



Connor Wood (5) or Nick Hirschman (8) will get the starting nod at Arizona Saturday.

Photo Courtesy: Joel Broida



# Brooks: Buffs Going In Another Direction At QB

Release: 11/06/2012    Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

**BOULDER** - In an attempt to resuscitate its offense, Colorado will start a new quarterback - either Nick Hirschman or Connor Wood - Saturday at Arizona.

Coach Jon Embree announced on Tuesday that transfer Jordan Webb, the starter in this season's first nine games, will take a backseat in practice this week while Hirschman and Wood - both sophomores - compete to open against the Wildcats.

"Jordan has won the competition every week; we just want to get a different look at some guys," Embree said, adding a second part of the equation is to "let Jordan sit back and kind of watch some things and see if that'll help him some."

Webb agreed that a change might help spark the offense and that watching what unfolds might help him. "I've been in that position before (at Kansas) with an injury whenever I had to sit back and it really helps, seeing things from a new

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perspective," he said. "I plan on trying to get better this week."

Through nine games, Webb was last in the Pac-12 Conference in passing efficiency (106.9 rating), No. 12 in total offense (142.8 yards a game) and No. 11 in passing yards per game (155.7). A change at the position was contemplated last week, but CU quarterbacks coach Rip Scherer said Webb once again outperformed Hirschman in practice.

"He kept fighting back, he was practicing hard," Scherer said of Webb.

So Webb remained the starter last weekend against Stanford. However, during that game, Scherer said he "just sensed that (Webb) was losing his edge . . . I felt it more during this last game."

Webb conceded that his confidence had taken a hit recently. "A little bit, but I have a pretty short memory," he said. "That's just always how I've been. I think the next game I play I'm the type that thinks I'm going to throw for 400 (yards) and five touchdowns. That's just my mindset. I think that's what you have to be as a quarterback."

The decision on whether to start Hirschman or Wood will be made at week's end, although Embree said if either player separates himself from the other as early as Tuesday or Wednesday, it would be reflected in the number of "reps" with the No. 1 offense for the remainder of the week.

That was the case last week when Hirschman competed with Webb for the starting spot. Embree said he and his offensive staff knew after last Tuesday's practice that Webb would open against the Cardinal.

But Scherer said after this week's Tuesday's work there had been no such separation between Wood and Hirschman: "But I haven't seen the tape yet. Both did some really good things, but there were some mistakes that have to get fixed."

As it turned out last weekend, all three QBs played in the 48-0 loss and were equally ineffective as the Buffs dropped to 1-8 overall and 1-5 in the Pac-12. In addition to being shut out at home for the first time since the mid-1980s, CU was held to 76 yards in total offense (minus-21 rushing). The three QBs combined to complete 12-of-23 passes for 97 yards, with Webb throwing a first-quarter pick six. Their individual stats: Webb - four-of-10, 19 yards; Hirschman - four-of-six, 12 yards; Wood - four-of-seven, 66 yards.

Webb wasn't surprised by the turn toward Wood or Hirschman. "That's the name of the game," he said. "Whenever you're not producing your job is going to be on the line, and obviously I wasn't (producing). Now it's time for me to help those guys get ready for this week."

This week's different approach at identifying a starter was not done with an eye toward the future, said Embree: "No, we're trying to win now. It doesn't have anything to do with that." He also said there was never any thought given to pulling freshman Shane Dillon's redshirt: "I didn't even think about that . . . it wouldn't be fair."

Webb, who has started all nine games this season but has not finished the last two, won the job in August despite having been on campus less than two months and having minimal exposure to CU's playbook. Nonetheless, he clearly was the most efficient of the threesome in August and subsequently was named the starter for the opener.

He showed flashes of proficiency, particularly in the Buffs' lone win, directing a fourth-quarter comeback (35-34) in the Pac-12 opener at Washington State. But much of his efficiency seemed to stay on the practice field, and Embree noted, "There are a lot of different issues that arise, whether it's receivers in their routes, whether it's maybe something up front with the line.

"Part of it is we have to help him make plays. He can be streaky in that if he gets a couple of things going early

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he can build off of that. Last week, obviously those things didn't happen."

Embree doesn't adhere to the "gamer" theory that some players who are routinely subpar in practice perform better in games: "I don't believe that in my heart," he said. "I believe all players, you practice like you play. I don't feel like all of a sudden because there's people in the stands and it's a different colored uniform across from you, you become Peyton Manning. It's something in how you prepare and what you do in practice, I believe, is how you'll do on Saturday. But there's always exceptions."

At 6-3, 225 and 6-4, 230, respectively, Wood and Hirschman have prototypical QB size. Wood, who has never started a college game, is viewed as the more mobile of the two. "He's a pretty good runner," said CU defensive end Chidera Uzo-Diribe, and that attribute could work in Wood's favor.

Said Embree: "You don't want a guy back there who can't move - unless his last name is Roethlisberger . . . it's important because we want to move the pocket and do some other things to get them on the edge. Connor definitely moves a lot better than I think people would assume because they see his size."

However scant, Hirschman might have experience on his side. He made his first college start last season at Arizona State but was ineffective. Yet he persevered and has overcome injuries to both feet to work himself back into the picture.

"Jordan's played in a lot of games and seen a lot of things that Connor and I haven't gotten a chance to see," Hirschman said. "But at this point in my football career I feel like I've played enough to the point where most of the defenses I've seen are about it - I hope."

He characterized his performance in last week's competition against Webb as "good" and said he knew by Wednesday that he would play against Stanford if he didn't start. But he added he needs to "improve on decision making - and that just comes over time of being a quarterback, seeing the reps."

Competing against a player who hasn't been a nine-game starter this season would not make a difference, Hirschman said: "No, I don't think it changes how I look at the competition. It doesn't really matter who it is; it's more about yourself than the other guy anyway. It's more focusing on myself and what I can do to improve."

Wood, meanwhile, finds himself in an intriguing position - one of knowing a good week of November practice will earn his first college start. He relishes the opportunity.

"I'm excited," he said. "I'm looking ahead for an opportunity to get in the game and make something happen and generate some excitement for our offense."

He believes he can earn the job by being consistent. "That's my main goal with my passes, my run checks and all the things that are my responsibility," he said. "Not be perfect, but be consistent . . . I'm on the verge; every day I'm getting better at understanding our game plan for each week."

The lack of consistency at the QB position is mirrored in CU's offensive stats. The Buffs are last in the Pac-12 in scoring (16.1 points a game), total offense (293.0 yards) and passing offense (193.3 yards). They are 11th in rushing offense (99.7 yards).

Scherer agreed that Wood's and Hirschman's inconsistency in practice "is the reason we haven't made the change sooner . . . hopefully by splitting the reps between the two of them, one will rise and jump to the forefront."

He said neither player has an edge at this point: "I think they're both different. Nick is a blue collar, big, strong, tough guy - maybe not as smooth as Connor. (Wood) is a little smoother athletically. They both bring different things to the table."

While Embree would not rule out using Webb at Arizona, he said the QB who finishes second in this week's competition would be Saturday's backup. Scherer added if that if this week's competition "is a dead heat through the course of the week, then maybe both of them (Wood, Hirschman) will play."

Senior tight end Nick Kasa said whoever winds up as Saturday's starting QB simply needs to help the offense find more rhythm: "We'll get eight yards, then get stopped and go three and out. That kills a drive and sometimes the next drive, just thinking about it. We need to get in a rhythm and have confidence."

The lack of rhythm is obvious to Hirschman. "Every now and then we'll see glimpses of us moving the ball, being on time and having good flow," he said. "Then there are times when it's obviously not very evident. That's a key to our success; we need to be on the same page with each other."

**BUFF BITS:** The Buffs' current woes shouldn't cause any player defections, Embree said, adding he believes "the foundation is solid . . . I'm as disappointed as everyone else about where we are from a record standpoint. I knew when I took this job it was going to be a process. I didn't think it would be like this, but I knew it was going to be a building process just because of the nature of where the roster was." He said this should be the last year of recruiting a number of players to restock one position - such as the secondary and defensive line in the last cycle. "We can start recruiting a little bit more normal," he said . . . There has been no update on defensive back Parker Orms' status for either the remainder of this season or the future. In concussion cases, there are procedures players must go through before being cleared to return. Embree said he didn't know where Orms was in those procedures.

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## Jordan Webb will not be the starter against Arizona on Saturday

By Brian Howell, Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

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For those Colorado football fans that were eager to hear earth-shaking news about the football program, Tuesday was probably disappointing.

The Buffaloes are hoping that Tuesday's announcement about a new starting quarterback will provide some earth-shaking results, however.

Head coach Jon Embree did not name a starting quarterback for Saturday's game at Arizona, but he did rule out one candidate.

During his weekly press conference on Tuesday, Embree said Nick Hirschman and Connor Wood would battle for the starting job this week. Jordan Webb, who has started all nine games, will not factor into the competition for the Buffaloes (1-8, 1-5 Pac-12) as they prepare to face Arizona (5-4, 2-4).

"Jordan has won the competitions every week," Embree said. "We just want to get a different look at some guys. Sometimes when you're doing that ... especially at that position, you can learn more and see more when you're on the sideline. We'll see what (Wood) and (Hirschman) do. We'll make a decision toward the end of the week."

Fans have been hoping for a change for weeks. Webb certainly isn't the only reason CU ranks 122nd nationally in scoring -- ahead of Idaho and Massachusetts -- but he hasn't helped lately, either.

During the past 28 possessions Webb has directed, covering parts of four games, the Buffs have punted 15 times, turned it over seven times and scored just six points on two field goals. Webb has not led the Buffs to a touchdown since late in the first half against Arizona State on Oct. 11. He had an interception returned for a touchdown on Saturday in a 48-0 loss to Stanford.

"Whenever you're not producing, your job is going to be on the line and obviously I wasn't," said Webb, a junior who transferred to CU this year from Kansas. "Now it's time for me to just help those guys get ready for this week."

Webb has completed just 55.4 percent of his passes (138-of-249) for 1,401 yards, eight touchdowns and eight interceptions. Those numbers aren't great, but they aren't the only reason the Buffs are making a change.

"Sometimes I think you just need to make a change when you're struggling, just to see if you can jump start it and see if another guy can kind of catch a spark," quarterbacks coach Rip Scherer said. "My sense, and I talked to Jordan about it, but it appears to me he's lost some confidence, so that he's been a little more deliberate in making decisions, a little bit too deliberate holding onto the ball. When you lose your swagger at that position, it usually has negative results."

Webb agreed that maybe his confidence has taken a bit of a hit, but added, "I have a short memory."

Nevertheless, Embree and Scherer felt it necessary to try something different. During the past few games, the Buffs have pulled Webb and used Hirschman and Wood off the bench. All three played against Stanford.

"I don't like going back and forth," Scherer said. "It was a big part of my recommendation to coach Embree that we keep Jordan in there last week. We thought about making a change then, but I just think now it's one of those gut feeling times, so my recommendation was now is the time to make a change if he agrees with it."

Scherer said the coaches are looking for consistent productivity from the quarterback position.

"Part of what goes into that is decision making -- decisive, efficient, timely decision making," Scherer said. "Secondly, we've just got to be better in the passing game in terms of putting the ball in spots where our receivers can make plays.

"It's decision making, it's accuracy and who's going to move the ball down the field and put the ball in the end zone."

Scherer said he really didn't know who would be the starter at Arizona, or even who was the front-runner going into the week.

"I'm going into it with an open mind and see how it plays out," Scherer said.

Hirschman and Wood are both looking to take advantage of the opportunity in front of them. Their statistics this season are nearly identical: Hirschman has completed 13 of 29 passes for 160 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions. Wood has completed 14 of 29 passes for 164 yards and two interceptions.

At 6-foot-4, 230-pounds, Hirschman is bigger and has a strong arm. The redshirt sophomore has also been at CU longer than any other QB on the roster.

"I'm very excited," said Hirschman, who struggled in his only career start, at Arizona State in 2011. "I try to inspire people with the way I play and my toughness and knowing they can trust me to be the guy that can lead them down the field."

Wood, a 6-3, 225-pound redshirt sophomore transfer from Texas, has yet to start a college game, so he's hoping to get his first chance this week.

"My main goal is to be consistent in my passes and run checks and all the things that are my responsibility," he said.

Scherer said Hirschman has blue-collar competitiveness and that teammates rally around him. He said Wood has a better grasp on the small nuances of the CU offense.

As for Webb, well, Scherer didn't rule out the possibility of him regaining his job during the final two weeks.

"I don't want to make that decision until I see how these guys respond," he said.

Giving an opportunity to Hirschman, Wood or both during the last three games should give CU a better opportunity to evaluate them for the future, but Embree and Scherer both said this move isn't being made with an eye toward 2013.

"We're trying to win now," Embree said.

Follow Brian on Twitter: @BrianHowell33.

## Thorburn: CU Buffs need bigger changes in offseason to succeed

By Ryan Thorburn Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

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There wasn't much hope or change on election day at the Dal Ward Center.

Most casual Colorado fans waved the white flag on the 2012 campaign after the Sacramento State game.

Even hardcore Buffs supporters had trouble stomaching the first quarters at Fresno State, USC and Oregon.

The early November exit polls did not look good for Jon Embree as most of the crowd at Folsom Field streamed out of the stadium in the middle of CU's 48-0 loss to Stanford.

Despite a grim five-game losing streak in which the Buffs have been outscored 219-37, the only notable change this week is under center.

Either Nick Hirschman or Connor Wood will be breaking the huddle.

The quarterback who consistently outshines the others in practice, Jordan Webb, will get to watch Saturday's game at Arizona from one of the rearranged deck chairs on this Titanic.

"Jordan has won the competitions every week," Embree said after making the announcement on Tuesday. "We just want to get a different look at some guys."

The bad news for Hirschman and Wood is that Paul Richardson still isn't going to be on the field making his teammates better until spring drills.

The good news is the Wildcats just gave up 66 points to UCLA. And the counterpart quarterback, Matt Scott, might not play due to a concussion.

So there is actually a chance the Buffs can ... cover the 301/2 points.

If only Embree's team would show up on game day the way it competes at such a high level behind the closed gates of the CU practice fields.

Or so the story goes.

"The way we practice, you'd think we were one of the best teams in the country," junior defensive end Chidera Uzo-Diribe said.

Something is obviously getting lost in translation between the coaches and the players. Clearly, this is one of many issues Embree is going to have to address with his young team over the winter.

By the way, there is no debate: CU is not making a change at head coach.

Stop making your wish-lists of candidates. There isn't going to be an opening.



That doesn't mean there won't be changes on Embree's staff. Statistically speaking, that's a no-brainer.

The Buffs are 122nd nationally in scoring offense (16.1 ppg) and 124th (last) in scoring defense (46.2 ppg).

We're still waiting impatiently for Eric Bieniemy to establish a running game and for a CU wide receiver to get separation from a Pac-12 cornerback.

Greg Brown's defense might have some trouble stopping the elite teams in the 5A playoff bracket.

One loyal and disgruntled fan suggested to me that if CU had to open the 2013 season at Sacramento State, the Buffs would be underdogs.

It's hard to argue the point. This team would have trouble beating anyone.

Buffs fans should send Christmas cards to Pullman, Wash., c/o Mike Leach.

Bruce Benson, Phil DiStefano and Mike Bohn can only hope a strong and productive offseason for the floundering football program -- installation of a spread offense? Shane Dillon at quarterback? The return of P-Rich and Jeffrey Thomas? Yuri Wright, Kenneth Crawley, Josh Tupou and others emerging as defensive stars? -- leads to dramatic change on the scoreboard next fall.

A three-and-out for Embree would be difficult for CU to recover from.

Follow Ryan on Twitter: @RyanThorburn

## Bufs backups Nick Hirschman, Connor Wood to compete for QB job

By John Henderson The Denver Post The Denver Post  
Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER — Quarterback Jordan Webb had nine games to prove he could lead Colorado's offense. Backups Nick Hirschman and Connor Wood have one week to prove one of them can replace him.

Trying to jump-start an offense that is the school's lowest-scoring since 1984, coach Jon Embree will choose between Hirschman and Wood to start at Arizona (5-4, 2-4 Pac-12) Saturday at 11:30 a.m.

"We're going to let Jordan sit back and watch some things that will help him some," Embree said Tuesday. "So it'll be between Nick and Connor; we'll see how that goes during the week."

Colorado's quarterback position has been a black hole, but the entire offense has struggled with no breakaway receiving threat and spotty line play. Nevertheless, the numbers don't lie. The Buffaloes (1-8, 1-5 Pac-12) haven't averaged as few as 16.1 points per game since 1984, when coach Bill McCartney's 1-10 team averaged 15.6.

Only Idaho and Massachusetts, in its first year in FBS, are averaging fewer points at the top level.

Jordan is last in the Pac-12 in pass efficiency (107.2), hitting 138-of 249 passes (.554) for 1,401 yards with eight interceptions and eight touchdowns.

"We just want to get a different look at some guys," Embree said. "Especially at that position, quarterback, sometimes you can learn more and see more when you're on the side watching and see what the other guys are doing."

However much Webb has struggled, he has proved since his transfer from Kansas this past summer that he's the best quarterback of the three. He showed up and won the job in fall camp and then beat out Hirschman when Embree opened up the competition again last week.

Then came Saturday's 48-0 loss to Stanford, Colorado's first home shutout in 26 years.

"That's the name of the game," Webb said. "Whenever you're not producing, you drop down the line."

Hirschman and Wood have thrown more passes than many backups but haven't given the offense much of a spark. In six games, including the past two in emergency relief of Webb, Hirschman is 13-of-29 for 160 yards with two interceptions and a TD. Hirschman had one disastrous start at Arizona State last year and knows where his shortcoming is.

"Be better with decision making," Hirschman said. "That's always been my area where they said I need to improve, and I've done a lot of that over the last couple months, the last couple of years. Jordan's played a lot of games. He's seen a lot of things Connor and I haven't gotten a chance to see."

Wood, a transfer from Texas, has played in five games, completing 14-of-29 for 164 yards with two picks. He had the job until Webb showed up.

"I'm excited," said Wood one of three quarterbacks who tried his hand against Stanford last Saturday. "I'm looking ahead to a good opportunity to get into a game and make something happen and create some excitement for our offense."

It may not matter who starts if the quarterback doesn't get better protection. Colorado is allowing 4.4 sacks a game, tied with Washington State for most in the country. And CU's wideouts have caught only 11 passes in the past three games.

That's one reason Embree isn't blaming Webb.

"We've got to help him make plays," Embree said. "He can be streaky, where if he gets a couple things going early he can build off of that."

A couple of things will help Colorado on Saturday. However bad Colorado's defense has been — and it's ranked 115th (497.3 yards per game) — Arizona's has been worse, at 118th (498.0).

Also, Arizona quarterback Matt Scott, 10th nationally in total offense, is listed as questionable with a concussion.

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## Colorado QB coach Rip Scherer says he saw Jordan Webb's confidence drop

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Posted on Wed, Nov. 07, 2012

## Colorado (1-8) at Arizona (5-4) (ET)

By Sports Network  
The Sports Network

**FACTS & STATS:** Site: Arizona Stadium (51,811) -- Tucson, Arizona. Television: RSN. Home Record: Colorado 1-4, Arizona 5-1. Away Record: Colorado 0-4, Arizona 0-3. Neutral Record: Colorado 0-0, Arizona 0-0. Conference Record: Colorado 1-5, Arizona 2-4. Series Record: Colorado leads, 13-1.

**GAME NOTES:** Coming off a disappointing blowout loss, the Arizona Wildcats will host a team that is all too familiar with losing by large margins, when the Colorado Buffaloes enter Arizona Stadium for a Pac-12 matchup.

There really hasn't been a point in the season that could be called rock bottom for the Buffaloes, since the entire season has been pretty much an exercise in futility. Colorado was locked down on offense and lit up on defense last weekend in a 48-0 loss at home to Stanford. Colorado has now been outscored by at least 34 points in five straight games and six overall this season. The 48-point margin of defeat against Stanford wasn't even the worst one the Buffaloes have suffered with a 70-14 loss to Oregon and a 69-14 defeat to Fresno State providing even wider discrepancies on the scoreboard. With just one win in nine tries the end of the season can't come fast enough in Boulder.

Losing 66-10 to UCLA last weekend was an easy way for Arizona to fall out of the national rankings once again. After managing to push their way into top-25 after a 3-0 start, the Wildcats reclaimed a spot (No. 24) after upsetting USC. A return to its home stadium should help remedy matters with the Wildcats 5-1 on their home turf this season. Like Colorado, Arizona has shown some susceptibility to allowing large point totals, with the team giving up at least 36 points in six games this season. Arizona is 2-4 in those games which matches its conference record.

If history has any say in this game than Colorado has a huge advantage. The Buffaloes have won 13 of the previous 14 meetings between these programs. That includes a 48-29 win in Boulder last season during Colorado's inaugural campaign in the Pac-12.

There is really no limit to how much Colorado has struggled on both sides of the ball this season. The Buffaloes are dead last in just about every offensive category, including total yards (292.3 ypg) and scoring (16.1 ppg). Those numbers would be atrocious in just about every league but are especially detrimental in a conference like the Pac-12 that features so many high-powered offenses.

Head coach Jon Embree has indicated that there could be some changes in quarterback in the coming weeks. In the loss to Stanford, three different signal callers played significant minutes. Jordan Webb, who has been the starter for most of the season, completed just 4-of-10 passes for only 19 yards and an interception. Connor Wood (4-for-7, 66 yards) and Nick Hirschman (4-for-6, 12 yards) fared just slightly better, with each having little time to throw thanks to the seven sacks allowed. It remains to be seen which will get the nod this weekend but a repeat of last week's playing time could be in the works.

Colorado also got an up close and personal look at the suffocating run defense of the Stanford defense. Although the seven sacks allowed contributed much of the negative yardage, the Buffaloes finished with minus-21 yards on the ground. That was the second-lowest rushing total by a Colorado team in school history. Christian Powell (17 yards) was the lead rusher as he has been all season. Powell (488 yards, 5 TDs) is a lone bright spot for the future as he currently ranks sixth on the single-season rushing mark for a freshman.

Having three different quarterbacks attempt to build chemistry with the Colorado receivers has meant that no pass catcher as really stepped to the forefront. Nelson Spruce (29 receptions, 306 yards) leads the team in receptions and has the only 100-yard game of the season, but Nick Kasa (17 receptions, 306

yards, 3 TDs) has been more of a big play threat. Kasa leads the team in receiving touchdowns and his seven receptions of 20 yards or more are more than any other player.

The Colorado defense has been just about as big a letdown as the offense this season. Rarely are the Buffaloes even competitive in games with teams scoring a Pac-12 high 46.2 points per game against the unit. That number is not just the worst in the conference but the worst at the FBS level. Colorado is also being lit up for nearly 500 yards of total offense per game (497.3 ypg).

With opposing offenses constantly on the field there have plenty of opportunities to rack up large tackle totals which Terrel Smith (66) and Derrick Webb (64) have been the most productive at. Chidera Uzo-Diribe (6.0 sacks) has been a solid pass rusher on a team that has otherwise failed to get consistent pressure on opposing quarterbacks.

Offense has been everything for Arizona this season and Matt Scott has been everything to that offense. That's why the news that Scott could miss Saturday's game is so devastating for the Wildcats. Scott, who is listed as questionable after suffering a concussion last week, has been phenomenal this season, throwing for 2,848 yards and 20 touchdowns on 62.7 percent passing. Scott's contributions don't stop there as he has also rushed for 369 yards and four scores. The concussion certainly slowed him last week as he completed 15- of-25 passes for a season-low 124 yards. It was the first time this season he has thrown for less than 200 yards. B.J. Denker is the likely replacement as the only other player on the roster to have taken snaps at quarterback this season.

If Scott can't go the offensive focus will shift to dynamic running back Ka'Deem Carey. That is not an entirely bad thing as Carey has had no problem picking up yards and touchdowns on the ground. Overall Carey has rushed for 1,015 yards and 13 scores on 199 carries, making him the third-most productive back in the conference. Carey did struggle against UCLA with a season-low 54 yards, which snapped a four-game streak of at least 115 yards rushing.

No matter who ends up under center the Wildcats are fortunate to have some fantastic options at receiver. Austin Hills (59 receptions, 994 yards, 7 TDs) has been an explosive pass-catching threat and one of only three players in the conference averaging more than 100 yards per game. Dan Buckner (54 receptions, 678 yards, 3 TDs) has been less prolific but is still a dangerous threat. Carey has shown his versatility by being the third most productive receiver with 28 receptions for 247 yards.

While light years ahead of Colorado in offense, Arizona really can't boast of any real advantage on defense. In fact the Wildcats are an even worse team in terms of total yardage allowed. Thus far the Wildcats are allowing an even 498 yards of offense per game which is in part a symptom of the lightning fast tempo at which the offense plays. Still failing to subdue opposing offenses even slightly is not a recipe for success.

Jake Fischer has been excellent in bringing opposing players down, ranking second in the conference with 80 tackles, including 5.5 for loss. Marquis Flowers (68 tackles, 9.5 tackles for loss, 4.5 sacks) and Tra'Mayne Bondurant (57 tackles, 11.5 tackles for loss) have also been extremely effective in getting stops especially for negative yardage.

Having a big question mark under center will not make things easy for Arizona this week. However there is just as much, if not more uncertainty in the same area for Colorado. Regardless of whether Scott starts or not, the Wildcats should prevail in this matchup.

Sports Network Predicted Outcome: Arizona 35, Colorado 10

Game Date and Time

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