

## Men's basketball: Carlon Brown working hard to make Golden State Warriors' roster

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

DENVER -- The importance of practice has never been more real for Carlon Brown.

A rookie for the Golden State Warriors, Brown has spent much of the NBA preseason watching from the bench on game nights. So, if the former Colorado Buffaloes star wants to make the team, he's going to have to impress coaches and executives in practice.

"I've definitely got to treat practice like it's a game and make sure I give it all," Brown said.

On Monday, Brown and the Warriors visited the Denver Nuggets. After arriving in town, he made a quick trip to Boulder to pick up his Pac-12 championship ring. Then he was off to Pepsi Center, where he picked up 5 minutes and 48 seconds of playing time late in a 104-98 loss.

"He's been excellent," Warriors head coach Mark Jackson said of Brown. "He's hard working, knows the game, great kid. He has a bright future and I was glad that I was able to get him an opportunity on the floor tonight in front of his home fans."

Through the first four preseason games, Brown played 13 minutes, scoring one point, collecting two rebounds and one assist. It's a far cry his senior year at CU, when he posted 12.6 points, 3.8 rebounds and 2.0 assists per game.

The 2012 Pac-12 Tournament MVP knew the progression would be slow, however.

"It's been going good. I'm learning a lot," he said. "It's been a good experience for me, being with a new coaching staff and a new culture."

"I'm definitely treating it as a job now because my well being depends on it, but so far so good. I can't complain."

Brown is one of four rookie free agents and one of 19 players in Warriors camp. With only 15 roster spots available, he knows that what little playing time he gets is important for his future.

"I know it's everybody's goal to get playing time, especially the free agents and the rookies," he said. "When my number is called, all I can do is be ready and hope that my work that I've done this summer has paid off."

The Warriors open the regular season Oct. 31 at Phoenix, so Brown will know soon whether he makes the roster or not.

"Obviously I'm hopeful and that's definitely a dream that I would like to see become a reality," he said. "I'd be more than honored to play for them and it would be a great thing, but at the end of the day it's not in my hands."

Regardless of his fate with the Warriors, Brown is enjoying his time and hopes this is just the start to a long career.

"I'm definitely excited, definitely humbled and appreciative to be a part of it," he said. "Hopefully the best is yet to come."

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## Ex-CU QB Tyler Hansen still behind Embree

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Tyler Hansen watches the Colorado Buffaloes play football religiously each week, and sure enough, he'll make the short drive up from his Murrieta, Calif. home to The Coliseum on Saturday to watch his alma mater battle the USC Trojans.

But the former Colorado quarterback is watching the Buffs with a different eye, wondering if he could be on the field instead of in the stands.



"It's actually kind of weird watching this year, knowing that my first three years if I had red-shirted, as I had planned on doing, this would be my senior year right now," Hansen told Mile High Sports this week. "It's kind of weird watching that from aspect."

CU's starting quarterback from 2011 isn't taking any snaps under center these days as he awaits a second chance to play professionally. Hansen was cut by the Cincinnati Bengals in mid-August, and now, he's still looking for his next NFL opportunity, although he said he'll consider other options if nothing comes up by the end of the year. So far, Hansen said, his agent has received four or five calls from interested NFL teams. But in the meantime, Hansen watches CU's game from his couch, and while the results for the 1-5 Buffaloes aren't there, the former signal caller said that he's still seen plenty of progress in Boulder, even if it hasn't translated to the scoreboard.

"You can obviously see the level of talent isn't up to where it needs to be to compete on a regular

basis every week,” Hansen said. “(But) you see some progressions being made in certain areas, there’s some highlights, and there are some positive things going on. You’ve just got to give it some time. I totally trust the staff. Coach (Jon) Embree and those guys are going to do a great job. They’re going to get their guys in. I think it’ll be fine, it’ll get turned around.”

Hansen said he wishes he had a couple more years with Embree, and in some ways, he said he preferred the former CU tight end to Dan Hawkins, the coach who went to Hansen’s Murrieta living room in 2007 and sold him on the Buffs and the University of Colorado. But more than anything, Hansen wished he had more time in Boulder – and the fact that he didn’t redshirt meant he didn’t get an extra year to develop, an opportunity afforded to most D-I college football players.

“It’s always tough to second guess yourself in certain aspects,” Hansen said. “I do, now looking back on it, just because college was awesome, Boulder was awesome, playing college football was awesome, and I just want to experience more of that. So looking back on it, I wish one of those years was a red shirt, but I don’t regret anything I did. I enjoyed my whole time at CU.”

Despite the tough season, Hansen reiterated his love not only for the University of Colorado, but in particular for his former coach, and Hansen thinks that the Buffaloes will rise once again – under Embree.

“I think he’s the right choice by the administration. I have nothing but love for coach Embree,” Hansen said. “I think I would want to spend a lot more years with coach Embree.”

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## LB Jones poised to move back into spotlight

Written by Pete Dougherty Green Bay Press-Gazette

Oct. 19

greenbaypressgazette.com

Brad Jones had become a forgotten man on the Green Bay Packers' roster, at least until this week.

Since missing the final 10 games of the Packers' Super Bowl season of 2010 because of a shoulder injury, the former seventh-round draft pick who started 12 games early in his career has been a relatively anonymous core special teams player.

But now the fourth-year pro potentially will be a full-time inside linebacker for the rest of the year because of D.J. Smith's season-ending knee injury.

Jones replaced Smith after the injury in the Packers' base and nickel defenses last week at Houston and figures to do the same Sunday against St. Louis after Smith went on injured reserve Wednesday. Playing in the base and nickel would get Jones on the field for the majority of snaps in a game, and if he also replaces Smith as the lone inside linebacker in the dime, he'd be a full-time player.

Jones' one start since his shoulder injury was at outside linebacker in the 2011 regular-season finale, when the Packers rested Clay Matthews for the playoffs after they'd locked up the No. 1 seeding.

"The players didn't forget him," defensive lineman Ryan Pickett said. "We all know he can play."

Jones is one of three backup inside linebackers on the roster now that Smith has followed Desmond Bishop onto the season-ending IR. The others are Robert Francois, Jamari Lattimore and rookie Terrell Manning.

Jones and Hawk are listed as the starters on the Packers' depth chart and figure to play in the nickel, as they did to finish the game against Houston. But there's always the chance defensive coordinator Dom Capers would use one of the others, most likely the third-year pro Francois, in specific packages.

There's also an opening for the inside linebacker who stays on the field in the dime. Bishop was that player until his torn hamstring in the preseason opener, Smith took over for him, and Hawk stepped in against Houston when Smith went down.

But that doesn't mean Hawk is a lock for the dime role for the rest of the season. Hawk's had his share of struggles in pass coverage the past couple of seasons, and Capers might prefer Jones (6-foot-3) or even Francois (6-2), who are more difficult to throw over than the 6-1 Hawk in zone drops and arguably better playing in the open space in the dime.

Jones' jump in playing time, with or without the dime, will be big. The former seventh-round draft pick played outside linebacker in his first three seasons, including 12 starts his first two years, but moved to inside linebacker this season. He won a roster spot primarily because of his special teams play, though his versatility

to play inside and outside linebacker helped as well.

Jones has been position versatile

dating to college at Colorado. He played all three linebacker spots when Colorado used a 4-3 scheme early in his career, then was an outside linebacker when the team changed to a 3-4 scheme for his final 11/2 years.

“Very comfortable,” Jones said of the move this spring. “I did it. I mean, I’ve played it. It’s not a huge deal. I feel really comfortable, honestly. It feels natural.”

With Smith out, the Packers will have a new defensive player wearing the speaker helmet for play calls. If Hawk or Smith is the every-down linebacker, he likely will get the speaker. The Packers had safety Morgan Burnett wear it against New Orleans so they could use a package that included seven defensive backs and no linebackers, but they had communication issues and might not risk it again.

The Packers should have an easier time adjusting to the possible loss of outside linebacker Nick Perry this week. Perry injured his knee at Houston, and coach Mike McCarthy said he’d be “stretched” to play Sunday.

Erik Walden has been splitting time with Perry at left outside linebacker for most of the season, and undrafted rookie Dezman Moses has taken occasional snaps in special defensive packages.

Walden has started 18 games in his three seasons with the Packers. This year he has half of a sack.

“We expect guys to come in, plug in and not skip a beat,” Pickett said.

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### Packers: Brad Jones adjusting to role at inside linebacker

By James Carlton | CBSSports.com

October 18, 2012 2:31 pm ET

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Brad Jones, shown above tackling Kansas City receiver Jon Baldwin along with teammate Casey Hayward (No. 29), had made a smooth transition from backup outside linebacker to starting inside linebacker for the Packers. (US Presswire)

Brad Jones was answering questions about making the move from backup outside linebacker to starting inside linebacker when, mid-sentence, he glanced across the Packers locker room at the television screen displaying meeting times for various position groups and panicked.

"I have to run. In a minute I'm going to be late," he said, hurriedly gathering his notebook from his locker. Then he paused.

"Oh, wait. No, sorry, never mind, we've got time," he said, reassessing the screen and remembering his new position. "I apologize. I freaked out for a second."

No matter which meeting he attends, classroom time has added significance for Jones this week.

The fourth-year linebacker from Colorado is preparing to make his first career start at inside linebacker in the Packers' 3-4 defense. The team shifted Jones to the interior during the offseason and he spent training camp and the first five weeks of the regular season adjusting to the spot and learning new responsibilities.

Then in the second quarter of Green Bay's 42-24 win at Houston last week, starting ILB D.J. Smith's knee twisted and buckled. He was helped off the field, and the Packers turned to Jones. He fared just fine, avoiding mistakes and making two tackles, including one for loss on Texans' Pro Bowl RB Arian Foster.

"I thought (Jones) played well," coach Mike McCarthy said. "There are a couple things he'll learn from."

On Wednesday, Jones was nonchalant and confident about his increased role. He said he'll hit the books this week and be prepared for whatever he's asked to do in Sunday's game at St. Louis.

"I think my one really good attribute is that I'll study more than anybody," Jones said. "The big leap is just learning new responsibilities, but I'll go home and study more than everybody else."

Jones, who arrived in Green Bay as a seventh round pick in 2009, made seven starts and recorded four sacks his rookie year. The next two seasons, he battled injuries and struggled to get on the field at outside linebacker. He made just five starts in 2010 and only two last year, in the Packers' final two games. In those starts, Week 17 against Detroit and the divisional playoff loss to the Giants, Jones registered two sacks.

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"I don't think I ever really feel like a fish out of water," he said. "It's kind of my modus operandi to shift around. I think over four years I've been pretty accountable and available and I look at this as another opportunity."

The Packers are hoping Jones can be a dependable solution at a position that has gone from a place of talented depth to a spot manned by young and unproven commodities. In training camp, Green Bay lost one of its best defensive players, [Desmond Bishop](#), who led the team in tackles last year with 115, to a severe hamstring injury. He was placed on injured reserve.

This week, Bishop's replacement, second-year tackling machine [D.J. Smith](#), joined him on IR with a knee injury. Now, Jones gets his chance as the "next man up," the Packers' oft-mentioned mantra for replacing injured players.

"It's a pressure cooker, it's the NFL," Jones said. "Every day, honestly, every week something like that happens. You get used to being in the fire."

Until now, he'd been contributing predominantly on special teams. He said Wednesday he didn't know if those responsibilities would change, but stressed that he wanted to be on the field as much as possible.

"You'd have to ask the coaches about that, I don't know what that thorough process is like," Jones said. "I just work here."

On Sunday, the Packers will see if that work, from the offseason through this week, pays off.

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