

*CU coach Jon Embree bemoaned the Buffs' six turnovers.
Photo Courtesy: Associated Press*



Brooks: 12-Pack Of TOs, Barkley TDs Bury Buffs

Release: 10/20/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

LOS ANGELES - In a college football season where every weekend seems to brew a perfect storm for Colorado's beleaguered defense, Saturday's storm in the Los Angeles Coliseum was more perfect than most.

How does a quarterback get more perfect than 19-of-20 for 298 yards and six touchdown passes in just over a half?

If you're Matt Barkley, you work next week to avoid that lone incompleteness. And Saturday's miss, for the record, was a drop by one of his running backs. Shame on you, Curtis McNeal.

If you're the Buffs, you look to the heavens and say a prayer of thanks that you're done with Barkley, that he's moving on to the NFL and can't carve you up like he's done now for two seasons.

Saturday's surgery was all but complete after one half, with Barkley throwing five of his TD passes and completing 16-of-17 for 269 yards as he and his Southern California offense frolicked to a 33-6 lead. He took

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three snaps in the second half, completed three passes and called it a day.

If USC coach Lane Kiffin had wanted this one to really get ugly, he would have let Barkley go three quarters. No point, really.

Wherever Barkley ends up in the NFL, he might not end up with any better pair of receivers than he has at USC. "I can't imagine a better pair than that," CU defensive coordinator Greg Brown said of Robert Woods and Marqise Lee, who had a dozen TD catches between them entering Saturday afternoon's game. They left the Coliseum with five more, Woods snatching four to set a USC single-game record.

For Barkley, the Buffs stumbled in at just the right time. In a 24-14 USC win the previous weekend at Washington, the Huskies hounded Barkley mercilessly in the second half, allowing only three-of-10 completions for 66 yards. His 167 total yards were his fewest since his sophomore season, and Heisman Trophy talk was proceeding very nicely without him.

I don't know if Saturday's performance works him back in that conversation because, well, it came against a CU pass defense that now has allowed 27 TD passes in seven games against only three picks. It's a little like a senior roughing up a freshman, which is exactly what happened, with Barkley and Woods and Lee going after first-year CU corner Kenneth Crawley.

"I'm sure Kenneth is down," coach Jon Embree said to reporters after CU's 50-6 loss. "He's a prideful guy; he takes that stuff personal."

A reporter asked Embree about the inherent hazards of playing freshmen, especially at corner against a QB like Barkley. This was Embree's answer: "Either that or you gotta play with ten. There aren't many options."

One option might have been another freshman corner - but Yuri Wright was out with a concussion. The Buffs did get senior safety Ray Polk back Saturday for the first time since the opener, but Polk didn't feel like he benefitted the defense. He missed a pair of early tackles, but so did safety Terrel Smith and Crawley on the sidelines on the first Barkley-to-Woods TD hookup.

Polk said he was "pretty rusty" and was "missing a feel for the game . . . I played like crap early on and I blame myself for us starting off with a (19-0) deficit."

After Embree mentioned blown assignments, defensive back Parker Orms said one way to remedy that is for players to take more responsibility: "We go over the game plan all week long, we get in the book. If guys aren't willing to get in (on their own) it's going to show. Some guys don't (but) we just have to be better as a team. It's all of us messing up and we have to fix that some way.

"It is embarrassing, but we've just got to keep fighting. If we're getting blown out, that's one thing. Guys have to play for the guys in the huddle, play for your (own) pride. That's all you can do."

Orms said if players shirk individual film-work responsibilities, their Ipads will squeal on them: "They show who watches film and who doesn't. Guys have to start taking it more seriously if we're going to compete in this conference."

The Trojans rushed for 118 yards, but only 47 in the first half when they quickly took control. Why run when Barkley can throw to Woods and Lee? Embree said Brown tried to mix his coverages, but "a couple of times we were in man (defense) and they hit us and lit us up for touchdowns. Then a couple of times we were in a three-deep and don't get it done. A guy just gets beat . . .

"We get a hand on the ball but don't knock it out and they catch it for a touchdown. We come back and have two hands on the ball (Nelson Spruce in the second half), they pull it out for an interception. That's kind of where we are."

Embree lamented his offense showing signs of productivity only to suffer three interceptions and three lost fumbles, with the Trojans converting those errors into more than half (29) of their points.

"We moved it well all game," Embree said. "Obviously you can't have six turnovers, four in the red zone - you can't do it. We're not good enough, especially against a team like this. When you get down there (in the red zone), you have to find a way to get into the end zone . . .

"I think every time we got in the red zone in the second half we had a turnover. We've been good in the red zone and fairly good protecting the football. So to come out in a game like this and turn it over six times . . . you just can't do it."

Junior quarterback Jordan Webb's three interceptions were a single-game high this season and gave him seven total. Sophomore Connor Wood replaced Webb in the fourth quarter after Webb's third interception led to USC's last TD (47-6).

Asked about a possible switch in starting quarterbacks, Embree said a change "would help you if you win . . . if you make a change with Connor, he's a young guy. He's thrown I don't know how many (total) passes now. It's not like you're going with Steve DeBerg or somebody like that. Everybody has to rally around (Wood) and give him support, just like you have to give Jordan support. You can't count on one guy doing it. (Barkley) is a great player but he has support, too. He's got some guys on the edge that makes plays for him and we have to get to where can make plays and do some of that stuff."

On an afternoon like Saturday, that seemed a long way off, and Embree admitted, "Yeah, we have a ways to go, no matter what the score is, we have a ways to go. We've got some work to do and we'll continue to do it. We'll do what we have to do to get it fixed.

"You have to compete. At some point you have to get to where it's not about who you're playing, it's about the opportunity to play. (But) the one thing you can't say about this team, you can't say they don't compete. I felt like they fought the whole game; they fought last week and will continue to fight. It's something we have to do."

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CU quarterback Jordan Webb finished 18-for-35 for 210 yards with three interceptions.

Photo Courtesy: Associated Press



Brooks: Barkley Torches Buffs In Rerun Of 2011 Rout

Release: 10/20/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

LOS ANGELES - When Matt Barkley makes his first million in the NFL, a small donation to the University of Colorado might be a nice gesture. It's the least he could do after all the Buffaloes have done for him during their brief stay in the Pac-12 Conference.

On Saturday at the Los Angeles Coliseum, Barkley, Southern California's gifted senior quarterback, virtually repeated his 2011 passing performance against CU in guiding the No. 11 Trojans to a 50-6 beat-down of the Buffs.

Barkley returned for his senior year for afternoons like Saturday. Before being pulled with 7:43 remaining in the third quarter, he completed 19 of 20 passes for 298 yards and six touchdowns - tying the school record he set in Boulder last season in USC's 42-17 rout.

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Final Game Book

In two games against the Buffs, Barkley has thrown for 12 TDs and 616 yards. His six TD passes Saturday gave him the Pac-12 and USC career records (103) and Saturday's 95 percent completion ratio also set single-game school and conference marks, as did his passing efficiency rating of 319.16.

"There's a reason why he's going to go high in the draft," CU coach Jon Embree said. "Great player, glad he's done, glad I don't have to see him in person anymore."

"He's a great quarterback," CU defensive end Will Pericak said. "He's got the whole package around him - the line protects, he's got the great receivers to throw to. It's just what he does. He picks up his receivers when they're open and he's a playmaker."

Robert Woods, a 6-1 junior, also entered the USC record books for career receptions and TDs in a single game. He caught eight passes Saturday for 132 yards and four scores. Teammate Marqise Lee made six receptions for 103 yards and one TD.

By comparison with Barkley, CU quarterback Jordan Webb finished 18-for-35 for 210 yards with three interceptions. He was replaced by Connor Wood in the final quarter.

Suffering its third consecutive blowout loss, CU fell to 1-6 overall and 1-3 in the Pac-12 while USC went to 6-1, 4-1 with its seventh consecutive win (7-0) against CU. In losses over the past three weeks, CU has allowed 1,498 yards and 143 points.

The Buffs, who travel to No. 2 Oregon next Saturday, now have lost nine straight meetings with ranked teams and 19 consecutive road games against ranked opponents. CU had won its past two Pac-12 road games - at Utah to close out 2011 and at Washington State to open 2012 conference play.

But Saturday, entering the Coliseum as a 41-point underdog, would be vastly different. After one half of The Barkley Show, the Buffs trailed 33-6 after spotting the Trojans a 19-0 lead less than 6 minutes into the first quarter.

USC got its first touchdown only two plays into the game on a 55-yard Barkley-to-Lee pass, then capitalized on back-to-back CU turnovers - a Webb interception and a lost Christian Powell fumble - for another quick pair of scores. The Buffs lost six turnovers - three picks, three fumbles - that the Trojans converted into 29 points.

The first two USC scores after CU miscues, of course, came on Barkley passes. The first was a 39-yarder to Woods, the second nine yards to tight end Xavier Grimble. CU appeared to have answered that score on a 15-yard Webb-to-Gerald Thomas pass, but Thomas was ruled to have been out of bounds at the back of the end zone and the TD was negated.

On fourth down, Will Oliver kicked a 27-yard field and CU crept to within 19-3.

On the ensuing series, Pericak forced a Barkley fumble and linebacker Jon Major recovered, giving CU possession at the USC 42. Five plays got the Buffs as far as the Trojans' 19, where on fourth down Oliver booted a 37-yard field goal.

CU had pulled to 19-6, but from there USC steadily pulled away. And the Buffs' scoring was done.

On the next series, Barkley threw his fourth TD pass of the half, this one caught again by Woods and covering 29 yards. It was the 100th TD pass of Barkley's career, giving him the school and Pac-12 record and sending the Trojans up 26-6.

But the Barkley-Woods tandem wasn't finished. They teamed again on USC's next series for a 17-yard scoring play, with Woods again outrunning CU freshman corner Kenneth Crawley to push the Trojans ahead 33-6 with 6:52 left before intermission.

Woods' reception was the 217th of his career, giving him the USC career record and touching off another round of celebrity congratulations on the Coliseum's massive video board. USC obviously was expecting a record day Saturday or at some point very soon; luminaries congratulating Barkley and Woods on their records included NBA stars Chris Paul and Blake Griffin, former USC coach Pete Carroll and a host of other former Trojans.

Barkley ended the first half 16-of-17 for 269 yards and five TDs, while Woods caught six of those throws for 106 yards and three TDs - tying the school record. USC's shortest scoring drive of the opening half was 29 seconds, its longest was 2:58. The Trojans punched up 316 yards of total offense in the first half to the Buffs' 162.

The only question for the second half was how many more points USC might score and how many more records Barkley, Wood & Co. might set.

CU turned the ball over on its first second-half possession when linebacker Tony Burnett appeared to take the ball out of receiver Nelson Spruce's hands. The play was ruled an interception, but whatever, Burnett returned it 54 yards to set up another Barkley-to-Woods TD.

Another catch, another couple of records . . . the pitch-and-catch covered three yards and gave Woods the USC school mark for TD receptions in a game. It also gave Barkley his sixth TD pass, tying the single-game record he set last season.

Redshirt freshman Max Wittek replaced Barkley not quite midway through the third quarter and threw his first career TD pass - a 24-yarder to sophomore tailback D.J. Morgan. That scoring pass, coupled with Barkley's half a dozen, set a USC single-game record (seven) and a record for TD passes thrown against CU.

It pushed the score to 47-6, and Andre Heidari's 37-yard field goal with 5:34 to play gave the Trojans their highest point total of the season (50) and the Buffs their second-worst loss of the season, behind only the 69-14 flogging at Fresno State.

BUFF BITS: CU's injury toll continued to mount. Starting right tackle Jack Harris was left at home with concussion symptoms. Linebacker Brady Daigh, who has not fully recovered from a neck injury suffered in the loss to Arizona State, did not make the trip. Also, punter Darragh O'Neill's status was not determined until warm-ups; he was nursing a foot injury but punted once in the first half . . . But a couple of players returned to the world of the healthy. Safety Ray Polk played for the first time since suffering a high ankle sprain in the opening quarter of the season opener and Powell was back at tailback after missing last week's game with a deep thigh bruise . . . Former CU coach Bill McCartney traveled with the Buffs to LA, marking his first road trip with the team in more than a decade . . . A special guest on the CU sidelines was Philip Bailey, lead singer of Earth, Wind and Fire.

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SHOW MENU



Deep-sized: Matt Barkley, USC Trojans dominate CU Buffs

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

LOS ANGELES -- Fifty seconds.

Southern Cal needed that little time to beat the Colorado Buffaloes on the iconic football field at the Los Angeles Coliseum on Saturday behind a virtuoso performance from senior quarterback Matt Barkley

The No. 11 Trojans ran just two plays after receiving the opening kickoff to cover 66 yards and take a 7-0 lead on a 55-yard touchdown pass from Barkley to wide receiver Marqise Lee. And while it wasn't nearly over, it was over.

On a day when Barkley, a preseason Heisman Trophy candidate, and wide receiver Robert Woods were within reach of claiming historic records, the Trojans weren't about to allow the hapless Buffs to stick around and make a game of it.

And the Buffs didn't put up that much of a fight.

The final score -- USC 50, CU 6.

Colorado coach Jon Embree said he was most frustrated by the Buffs' six turnovers.

"We talked before the game offensively to get first downs and protect the football," Embree said. "Obviously we didn't do that. That was the disappointing thing."

Embree defended his defense following CU's previous blowout loss at home against Arizona State, but after the Buffs were sliced and diced with ease by Barkley and his teammates Saturday, it's becoming harder for Embree to avoid the disaster taking place on that side of the ball this season.

CU opponents have scored 298 points in the first seven games in 2012, averaging 42 points a game. Unless the Buffs slow down that pace, this will be the first autumn CU gives up 500 points in a season. CU allowed an average of 41 points over 11 games in 1980. This season's team is on pace to surrender 504 points in 12 games.

"We have a ways to go no matter what the score is," Embree said. "We have a ways to go. We've got some work to do and we'll continue to do it and get it fixed."

USC needed to run just eight plays on offense to score three touchdowns in the first quarter. CU defenders missed tackles, missed assignments and at times just couldn't catch up to the Trojans.

Barkley started by completing the first five passes he threw for 141 yards. All five went for first downs and two were touchdowns. At the end of the first half, Barkley had completed 16 of 17 passes for 269 yards and five touchdowns. The only incompleteness was a dropped pass by running back Curtis McNeal.

"Great player and I'm glad he's done and I don't have to see him in person any more," Embree said of Barkley.

Barkley became the career leader in touchdown passes at both USC and in the Pac-12 Conference with his six scoring throws against the Buffs. He has now thrown 102 touchdown passes in his career. Twelve of those have come against the Buffs. Six last season in Boulder and six Saturday.

"Barkley, he's accurate," CU safety Parker Orms said. "If you leave him a little hole open, he's going to hit it. He's got some receivers that can run. It's tough to cover that."

Barkley connected six times in the first half with Woods who surpassed Dwayne Jarrett to become USC's all-time leading receiver with 220 catches. Four of his receptions Saturday went for touchdowns.

The Trojans' seven touchdown passes -- one was thrown by backup Max Wittek -- are a record for a CU opponent.

Colorado has now lost nine consecutive games against ranked opponents and 19 straight against ranked teams on the road. The Buffs fell to 1-6 and must win all of their remaining games to meet their preseason goal of becoming bowl eligible this season.

The Colorado offense actually had success moving the ball on its opening drive. The Buffs ran six plays to the USC 21-yard line, but on the seventh play quarterback Jordan Webb inexplicably threw a ball up for grabs in the end zone while he was under pressure. It was intercepted by Drew McAllister.

On the first play of CU's second possession, running back Christian Powell fumbled, setting the Trojans up nicely.

The Colorado offense drove into the red zone five times but came away with only two field goals from place-kicker Will Oliver.

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Southern Cal 50, Colorado 6

Colorado 3 3 0 0-- 6

Southern Cal 19 14 7 10--50

First Quarter

USC -- Lee 55 pass from Barkley (Heidari kick), 14:10.

USC -- R.Woods 39 pass from Barkley (kick failed), 9:44.

USC -- Grimble 8 pass from Barkley (run failed), 9:03.

Col -- FG Oliver 27, 2:11.

Second Quarter

Col -- FG Oliver 37, 14:40.

USC -- R.Woods 29 pass from Barkley (Heidari kick), 12:15.

USC -- R.Woods 17 pass from Barkley (Heidari kick), 6:52.

Third Quarter

USC -- R.Woods 3 pass from Barkley (Heidari kick), 10:55.

Fourth Quarter

USC -- Morgan 24 pass from Wittek (Heidari kick), 11:11.

USC -- FG Heidari 37, 5:34.

A -- 83,274.

Col USC

First downs 25 22

Rushes-yards 42-103 23-118

Passing 248 340

Comp-Att-Int 23-43-3 23-25-0

Return Yards 0 74

Punts-Avg. 1-51.0 1-64.0

Fumbles-Lost 4-3 2-2

Penalties-Yards 4-46 10-90

Time of Possession 37:10 22:50

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING -- Colorado, Powell 14-56, T.Jones 10-36, Abron 2-13, Ford 2-6, C.Wood 3-2, J.Webb 11-(minus 10). Southern Cal, Morgan 10-52, McNeal 3-16, Allen 2-14, Redd 3-13, Lee 1-9, Agholor 1-7, Barkley 2-5, Akiba 1-2.

PASSING -- Colorado, J.Webb 18-35-3-210, C.Wood 4-6-0-23, Spruce 1-1-0-15, G.Thomas 0-1-0-0. Southern Cal, Barkley 19-20-0-298, Wittek 2-3-0-33, Kessler 2-2-0-9.

RECEIVING -- Colorado, T.Jones 4-57, Hobbs 4-51, Kasa 4-41, A.Wood 3-33, Ebner 2-11, Spruce 1-16, J.Webb 1-15, Canty 1-8, McCulloch 1-6, Slavin 1-6, Powell 1-4. Southern Cal, R.Woods 8-132, Lee 6-103, Grimble 3-26, Agholor 2-10, Morgan 1-24, Flournoy 1-21, Redd 1-16, Cope-Fitzpatrick 1-8.

Webb continues to struggle with three INTs vs. USC

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

LOS ANGELES -- Quarterback Jordan Webb has made a career of long days on the football field at Kansas and Colorado.

After losing at Southern Cal 50-6 on Saturday, Webb's combined record as a starter for both schools fell to 5-23. While there is still plenty of respect inside the Colorado program for the gritty junior from the St. Louis area, could it be time to take a look at younger signal callers in the starting role such as Connor Wood or Nick Hirschman?

"That's something we're going to talk about when we get back (to Boulder), if we do that from the beginning," CU coach Jon Embree said. "We're not playing good enough right now, not just at his position but at a couple positions. We've got to help him out.

"We need to play better at every position."

On a day when USC quarterback Matt Barkley looked every bit like a Heisman Trophy contender and a high first-round draft pick, Webb struggled mightily. Obviously, Webb doesn't have the same weapons at his disposal that Barkley has, but Webb also made several unforced errors that won't help his cause when coaches review the film.

The biggest mistake might have come on CU's first drive. The Buffs were moving the ball and had a first down at the USC 21-yard line. Webb scrambled under pressure from the Trojans and instead of throwing the ball away and lining up for second down, he heaved the ball into the end zone where it was intercepted.

"It just kind of got away from me," Webb said. "It was a bad decision."

It was one four turnovers credited to Webb in the game, though one of his three interceptions was actually a pass that was caught by wide receiver Nelson Spruce, who had it ripped out of his hands by USC defensive back Tony Burnett.

Webb has thrown eight touchdown passes with seven interceptions as a Buff. He said he believes he is still the best option for the Buffs at quarterback and he feels like he has the confidence of his teammates.

"It's up to the coaches," Webb said. "Obviously I think I'm the guy to be (the starter) but it's their decisions."

None of the other quarterbacks on the Colorado roster have much experience and CU coaches might be reluctant to ask one of them to start a game next week on the road against No. 2 Oregon. But unless Webb suddenly takes a big step forward, CU coaches might be ready to make a change when the Buffs return home in two weeks to play Stanford.

Third-year sophomore Connor Wood replaced Webb in the second half, after missing the last month with a rib injury. Wood, who fumbled a snap against the Trojans, says he would embrace the challenge if coaches want to make a change this week or later this season.

Wood also said it's unfair to put the blame of losses on Webb.

"We all have to play better as a unit to give us a chance to win," Wood said.

No matter who the quarterback is, Wood said the Buffs have to become a team that finishes drives. He said one mistake often derails things and that has to change. The Buffs came into Saturday's game among the best teams in the Pac-12 Conference at scoring once they reach the red zone. They were just 2-for-5 against USC.

"I think I've had good experience here tonight and Fresno State," Wood said. "They weren't incredible outings, but being out there during the games I know how the pace of the game goes. I've watched it plenty enough.

"I wouldn't be taking a step back if my name is called. ... I'm not afraid of them."

Follow Kyle on Twitter: @KyleRingo

Football: CU Buffs' Orms, Polk wonder if teammates prepared

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Buffzone.com

LOS ANGELES -- Several members of the Colorado defense said there are players on the team who need to take a more serious and dedicated approach to preparing for games.

The Buffs are in the midst of what is looking like, perhaps, the worst season in history for a CU defense after a 50-6 loss to No. 11 USC on Saturday. It was the third time this season an opponent has scored at least 50 against the Buffs and the sixth time CU has allowed more than 30 points.

"We go over the game plan all week long," junior safety Parker Orms said. "We get in the book and if guys aren't getting in the book enough, that's going to show. Some guys don't. We've just got to be better as a team, completely. It's not one guy. It's all of us who keep messing up. We've got to fix that somehow, some way."

Orms said there are repercussions for players who don't prepare properly. He said captains call those players out when needed. Every CU player in the two-deep depth chart has an iPad that enables them to watch film no matter where they are. Orms said the iPads show how much film each player watches.

"That's definitely a big thing and guys have to start taking it more seriously if we're going to compete in this conference," Orms said.

Coach Jon Embree wasn't asked specifically about his players' comments, but he said that while there are many issues in the program that need to be fixed or improved, he is happy with the level of effort he sees on game days.

The Buffs have to go on the road again next week against No. 2 Oregon.

"At some point you've got to get to where it's not about who you're playing, it's about the opportunity to play," Embree said. "The one thing you cannot say about this team, you can't say they don't compete. I felt like they fought the whole game, they fought last week and they will continue to fight."

Senior safety Ray Polk returned to action Saturday for the first time since the season opener. A severe high ankle sprain had kept him out of action.

Polk took responsibility for being out of position or a step slow early in the game as USC built a 19-3 lead. He said he was rusty and wasn't quite ready for the speed of the game.

When asked about Orms' comments, Polk said he agreed that some Buffs could be doing more in terms of preparation. Neither player named names.

"I think we've got to put the heat on a little bit, have guys watching film more," Polk said. "Have guys understanding what the game plan is and why we're planning around that. The bottom line is we've got to execute and we didn't do that at all."

Linebacker Doug Rippe along with Orms and Polk said the Buffs' biggest problem against the Trojans was missed assignments. But why are the Buffs still having so many issues with missed assignments in the seventh game of the season?

The veteran Buffs said there are some players on the field who don't know where they're supposed to be all the

time.

Orms said he tries to encourage his younger teammates to take preparation as serious as possible. He said he warns them their careers will go by quickly and they don't want to be in his shoes as juniors or seniors relying on freshman.

"Older guys are messing up their assignments too," Orms said. "We've got to hold the whole team responsible."

Follow Kyle on Twitter:

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No. 11 USC, Matt Barkley blast Colorado 50-6

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

Posted:

DenverPost.com

LOS ANGELES — In a season in which Colorado's pass defense hasn't been able to stop a stiff breeze, the Buffaloes came to Southern California on Saturday afternoon and faced a hurricane. Following a script that could have been written in Hollywood and was as predictable as a bad sitcom, USC quarterback Matt Barkley and the 11th-ranked Trojans blew away the Buffaloes 50-6.

This was a sitcom at its worst. But Colorado (1-6, 1-3 Pac-12) didn't think it was very funny. Then again, the Buffs were mere props as they committed six turnovers and Barkley launched himself into the school and conference record books, if not back in the Heisman race.

He hit an amazing 19-of-20 passes for 298 yards and six touchdowns to give him 102 for his career, breaking Matt Leinart's record of 99. The six also tied Barkley's school record for a single game — set last year in USC's 42-17 win in Boulder.

Don't be surprised to soon see a stuffed buffalo in Barkley's living room. In two games against Colorado, he is 44-of-59 for 616 yards and 12 touchdowns. On Saturday, he threw three touchdown passes in his first eight plays. His lone incompleteness for the day was dropped.

He wasn't that accurate in warm-ups.

Then again, this is a recurring theme with Colorado this year. One game into the second half of the season, one common thread is found through this year.

"Definitely blown assignments, guys not doing their job," said junior safety Parker Orms, who indicated some are studying more than others. "We talked about not letting them beat us deep, to keep them in front of us, and that's what we let happen."

This game had all the trappings of the disaster that it became. CU came in 118th nationally in pass-efficiency defense, and a sellout Coliseum crowd came to christen Barkley as the new king of Trojans QBs.

Colorado welcomed back senior safety Ray Polk, out since the opener against Colorado State with a high ankle sprain. In this game, he was just another speed bump. Receivers for USC (6-1, 4-1) were more wide open than some of the 83,274 fans left in empty sections of stands in the fourth quarter.

"Pretty rusty," Polk said. "I wasn't myself."

Symbolizing the Pompeii-level rebuilding job second-year coach Jon Embree has, covering Barkley's top target for the day, All-America receiver Robert Woods, was freshman Kenneth Crawley. A year ago, Crawley was blanketing tiny receivers in for his Washington, D.C., public school.

Barkley victimized him on the two touchdown passes that pushed Woods past Dwayne Jarrett for the school's all-time reception record. Woods went on to eight receptions for 132 yards and a school-record four TD catches. Marqise Lee added 103 more receiving yards.

Yet through all the blown assignments and video tributes to Barkley and Woods, the pass defense wasn't what stuck in Embree's ever-deepening craw the most.

"Turnovers," Embree said. "We talk about getting first downs and protecting the football. And we didn't do that. That was the disappointing thing. We've got to protect the ball."

Colorado's offense, only reasonably better than the defense at 103rd in the country, gained 351 yards but shot itself in the foot in the red zone. Jordan Webb threw an interception in the end zone when he tried to throw it away on the first possession, freshman tailback Christian Powell fumbled at the Buffs' 17 on the next one and Webb threw two more interceptions in USC territory, one when Tony Burnett stole the pass from the hands of freshman receiver Nelson Spruce.

Make that shot themselves in the foot, the hand, the lower intestine.

"We're not playing good enough," said Embree who said the staff will discuss Sunday whether to keep Webb at quarterback. "It's not just his position. At other positions, we're not making plays also."

While the junior may not be the answer in Embree's rebuilding plans, he's a much less of a problem than Colorado's horrific pass defense. With USC backup Max Wittek throwing a TD pass in the fourth quarter, the Buffaloes have given up 27 touchdown passes and intercepted three.

And believe it or not, it's only getting worse. Up next Saturday is a visit to second-ranked Oregon. But Colorado can finally make some history of its own. A loss would clinch the Buffaloes a school-record seven consecutive losing seasons.

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Celebrities come out for Colorado vs. USC game

Posted:

DenverPost.com

LOS ANGELES — Everything here seems to have a flair for the dramatic. Southern California sure knows how to do milestones. Matt Barkley's 29-yard touchdown pass to Robert Woods in the second quarter not only broke Matt Leinart's school and conference record of 99 TD passes but tied Woods with Dwayne Jarrett for the school career receptions mark with 216.

After the play, USC put a congratulatory video on its giant video board featuring thumbs ups from Leinart and fellow ex-Trojans and current Oakland Raiders teammate Carson Palmer, former Los Angeles King Luc Robitaille, the Los Angeles Galaxy's Landon Donovan, the Los Angeles Clippers' Blake Griffin and Chris Paul, ex-USC coach Pete Carroll and ex-USC receiver Keyshawn Johnson.

Barkley smiled sheepishly and mouthed "Thank you" and "Fight on." Then he went on to throw a total of six TD passes in the 11th-ranked Trojans' 50-6 rout.

"It's something I did dream of as a kid," Barkley said. "Not the records. I didn't think about those. I didn't know what those were. But to be able to be here for four years, living those dreams out as a senior, it's something cool I never really thought would happen, but I'll try to soak it up."

They played a similar video for Woods, whose next reception was, not surprisingly, a touchdown pass. This one came from 17 yards to give USC a 33-6 lead.

Barkley's 19-of-20 day (.950) broke the conference accuracy mark (minimum 20 attempts) set by UCLA's Rick Neuheisel, who hit 25-of-27 (.926) versus Washington in 1983. It came just short of the NCAA mark of Tennessee's Tee Martin, USC's current receivers coach, who was 23-of-24 (.958) against South Carolina in 1998.

"I don't know if I could have told you Matt would have a 95 percent completion percentage," USC coach Lane Kiffin said. "That's tough to do on air."

Red-faced. In 14 plays in USC's red zone, Colorado gained minus-14 yards. Jordan Webb was 1-for-7 for minus-4 yards with an interception and two sacks. Not helping the CU offense, junior right tackle Jack Harris missed the game with a concussion. Replacing him was redshirt freshman Stephane Nembot.

Grossnickle kicks off. Junior Zach Grossnickle kicked off for the first time this year as he replaced Justin Castor on the roster. Grossnickle is the backup punter, and starter Darragh O'Neill hurt his leg in practice Thursday, although he did punt.

Powell fumbles, is benched. True freshman Christian Powell, Colorado's leading rusher, started but didn't last long. He fumbled on his third carry and was replaced by sophomore Tony Jones. After his fumble at the Buffs 17, USC scored on its second play and Colorado offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy could be seen chewing out Powell on the sideline.

Powell, from nearby Upland, Calif., didn't return until Colorado's second possession of the second quarter when it was down 26-6. He led the Buffs with 56 yards rushing. John Henderson, The Denver Post

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Recap: USC vs. Colorado

The Sports Network

Published Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012

Matt Barkley had a near flawless game as he set a couple records thanks to a 19-for-20 game for 298 yards and six touchdowns to lead 11th-ranked Southern California in a 50-6 rout of Colorado.

Barkley set a new record for most touchdown passes at the school and Pac-12 conference as he now has 102 in his career. He passed the 99-touchdown mark of former USC star Matt Leinart and also broke Rick Neuheisel's conference record for completion percentage in a game with at least 20 passes.

"It's a special day, it really is," said Barkley. "To be mentioned in the same breath as Matt (Leinart) to get a special thanks from him, it really means a lot."

Robert Woods caught four of those touchdown passes, a single-game record for the school, and finished the game with eight catches for 132 yards, while Marqise Lee, Xavier Grumble and D.J. Morgan had one touchdown catch each for the Trojans (6-1, 4-1 Pac-12), who have won four straight since a loss to Stanford.

Jordan Webb was picked off three times and went just 18-of-35 for 210 yards for the Buffaloes (1-6, 1-3), who have dropped their past three games.

Southern California led this game from its first touch as the second play saw Barkley and Lee hook up on a 55-yard score for a 7-0 lead less than a minute in.

Drew McAllister picked off Webb on Colorado's touch and Barkley and Woods got together four plays later on a 39-yard score. The extra point was missed and it was a 13-0 game with just under 10 minutes to play in the first.

Another Buffalo turnover, this one a fumble, saw Barkley hit Grumble for an 8-yard score for a 19-0 lead after a two-point attempt failed.

Colorado was finally able to hold on to the ball and moved it 65 yards over 15 plays, but had to settle for a 27-yard field goal from Will Oliver to make it a 19-3 contest.

It was USC's turn to fumble the ball as Barkley lost the ball on a sack and Colorado recovered at the USC 42. The team was unable to take full advantage of the opportunity, though, and got another field goal from Oliver, this one from 37 yards for a 19-6 game.


USC answered on its next touch as a 37-yard kick return from Nelson Agholor got the ball near midfield. Five plays later, Barkley hit Woods for a 29-yard score and a 26-6 lead.

Colorado punted from near midfield and the Trojans started at their own 20. Seven plays later, Barkley threw his fifth touchdown pass of the game and third to Woods with a 17-yard strike for a 33-6 advantage with just under seven minutes left in the first half.

It was more turnovers for the Buffaloes in the third quarter as Webb was picked off by Tony Burnett and that led to Barkley and Woods connecting on a 3-yard score.

With the backups playing the fourth quarter, USC added 10 more points on a 24- yard TD catch by Morgan from Max Wittek and a 37-yard field goal by Andre Heidari.

Game Notes

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