



Jamal-Rashad Patterson (21) is tackled short of the goal line by Yuri Wright (5)
Photo Courtesy: Associated Press



Brooks: Cardinal Overpowers Punchless Buffaloes

Release: 11/03/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER - From week to week in the Pac-12 Conference, if the method of extermination changes for the Colorado Buffaloes, the outcomes don't. Oregon abused them with speed two games ago, Stanford took its turn with power on Saturday at Folsom Field.

And for the record, it's been a while since the Buffs have helped themselves offensively - try the fourth quarter of their Pac-12 opener at Washington State in late September.

Saturday's final: No. 15 Stanford 48, CU 0 - and that zero is significant. It marked the Buffs' first home shutout since Nov. 15, 1986, when Oklahoma blanked CU 28-0.

More dark news: It was the Buffs' fifth consecutive loss, and in those five defeats they've been outscored 261-51. It also was CU's 11th straight defeat by a ranked opponent. CU (1-8, 1-5) also remained winless at home this season, with two chances

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remaining - Nov. 17 vs. Washington, Nov. 23 vs. Utah - after next weekend's final road trip to Arizona.

"Stanford got after us with their defense and their offense made plays when they needed to," CU coach [Jon Embree](#) said. "We just weren't good all the way around . . . I don't think something happened (as a turning point)."

Embree had contemplated a quarterback change this week, replacing junior starter [Jordan Webb](#) with sophomore [Nick Hirschman](#) after the latter gave the Buffs' offense some second-half life in the 70-14 loss at Oregon.

A lukewarm week of practice by Hirschman kept Webb in the starting role Saturday. Hirschman replaced Webb for one first-half series, then opened the second half with the Buffs trailing 35-0 - 21 points *better* than last week's score at intermission.

Embree said Webb was "clearly the better guy" in practice, then deferred further comment until his weekly press conference on Tuesday.

Through almost three quarters, neither Webb nor Hirschman was effective. So sophomore [Connor Wood](#) got the call with 1:23 left in the third quarter -- and CU trailing 45-0. Wood promptly connected with tight end [Nick Kasa](#) for a 14-yard completion - the Buffs' longest play of the game to that point. He had fourth-quarter completions of 22 yards to [Tony Jones](#) and a 20-yarder to Kasa, which moved CU across midfield for the first time all afternoon.

Immediately thereafter, Wood was sacked, fumbled and lost nearly all of that yardage. On the bright side, the Buffs recovered and avoided another 50-plus point loss. That's the kind of homecoming afternoon it had been for CU.

Webb finished with four of 10 passes completed for 19 yards (one interception). Hirschman went four of six for 12 yards, and Wood completed four of seven throws for 66 yards.

Through three quarters, the Buffs had managed three first downs and 40 yards in total offense. They left Folsom Field with 76 yards in total offense on 44 plays - an average of 1.7 per play - and minus-21 yards rushing. The Cardinal has allowed minus-34 yards rushing in its past three games.

Embree said his team's offensive struggles resulted from a "perfect storm" brewed by one of the nation's best defenses: "When we had people open we had protection issues and when we did have protection we couldn't get people open. It was one of those things, but protection was a problem (seven sacks among his three QBs).

"You know, there is a reason why they are No. 2 in the country against the run and why they are what they are as a defense. They are a very good defense and they showed it today."

Meanwhile, Stanford also juggled its quarterbacks, as expected using Josh Nunes first, then replacing him with Kevin Hogan. Nunes went three-of-five for 23 yards, while Hogan - touted as more of an option threat - was mildly surprising, completing 18-of-23 passes for 184 yards and two TDs. Hogan also ran seven times for 48 yards before he was replaced in the fourth quarter by Brent Nottingham, who eventually was spelled by Robbie Picazo.

In what nearly has become a weekly occurrence for CU in Pac-12 play, this game had been decided by halftime. The Buffs trailed the Cardinal 35-0 at intermission, and their offensive stats showed why: 20 yards in total offense, one of eight third-down conversions and two first downs (one by penalty).

Stanford, meanwhile, rolled up 13 first downs and 249 yards in first-half offense, 115 rushing and 134 through the air. The Cardinal finished 436 yards in total offense - 230 passing, 206 rushing.

Both teams used two quarterbacks each before intermission, but the halftime stats offered a clear picture of which pair was most effective.

Webb opened for CU and promptly went three-and-out - and that turned out to be a harmless series. On the Buffs' next possession, facing third-and-six, he was intercepted by free safety Ed Reynolds, who ran untouched for 52 yards and Stanford's first touchdown.

Hirschman entered for CU's next series, was the recipient of a first down on a fourth-down Cardinal holding penalty but couldn't advance the Buffs in any other manner. Webb reentered on the Buffs' next possession and played for the rest of the first half.

CU's defense was standing up to Stanford for almost the entire first quarter and might have provided a turning point. But freshman corner [Yuri Wright](#) dropped a sure interception on the Cardinal's side of the field.

The Buffs forced a punt on that series, but on the first play thereafter, Kasa bobbled a Webb pass and the ball was picked out of the air by inside linebacker A.J. Tarpley. Three plays later, Cardinal tailback Stephan Taylor scored on a 26-yard run and the skids had been greased.

Stanford's other first-half TDs came courtesy of a 1-yard Remound Wright run, a 1-yard pass from Hogan to Zach Ertz and a 2-yard plunge by Taylor. Jordan Williamson kicked five PATs and the Cardinal had its 35 first-half points.

At the end of three quarters, Stanford had opened its lead to 45-0 on a 31-yard field goal by Williamson and a 19-yard pass from Hogan to tight end Levine Toilolo. With 9:52 to play, Williamson added a 35-yard field goal to end the Cardinal's stroll through Folsom at 48-0.

BUFF BITS: Senior linebacker [Jon Major](#) suffered a hyperextended elbow in practice last week and did not play Saturday . . . Junior nosetackle [Nate Bonsu](#) sprained an ankle in practice and wasn't expected to play . . . In what was termed a precautionary measure, freshman nosetackle [Justin Solis](#) was taken from the field on a gurney after suffering an apparent neck injury early in the second half. He was said to have movement in his extremities when he was carted off. Results of an MRI later were negative . . . Saturday's paid attendance was 44,138.

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SHOW MENU





Quarterback Connor Wood.
Photo Courtesy: Joel Broida



Brooks: Bad Losses Continue, Hard Questions, Too

Release: 11/03/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER - So after losing five consecutive games by an average of 42 points per, what does a college football coach say to keep his fan base involved, engaged and well away from the eject button?

It's early November, his second Colorado team has won once, has been decimated in its past five games, and [Jon Embree](#) is getting too accustomed to dealing with queries like that.

His only response to questioners, as well as his players, is this: Things *will* get better.

Embree to CU fans: "They should come out just like did today . . . we have recruits here and that makes an impression on them. We're not even through the second year . . . things will be better."

Embree to his players: "(Freshmen) have made strides . . .

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they've made mistakes but made strides, too. Don't focus on the mistakes; keep on working on getting better."

Really now, what else could he say Saturday afternoon after No. 15 Stanford joined the growing list of Pac-12 Conference teams that have punished CU? The Cardinal pounded the Buffaloes 48-0, and like most of the other recent blowouts, it could have been worse. No exaggeration there, just brutal fact.

Oregon played three quarterbacks the previous weekend in a 70-14 mauling, Stanford played four Saturday. For the record, CU used three QBs and Embree might have no idea which of the trio might be most effective in the Buffs' three remaining games. He put off addressing that situation until Tuesday's weekly media luncheon, after he's reviewed Saturday's tape, huddled with his offensive coaches and talked to his QB threesome.

After a week of what Embree had said was an open competition, [Jordan Webb](#) made his ninth CU start but played only one half. [Nick Hirschman](#) succeeded him, [Connor Wood](#) succeeded Hirschman. Their combined passing output: 12-of-23 for 97 yards, with one interception by Webb. CU's total offensive output: six first downs (two by halftime), minus-21 yards rushing, 76 total yards.

CU's pro-style offense, Embree contended, is not the culprit and a schematic overhaul is not the answer. And Embree wouldn't engage in finger-pointing at his coaching staff. Asked about a late-term grade he would give his assistants, he said, "Not good . . . I don't know about a letter grade, but I'm not going to sit here and blame people. We all have to be better."

Running the wishbone, I-bone or wing-T on Saturday - suitable personnel available - might not have helped the Buffs against the Cardinal's front seven. Hirschman called it "better than anyone I have personally played before. (But) a lot of that responsibility falls on the quarterback and all three of us need to be better for our team to move on."

Embree said Stanford "got after us with their defense" - which the Cardinal has done to its past two opponents, holding Cal and Washington State to minus-13 yards rushing in the two preceding games. Now, with CU's minus-21, make that minus-34 in three consecutive games.

Embree said his current trio of QBs must improve if the Buffs find a way to finish out in an upbeat fashion. "We have to get better play at that position; we have to get it out of one of those three guys," he said.

The only quarterbacks Embree hasn't used this season are redshirt freshmen [Stevie Joe Dorman](#) and [John Schrock](#), and true freshman [Shane Dillon](#). Dorman generally is a scout team QB, Schrock - who was impressive when he walked on two summers ago - is recovering from mononucleosis, and Dillon appears to have recovered from off-season shoulder surgery that led to the decision to sit him this season.

Following his own lead of the past several weeks, Embree took a "help-is-on-the-way" approach for the future and claimed his offense "is not very far" from finding itself when more of the components are in place. "It is a combination of things (and) unfortunately not something you fix overnight," he said. "If you have a guy like (receiver) [Paul Richardson](#), the bubble screens are little different when you're getting the ball in his hands."

And Embree mentioned - not by name - that reinforcements at receiver will appear on the 2013 roster. Richardson will be back then, too; he recovered swiftly, if not completely, after knee surgery last spring but elected to not chance a return this season.

But the Buffs aren't clear of 2012 yet, so even when he's asked about the future Embree can't get too far into it. Asked Saturday afternoon if he felt frustrated, angry or embarrassed over Saturday and the preceding string of lost weekends, Embree answered, "Probably all of them right now . . . I know some things will be different (next year). I'll just leave it at that."

But in a bit, he added, "I'll be taking a real hard look at what we do on both sides of ball to make sure we give our kids an opportunity to be successful."

Sophomore linebacker [Brady Daigh](#), playing for the first time in three weeks after suffering a neck strain and slight concussion against Arizona State, said his focus for the final three games would be trying to keep his teammates "all on the same page . . . I just know we need to keep moving forward."

Daigh said he signed with CU two winters ago because he wanted to stay in-state (he played at Mullen) and "help turn this program back. I grew up watching this team . . . there are a lot of young guys in here, at least defensively, that are just stepping off of a high school field.

"I think once we adjust and everyone gets used to the college pace - even though it is tough for the fans to sit through it - the Buffs will be back."

Whether that comeback occurs in the next three games is debatable, but Daigh's dream is at least something he - and his coach - can latch onto.

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SHOW MENU



THE SACRAMENTO BEE sacbee.com

Hogan leads No. 15 Stanford past Colorado 48-0

AP Sports Writer

Published Saturday, Nov. 03, 2012

BOULDER, Colo. -- Kevin Hogan fixed Stanford's sputtering offense with a mixture of heady play, a terrific right arm and quick feet.

The redshirt freshman replaced scuffling senior quarterback Josh Nunes on Saturday and ignited the 15th-ranked Cardinal to a 48-0 rout of Colorado, the Buffaloes' first shutout at home in 26 years.

"We knew we were going to give Josh the first two series and give Kevin the next two series and see where we went from there," Cardinal coach David Shaw said. "And Kevin took the ball and ran with it."

Hogan picked apart the nation's worst defense, throwing for 184 yards and running for 48 more in just two quarters of work.

"He's big, strong fast runner," Buffs linebacker Brady Daigh said. "I think he spread out their offense a little more and took them from sideline to sideline. We had game-planned for him all week, but we didn't expect him to take as many snaps as he took. It was just a different look."

The Buffaloes were powerless to respond, gaining 76 yards of offense behind a trio of overwhelmed quarterbacks who led an offense that managed just two snaps on Stanford's side of the field - and was promptly pushed right back with a 24-yard sack.

The Cardinal (7-2, 5-1 Pac-12) handed the Buffs (1-8, 1-5) their first shutout at Folsom Field since a 28-0 loss to Oklahoma on Nov. 15, 1986, snapping a streak of 150 straight games in which the Buffs had scored at home.

Nunes has found it difficult to follow in the gargantuan footsteps of Andrew Luck, the top pick in last spring's NFL draft. And after Stanford's first two drives ended in punts, Hogan came in and led the Cardinal on six straight scoring drives before punter Daniel Zychlinski was needed again.

Hogan completed 18 of 23 passes with two touchdowns, no interceptions and two sacks before giving way to Brett Nottingham in the fourth quarter with the Cardinal comfortably ahead 45-0.

"Well, you see the mobility," Shaw said. "It's not just the scrambling for a couple of yards. He's fast, he can run, he's athletic, he can throw on the move, to the left and to the right. We saw him push up in the pocket and find his check-downs. And I can't find a lot of negatives to what he did today. I'm very, very impressed."

Cardinal fans can expect to see a lot more of the 6-foot-4 quarterback from McLean, Va., starting next week when Stanford hosts Oregon State.

"There's a chance to might see more than one quarterback," Shaw said, "but you'll see a whole lot of Kevin Hogan."

He wouldn't commit to naming him the starter, however.

"You'll see a whole lot of Kevin Hogan," Shaw repeated.

Hogan, whom Shaw estimates has about 80 percent of the playbook down, isn't about to lobby for the gig, either.

"Whatever the coaches think," he said. "It was a good team win and whatever they choose, I'm happy with."

Tight end Zach Ertz mixed diplomacy with a subtle pitch: "Whatever the coaches want to do," Ertz echoed. "He played great, obviously. He had five incompletions the whole game, I think that kind of speaks for itself."

Hogan led Stanford - which had lost won in Boulder in 1904 - to touchdowns on his first four drives, putting the Buffaloes in a 35-0 halftime hole, then added two more scoring drives in the third quarter.

The Buffaloes didn't reach Stanford's side of the field until tight end Nick Kasa's 20-yard catch at the Cardinal 33 with 9:16 left in the game. But a sack two plays later cost them 24 yards and pushed them back across midfield, and they never got back.

"On both sides of the ball we came out and did exactly what we wanted to do," said free safety Ed Reynolds, who got the rout started when he intercepted Jordan Webb's pass and returned it for a 52-yard touchdown in the first quarter.

Nick Hirschman came in on Colorado's next series but was sacked twice and Webb returned on the next drive. However, Webb's first pass of that series went to Kasa, who was blasted by cornerback Alex Carter, popping the ball into the air, where linebacker A.J. Tarpley grabbed it.

Three plays later, Stepfan Taylor ran untouched for a 26-yard touchdown that made it 14-0.

Hogan then drove the Cardinal on touchdown drives of 70, 65 and 58 yards, but his coach and teammates loved his 20-yard scramble on third-and-9 more than anything else.

"Just to get my legs warm, that run felt real good," Hogan said.

"I think that was great to see for the offense to add that extra dimension," Ertz said.

Taylor added a 2-yard TD run with 8 seconds left in the half after Jamal-Rashad Patterson came down with Hogan's 20-yard pass on third-and-14.

"We just weren't good all the way around," coach Jon Embree said after his Buffs lost their fifth straight game - a skid that's seen them outscored 261-51.

The Buffaloes are the worst team in the nation by several measures, including scoring defense, kickoff coverage, sacks allowed and passing efficiency. So, what can the Cardinal really take from this mismatch?

"A lot," Shaw insisted. "Because it's still about us. It's about execution, it's about guys doing their jobs and doing them well. That's what we always look at regardless of who we play or where we play."

Football: No. 15 Stanford shuts out CU Buffs

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

"Please cheat."

Colorado football fan George Merritt tweeted those words to Buffzone.com during halftime of another lost Saturday on the gridiron for his beloved Buffaloes.

CU hosted No. 15 Stanford for homecoming and trailed 35-0 after 30 minutes. The Buffs were dreadful on offense managing just 20 yards of total offense in 26 first-half plays. They never improved and lost 48-0.

It was the first home shutout in 26 years dating back to Oklahoma blanking the Buffs 28-0 on Nov. 15, 1986 during coach Jon Embree's senior season as a CU tight end.

Buffzone.com asked fans to share any comments or suggestions they wanted CU officials to hear regarding the state of the football program and its future. The Buffs are now 1-8 and widely regarded as one of the worst college football programs in the nation.

It felt like the end of the season in the postgame press conference for the home team. Coach Jon Embree faced a slew of big picture questions, including one from this newspaper asking him to grade the job he and his coaches have done so far.

"Not good," Embree said. "I don't know about a letter grade. I'm not going to sit here and blame people. We got to be better. We all have to be better."

Embree said he is taking a hard look at what CU is doing schematically on both sides of the ball. He has previously acknowledged trying to add elements of spread offenses to the Buffs' attack, while admitting doing so in the middle of the season is a challenge.

Embree said he told his team after its fifth consecutive loss that better days lie ahead if players and coaches will continue to work hard. He was asked what emotions he is feeling as his team sunk to 1-8 this season and 4-18 in his tenure. Frustration, anger, embarrassment?

"Probably all of them," Embree said. "I just know some things will be different. I'll just leave it at that."

Embree was thought to be on the verge of changing quarterbacks this week but he decided to stay with Jordan Webb, who threw an interception that was returned for a touchdown in the first quarter to start Stanford's scoring.

Colorado played three quarterbacks in the game, but Webb, Nick Hirschman and Connor Wood all proved ineffective. The Buffs couldn't run the ball against the second-ranked rushing defense in the nation. CU finished with 76 total yards of offense.

Embree said he kept Webb in the starting lineup because he earned it throughout the week of practice. He said he didn't want to address the quarterback situation until next week because he didn't want to appear to be blaming anyone.

Other than facing Stanford's stout run defense, Embree said his offense struggled with protection issues.

"It was a perfect storm," he said. "When we did have people open, we had protection issues. When we were protecting, we couldn't get open. Protection was a problem today."

It took most of the first quarter for the Stanford offense to find its comfort zone, but once it did, the Cardinal scored touchdowns on four consecutive possessions. Stanford finished with 206 rushing yards and 436 total yards of offense, well short of some of the record-setting numbers the Buffs have allowed to earlier opponents this season.

The Buffs were beaten by halftime once again, prompting many questions and angry comments by CU fans on Twitter.

Fabian Baumann seemed to be the one respondent with the most patience remaining. He said this in two tweets: "I haven't missed a home game in years but considered staying home today. Left at halftime. There's no excitement associated with attending games anymore. Complete apathy. Not sure how to fix this, but starting to feel like changes need to be made."

The majority of the student section was left empty throughout Saturday's game and while there were 44,128 tickets sold, there appeared to be more than 10,000 empty seats at the end of the first quarter. Folsom Field holds 53,613.

Peter Solding summed up how many in black and gold are feeling. "We're embarrassed."

Greg Giuffra said: "Please let them know fans are sick of the administration's seeming lack of concern/ care about the state of the program."

Mike Grabinger asked this of CU officials: "How and why do you think this is acceptable and why can't you admit a change is needed?"

Michael Kennedy added: "All I want is CU to be competitive. Is that to (sic) much to ask from a program that is (or was) top 25 in all time wins?"

The Cardinal headed home with showdowns looming against Oregon and Oregon State.

Colorado has three games left, but it already seems like the offseason.

Follow Kyle on Twitter: @KyleRingo

Stanford 48, Colorado 0

Stanford 7 28 10 3--48

Colorado 0 0 0 0-- 0

First Quarter

Stan -- Reynolds 52 interception return (Williamson kick), 8:18.

Second Quarter

Stan -- Taylor 26 run (Williamson kick), 14:30.

Stan -- Wright 1 run (Williamson kick), 8:26.

Stan -- Ertz 1 pass from Hogan (Williamson kick), 3:23.

Stan -- Taylor 2 run (Williamson kick), :08.

Third Quarter

Stan -- FG Williamson 31, 10:28.

Stan -- Toilolo 19 pass from Hogan (Williamson kick), 5:08.

Fourth Quarter

Stan -- FG Williamson 35, 9:52.

A -- 44,138.

Stan Col

First downs 25 6

Rushes-yards 39-206 21-(-21)

Passing 230 97

Comp-Att-Int 25-35-0 12-23-1

Return Yards 72 12

Punts-Avg. 4-43.8 9-44.7

Fumbles-Lost 1-0 3-2

Penalties-Yards 7-56 5-40

Time of Possession 36:17 23:43

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING -- Stanford, Hogan 7-48, Taylor 10-43, Patterson 1-42, Wilkerson 7-35, Seale 4-18, Cummings 4-12, Nunes 1-4, P.Skov 1-4, Wright 2-4, Team 2-(minus 4). Colorado, Powell 6-17, Abron 5-10, T.Jones 1-0, Hirschman 3-(minus 11), J.Webb 4-(minus 12), C.Wood 1-(minus 19).

PASSING -- Stanford, Hogan 18-23-0-184, Nottingham 3-5-0-16, Nunes 3-5-0-23, Picazo 1-1-0-7, Team 0-1-0-0. Colorado, J.Webb 4-10-1-19, C.Wood 4-7-0-66, Hirschman 4-6-0-12.

RECEIVING -- Stanford, Ertz 6-41, Taylor 4-24, Toilolo 3-59, Terrell 3-42, Hewitt 2-18, Patterson 2-18, Kasner 1-9, Cajuste 1-7, Montgomery 1-5, P.Skov 1-5, Pratt 1-2. Colorado, Kasa 3-34, T.Jones 3-26, McCulloch 2-20, G.Thomas 1-8, Spruce 1-6, Powell 1-3, Hobbs 1-0.

Football: CU Buffs' Mike Bohn vows changes for program

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Buffzone.com

Hours after the University of Colorado's latest embarrassment on the football field Saturday, athletic director Mike Bohn promised changes are coming without saying exactly what he has in mind in a brief interview with the Daily Camera.

The Buffs were stomped Saturday 48-0 by Stanford in the annual homecoming game at Folsom Field. It was the fifth consecutive blowout loss for coach Jon Embree's program and the sixth lopsided loss in the past seven games.

"We're not where we want to be," Bohn said. "No one is happy with what has happened on the field, players, coaches, staff, fans."

Bohn said he would not comment about whether changes will be made to the coaching staff.

President Bruce Benson said earlier this fall he would not support firing Embree after only two seasons on the job. Embree was hired in December of 2010 to replace Dan Hawkins, who was fired a month earlier after nearly five full seasons in Boulder.

The most likely changes Colorado would make would be assistant coaches.

In nearly two full seasons on the job, Embree's teams have already suffered more losses by 20 or more points than Hawkins' teams did in 58 games. Embree is 4-18 overall and 3-12 in Pac-12 play.

Bohn said he, Embree and others already began a process of evaluating the program earlier this season when the Buffs started so poorly with losses against Colorado State, Sacramento State and Fresno State and that evaluation is ongoing.

"Recognizing our shortcomings early in the season, coach Embree, his staff, our leadership team along with football professionals have been engaged in numerous endeavors to address our challenges," Bohn said. "We are working to correct voids now in an effort to not lose time before the end of the season."

Bohn added, "After the last game the intensity of reviewing all aspects of the program will increase dramatically with improvements and adjustments implemented."

The program has started receiving national attention in recent weeks for not being competitive and that continued Saturday with ESPN's SportsCenter spending a portion of its evening program addressing the Buffs' woes.

Colorado has the worst defense in the nation in terms of points allowed, but the defense actually proved to be the bright spot against the Cardinal. Three CU quarterbacks tried and failed to move the ball and the Buffs were shut out on their home field for the first time in 26 years.

CU failed to gain even 100 yards of total offense against a Stanford defense that was ranked second nationally against the run but 110th against the pass.

"We have three games remaining to include two at home and our expectations are to field a competitive team to go along with a competitive environment that we are most appreciative of," Bohn said.

Follow Kyle on Twitter:

Football: CU Buffs' offense woeful vs. Stanford

By Ryan Thorburn Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Colorado's coordinators aren't up for reelection on Tuesday.

That's good news for Greg Brown and Eric Bieniemy. Both 2012 scapegoat candidates would be voted out of their offices at the Dal Ward Center by an angry base.

Jon Embree hinted that he will be shaking things up with an announcement at next Tuesday's press luncheon, but the second-year CU head coach was likely referring to the unstable quarterback situation.

Believe it or not, the Buffs' maligned defense was the bright spot during Saturday's 48-0 loss to No. 15 Stanford at Folsom Field.

Brown's unit, which entered Saturday's game ranked 124th nationally in scoring defense (46.0 ppg), only gave up 41 of the points.

Jordan Webb was responsible for the other Cardinal score, a 52-yard interception return for a touchdown by Ed Reynolds.

Bieniemy's offense used three different quarterbacks. The trio combined to complete 12 of 23 passes for 97 yards and was sacked seven times, which is why CU rushed for a net of minus-21 yards on the afternoon.

Christian Powell only had six carries for 17 yards (2.8 per).

This is the first time CU has been shut out at home since a 28-0 loss to Oklahoma on Nov. 15, 1986.

"They're a real good defense to start off with. Their front is I think better than anybody we've played so far, or anybody I've personally played so far," CU backup quarterback Nick Hirschman said after completing 4 of 6 passes for 12 yards. "A lot of that responsibility of moving the ball falls on the quarterback, and all three of us need to be better in order for this team to move on."

The Buffs did not cross midfield until third-string quarterback Connor Wood connected on a 20-yard pass to tight end Nick Kasa midway through the fourth quarter.

Two snaps later, Wood was sacked and fumbled. The home team recovered the ball for a loss of 24 yards on the play back at the CU 45.

The offense was called for a delay of game on the next play. Wood completed a 10-yard pass to Tyler McCulloch on the ensuing third-and-37.

The Buffs never got the ball back after Darragh O'Neill's ninth punt of the game with 6:35 remaining.

"You can't really put a finger on one player, one position," Wood said after completing 4 of 7 passes for 66 yards in mop-up duty. "It seemed like when 10 guys were doing the right thing, one guy wasn't."

Embree said the absence of Gus Handler, CU's starting center, was a key factor in the offensive line not being able to build on decent performances against USC and Oregon.

"We tried to run outside, we tried to run inside ... you can have a game plan but when you're second-and-long you have to do things differently," Embree said.

The Buffs continue to mix in more spread offensive sets, but right now it doesn't appear that there is enough talent to execute any type of scheme against strong defenses.

CU finished with six first downs and 76 total yards of offense.

"I've said this before, but I'm taking a real hard look at what we do on both sides of the ball," Embree said. "(To) make sure that we give our kids the opportunity to be successful."

Follow Ryan on Twitter: @RyanThorburn

Football: Early signs good for CU Buffs' Solis

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

For the second consecutive home game, the Colorado football team had a player carted off the field.

The Buffs are hoping the prognosis is as good this time as it was the first.

Freshman defensive tackle Justin Solis was carted off the field with a neck injury with 10:32 to play in the third quarter Saturday against Stanford.

"Totally precautionary," head athletic trainer Miguel Rueda said. "He was responsive on the field, he had his motor function and sensory function, but he had tenderness or pain in his neck. So, we went ahead and spine-boarded him and sent him to the hospital.

"The CT scan came back negative. We're just waiting for further tests."

Against Arizona State on Oct. 11, linebacker Brady Daigh was taken off the field on a stretcher after a neck injury. He missed the next two games, but started on Saturday.

The Buffs are hoping for similar results for Solis.

"A little early to tell, but I have a good feeling about it," Rueda said.

Ironically, Daigh and Solis both made their first career starts on Saturday.

Major sits

Senior linebacker Jon Major missed the game after an injury in practice during the week. He hyper-extended his right elbow and tore a ligament in the process.

Major was in uniform and participated in pre-game warmups, but said he was only going to play if someone else got hurt.

"My role this game was to help out the guys on the field and if someone went down then I would have to push through it," he said.

Major expects to play next Saturday at Arizona.

"I don't think I need to be restricted," he said. "As long as it's safe, pain isn't a factor. I've had to do that my whole career, so I'm not worried about it."

Record for Pericak

During the past four years, defensive lineman Will Pericak has been a model of consistency for the Colorado football team.

On Saturday, he broke the school record for defensive players with his 46th career start (Jordan Dizon had 45 starts). It was also his 46th consecutive start for Pericak, extending his school record, regardless of position.

With three games left to play, Pericak has a couple of other records in sight. Former offensive tackle Ryan Miller

holds the record for most career starts (47) and four players are tied for the most games played on defense (48). Barring injury, Pericak should break both marks.

Notable

Nate Bonsu (sprained ankle) missed the game after getting injured in practice, and Kenneth Crawley missed the game with an illness. ... Offensive lineman Ryan Dannewitz sprained his knee Saturday. ... Defensive back Harrison Hunter and defensive end John Tusso played for the first time at CU. ... Senior Ray Polk lined up as a kick returner for the first time in his career. He had one return for 10 yards.

Follow Brian on Twitter: @BrianHowell33.

Sophomore linebacker notches team-high 10 tackles in first start

By Brian Howell *Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera*

Posted:

Buffzone.com

There's a reason Brady Daigh committed to play football at Colorado.

Results like Saturday was not the reason, but after the 48-0 loss to Stanford, the sophomore linebacker has hope that better days are ahead.

"That is why I committed here and why I wanted to stay in state was to help turn this program back," said Daigh, who is from Denver's Mullen High School. "I grew up watching this team and there are a lot of young guys in here, at least defensively, that are just stepping off a high school field. I think once we adjust and everyone gets used to the college pace, even though it is tough for the fans to sit through it, the Buffs will be back."

Those days seem far away right now. The Buffaloes are giving up 46.2 points per game. Only one Division I team in the past decade has been worse (North Texas gave up 47.6 per game in 2008).

Saturday wasn't as bad as the previous three weeks, but it wasn't pretty. Stanford had 436 yards in total offense and scored touchdowns on five of its first eight offensive possessions.

There were some positives, as the Buffs forced the Cardinal to punt on their first two possessions.

Then, on the second play of the second quarter, Stanford's Stepfan Taylor busted loose for a 26-yard touchdown run. That opened the gates, as Stanford scored on six consecutive possessions.

"I think we came out very strong early," said Daigh, who made his first career start and had a team-high 10 tackles, as well as his first career sack. "It is a very physical team; they like to wear you down. We have to be better at battling through all that adversity and we have got to keep coming for four quarters, not just the first quarter."

It's been a rough stretch for the Buffs, and the defense in particular. They have given up 54.8 points per game the last four weeks and have allowed at least 30 points in eight straight.

Only 41 of Stanford's points were against the CU defense. The Cardinal's first score was a 52-yard interception return.

With pride in the program he grew up admiring, however, Daigh said he's not giving up.

"It's discouraging, but at the same time we are going to come back every week," he said.

Follow Brian on Twitter: @BrianHowell33.

CU Buffs booed by homecoming crowd in 48-0 loss to Stanford

By John Henderson *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER —When the 2012 Colorado Buffaloes look back at this nightmare season, what's the one tattered, horrific Kodak moment that will keep them up at night? Will it be the 69-14 shellacking at mediocre Fresno State? Maybe having USC's Matt Barkley light them up on 19-of-20 passing? How about giving up a 70-spot to Oregon?

A more discerning critic could choose the latest pratfall Saturday afternoon at Folsom Field. If it wasn't just the 48-0 score that they lost by to 15th-ranked Stanford, maybe it was a dismal homecoming crowd that booed the Buffs (1-8, 1-5 Pac-12) off the field at halftime, when CU trailed 35-0.

Or was it coming out for the third quarter and seeing about half the estimated 32,000 (43,138 paid) still in the stands to watch Colorado get shut out at home for the first time in 26 years?

Yes, not even alumni could stand to watch their alma mater give up 436 yards to a struggling offense, while Colorado produced only 76. On top of that, the worst defense in school history helped launch the career of a backup quarterback who looked like Andrew Luck on weekend leave from the Indianapolis Colts.

Emerging from the rubble once again was second-year CU coach Jon Embree. What level of emotion is he feeling with his last six losses coming by an average score of 55-11? Frustration? Anger? Embarrassment?

"Probably all of them," Embree said. "I just know some things will be different. I'll leave it at that."

Saturday was the day when respectability could have made a cameo appearance at Folsom Field. Yes, it was the Buffs' third consecutive ranked opponent, but Stanford's offense limped into Boulder with first-year starting QB Josh Nunes, and CU and its charbroiled secondary were more suited to stop Stanford's power running game.

It didn't happen. Stanford averaged more than 6 yards per carry in the first half, and sophomore Kevin Hogan replaced Nunes after two series and hit 18-of-23 passes for 184 yards and two touchdowns. The Cardinal (7-2, 5-1) scored touchdowns on its last four possessions of the first half.

"He's a big, strong, fast runner," said sophomore linebacker Brady Daigh, who returned from a scary neck injury four weeks ago to lead CU with 10 tackles. "He spread out the offense a little more. He took them sideline to sideline. We game-planned for him, but we didn't expect him to take as many snaps as he took."

As bad as Colorado was defensively, it was more red-faced offensively. Embree stuck with struggling quarterback Jordan Webb after a strong week of practice and then watched him continue spiraling downhill.

Safety Ed Reynolds intercepted his third pass of the game and returned it 52 yards for the opening score. Facing the nation's No. 2 rush defense, behind Alabama's, Colorado's lone hope was through the air. It had no hope.

Webb was 4-of-10 passing for only 19 yards. Nick Hirschman played all of one series when the game mattered. He completed two passes — one for 4 yards and one for zip — and ran twice for minus-4. He replaced Webb again at halftime and picked up where Webb left off. Third-string Connor Wood, the Texas transfer, replaced Hirschman in the third quarter and received a Bronx cheer from the spattering of remaining fans after completing his first two passes.

Needing all the help they can get, the Buffs got little help from a makeshift line missing center Gus Handler

(knee). The line gave up seven sacks. Wideouts caught all of four passes.

"It was a perfect storm," Embree said. "When we had people open, we had protection issues. When we were protecting, we couldn't get open."

Nevertheless, a team with holes all through the lineup has its biggest one at the most important position.

"I don't want to say anything right now," Embree said, "because I don't want it to sound like people are being blamed."

Plenty of blame can go around, particularly to an inexperienced coaching staff learning on the job. What it has learned is it's steering this team toward the rock bottom of CU's football history. With three games left — at Arizona next Saturday and then Washington and Utah at home — CU needs one win to avoid topping the low-water 1-10 marks of 1980 and 1984.

Who will stick around to watch is another question.

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Quarterback switch to Kevin Hogan pays for Stanford

Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER — Stanford coach David Shaw said he planned all along to insert sophomore quarterback Kevin Hogan in the third series Saturday.

Good thinking. Hogan rescued the Cardinal after struggling starter Josh Nunes couldn't produce any points in his first two series.

"(Hogan) has been showing it to us in practice, he's been doing extremely well," Shaw said after Hogan hit 18-of-23 for 184 yards and two touchdowns passing in No. 15 Stanford's 48-0 rout of Colorado.

Hogan led Stanford to touchdowns on its last four possessions of the first half.

First since 1986. The last time Colorado was shut out at home was a 28-0 loss to Oklahoma in 1986. And Saturday's game wasn't close. The Buffaloes didn't get into Stanford territory until their last possession when third-string QB Connor Wood hit Nick Kasa for 20 yards to the Stanford 33.

One play later, Wood was sacked and fumbled all the way back to the Buffs' 45. Place-kicker Will Oliver, who does not kick off, never stepped on the field for CU.

Webb earns start. Second-year CU coach Jon Embree opened up the QB competition last week, but starter Jordan Webb kept his job.

"He was the better guy, clearly, during practice," Embree said. "But I will talk more about the whole situation on Tuesday. I just don't think that it's fair to the kids, all three of them, because they all prepare hard and they all put in effort."

Injury report. Freshman defensive lineman Justin Solis was carted off the field with a neck injury during the third quarter. He did have movement and was taken to Boulder Community Hospital as a precautionary measure.

Starting middle linebacker Jon Major (hyperextended elbow) and defensive tackle Nate Bonsu (ankle) didn't play after suffering injuries in practice.

Backup guard Ryan Dannewitz sprained his knee Saturday and will undergo tests.

No ground game. Even without the seven sacks that helped give Colorado minus-21 rushing yards, the Buffs had only 21 rushing yards gained. Freshman Christian Powell led the team with 17. The team's longest gain was 5 yards.

Stanford clears bench. No one can accuse Shaw of piling it on. He played four quarterbacks, including senior walk-on Robbie Picazo. Seven Cardinal players carried the ball. John Henderson, The Denver Post