to believe that wins in two of the program's final three games are a harbinger of better times, but the Buffs were still picked to finish last this season in the Pac-12 South because the national press was impressed with CU's talent.

Here's a look at some key matchups and stretches of the 2012 season.

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Must-see matchup: Nov. 23 vs. Utah

Colorado stunned Utah in the season finale last season, robbing the [Utes](#) of a chance at the Pac-12 South title. Colorado's offensive lineman [David Bakhtiari](#) insists the rivalry with the Utes is mostly media generated, but the rivalry got off to a rousing start in a 17-14 Buffs win. Utah won't forget last season's embarrassment in Seattle.

Upset alert: Nov. 10 at Arizona

The Buffs pummeled the Wildcats, 48-29, last season for one of their two conference wins. They could do it again. Is there any eye-popping proof? Colorado is 13-1 lifetime against Arizona.

It's a breeze (easiest stretch): Sept. 1 through Sept. 15 – [Colorado State](#), [Sacramento State](#), at [Fresno State](#)

The Buffs are a combined 65-21-2 against these three schools in their history. This is a good schedule for the Buffs to get an early headway.

Brutal stretch: Oct. 20 through Nov. 3 – at [USC](#), at [Oregon](#), [Stanford](#)

Mark it down right now. Three weeks, three losses. These are the top three programs in the Pac-12. Did the schedule-maker somehow?

Complete Schedule:

Sept. 1 Colorado State

Sept. 8 Sacramento State

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Nov. 10 at Arizona

Nov. 17 [Washington](#)

Nov. 23 Utah

For more up-to-the-minute news and analysis from Pac-12 bloggers John Breech and Craig Morgan, follow [@CBSSportsPac12](#) on Twitter.

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