Ex-Buff Tolan struggles at Colorado Open

By Gary Baines For the Camera Boulder Daily Camera Posted:

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DENVER -- Derek Tolan probably will need a stellar final round today to win his second Health One Colorado Open, but he can take heart in this: He's done it before.

When the former University of Colorado golfer won the 2009 Open, he closed with a 64 at Green Valley Ranch Golf Club.

Tolan may very well need a score like that, or even better, this time around. But another title is still within reach.

After leading the tournament through nine holes of Saturday's round, Tolan struggled on the back nine and trails by five going into today. He shot an even-par 71, and his 8-under-par 205 total leaves him in a four-way tie for third place.

Former Colorado State University golfer Zahkai Brown, who turned pro just two months ago, matched the course record with an 8-under-par 63 to enter the final round with a 13-under 200 total. Canadian Tour player Joel Dahmen is in second place after a 69 put him at 203.

"If the weather is all right it's going to take 6, 7, 8 under (today to catch up) depending on what happens," Tolan said. "Weirder stuff has happened. But I'm going to do what I always do. Even if I had the lead, I just go out and play my best and see where I stack up at the end."

On Saturday, Tolan was 3 under par on the front nine but started going in the wrong direction with bogeys on 10 and 11, plus a double bogey on No. 16, where he had to hit a left-handed bunker shot.

"Basically my game just felt like crap today," the 26-year-old from Highlands Ranch said. "Nothing was very solid. The back nine here is really pretty tough. You can make some birdies if you're hitting it all right, but if you're hitting it both ways like I was it's pretty hard to score, and it caught up with me."

And it didn't help Tolan's cause that Brown was skyrocketing up the leader board. He made nine birdies on Saturday and would have owned the GVR course record outright had he not three-putted No. 18.

"That's a great round of golf, even in perfect conditions," Tolan said of Brown's 63. "Bottom line, that's phenomenal."

Brown, the Colorado Golf Association amateur player of the year in 2011, got motivated Saturday by seeing his brother Zen go on a torrid run early in his round.

"I saw my brother -- he was 5 under for the day -- and I thought 'Jeez, I better start playing better," Zahkai Brown said.

Along with Tolan, a few other former/current CU golfers will go into the final round under par for the tournament. Michael Baird of Castle Rock shot a 68 Saturday and shares 14th place at 209, while ex-Buff Pat Grady of Broomfield (71 Saturday) and current CU player Jason Burstyn (68) are tied for 22nd at 210.

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Photo Courtesy: Associated Press



Perkins Signed By Denver Broncos Release: 07/28/2012 Courtesy: Curtis Snyder, Associate SID

DENVER—Former University of Colorado S Anthony Perkins was signed by the Denver Broncos, the club announced Saturday. Perkins was a senior on coach Jon Embree's first CU squad last season.

He finished his CU career in 2011 with 236 tackles, including 140 solo, ranking 41st on CU's all-time list. He played in nine of 13 games as a senior, getting hurt with just five games left in the season against Oregon on Oct. 22. Some thought he may not return, but he did with a vengeance, leading the Buffs with 17 tackles in the season finale at Utah, a 17-14 win for the Buffs, helping the team end a 23-game losing streak while being a three touchdown underdog.

Perkins had a tryout for the Broncos in the spring. He was slated to become an intern for the Buffaloes this season, as the Buffs are just over a week away from the start of fall camp.

Perkins is one of four rookies on NFL training camp rosters from the Buffaloes, along with Ryan Miller (Cleveland Browns), Toney Clemons (Pittsburgh Steelers) and Tyler Hansen (Cincinnati Bengals). Rodney **Stewart** was also signed by the Bengals but suffered a knee injury and was released with an injury settlement by the club.

Perkins is one of 16 former Buffs on NFL rosters as training camp gets underway:

Justin Bannan, DT, Denver Broncos Jalil Brown, CB, Kansas City Chiefs **Toney Clemons**, WR, Pittsburgh Steelers Mason Crosby, K, Green Bay Packers **Justin Drescher**, LS, New Orleans Saints **Tyler Hansen**, QB, Cincinnati Bengals Brad Jones, LB, Green Bay Packers **Scotty McKnight**, WR, New York Jets Ryan Miller, OL, Cleveland Browns **Anthony Perkins**, DB, Denver Broncos **Tyler Polumbus**, OL, Washington Redskins Jimmy Smith, CB, Baltimore Ravens Nate Solder, OL, New England Patriots Lawrence Vickers, FB, Dallas Cowboys **Terrence Wheatley**, CB, Tennessee Titans Patrick Williams, WR, Baltimore Ravens

Additionally, former Buffs **Tyler Brayton**, **Andre Gurode** and **Donald Strickland**, who saw action in the NFL in 2011, could be added to a roster as a free agent in the coming days and weeks, as well as several other former players in the same boat.

Perkins attended Community Christian High School in Denver but the program didn't have a football team so he prepped at Northglenn High School, where he was a high school All-American. He was CU's first commitment for the class of 2007 and he graduated with two degrees, Integrative Physiology and History. His grandfather, Don Perkins, was a six-time pro bowler and is in the Dallas Cowboys Ring of Fame. He is married (Janessa).



