



*CU freshman tailback Donta Abron tries to wriggle away from Oregon defenders.*

*Photo Courtesy: Associated Press*



## Brooks: Buffs Plod Into November Still Seeking Answers

Release: 10/27/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

**EUGENE, Ore.** - Just over two hours before kickoff here Saturday, Eric Bieniemy was standing outside the Colorado locker room, coffee in hand, watching it rain. CU's offensive coordinator reminisced on a 2004 UCLA game in Autzen Stadium when he and his current boss, Jon Embree, were Bruins assistant coaches.

UCLA, playing a freshman tailback and "two tight ends you never heard of," recalled Bieniemy, upset Oregon 34-26. In place of injured starter Maurice Drew, third-stringer Chris Markey ran for 131 yards and caught five passes for 84 yards as the Bruins became bowl eligible.

Ah, sweet memories . . .

Much later Saturday afternoon, Bieniemy left Autzen Stadium with another collection of flashbacks, most of which won't rest comfortably in his memory banks. No upsets on this trip,

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unless the flips and heaves of his and Embree's stomachs count.

Oregon's second-ranked Ducks won in a walk, 70-14, pushing CU further into a mid-season free-fall since its long-ago win at Washington State on Sept. 22. Oregon, meanwhile, performed like a national title contender, which Embree believes is accurate and entirely possible.

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"I've been saying all week they have a great opportunity to hold that crystal ball at the end of the year," he said. "I felt that before we played them and I feel the same way now."

For the Buffs, meanwhile, the end is in sight - but it isn't the kind of conclusion anyone in Boulder could have imagined. CU will plod into November with one win and seven losses - the five most recent low-lighted by blowouts of 55, 28, 34, 44 and 56 points. That's an average of 43.2 points per loss.

Embree was asked if he had hopes for defensive improvement in the season's final month. "You have to . . . you have to," he answered. "But there's no quick fix for that. We've got to get our guys playing better on that side and get some stops."

The stops were few Saturday. By halftime, Oregon had punched up 56 points and 447 yards in total offense. The Ducks finished with their highest point total ever in conference play and 617 total yards. Their speed left Buffs tacklers grasping and groping, but then the Buffs had been engaged in those shoddy practices for the last couple of weeks.

Embree's team began the season eyeing at least six wins and the school's first bowl appearance since 2007. Saturday's loss officially flushed that possibility, instead assuring this of being a school-record seventh consecutive losing season. That's counting a 6-7 finish in 2006 after an Independence Bowl loss to Alabama; CU qualified for that trip with a 6-6 regular-season finish.

During that stretch, some CU teams kept the hope of a winning season alive until the last couple of games. But these Buffs know their final four games - three of which are at Folsom Field - are all that's left and even a sweep will leave them below .500. It's a sad reality for a team and a coaching staff that entered September believing the postseason was attainable.

One glimmer on a gloomy afternoon in the Pacific Northwest was freshman Christian Powell, who carried 20 times for 121 yards and two touchdowns. It was Powell's second 100-yard game this season, both coming in losses. But for obvious reasons, this one meant more to him than the 147-yard performance against Sacramento State.

Oregon's defense, he said, is "as good as anybody expected. They're very disciplined, just a great team . . . that's a great accomplishment, something to be proud of. I just have to keep on working, keep on trying to grind it out these last four games."

Embree said Powell "played well . . . he's getting better and doing some good things in the pass game also. I talked about some of our freshmen having to start playing like sophomores - he's one of those guys who's doing that. It's a long season for those guys, longer than anything they've experienced.

"Games are longer for them. High school games are kind of like a half for them in college football. It's a little bit of a mental grind for them. It can be hard at times. But he's one of the guys who's fought his way and pushed his way through it; he's going to be a very good player for us and I expect him to get better. I know he will because that's how he works and prepares. Now he's got to get a couple of his classmates to take that next step before the season's done."

Aside from Powell's performance and perhaps a step forward taken by sophomore quarterback Nick Hirschman,

there was little else offensively to make a Black and Gold memory. Embree and his offensive staff have been reluctant to change starting quarterbacks, using junior Jordan Webb in that role since the Sept. 1 opener against Colorado State.

Sophomore Connor Wood and Hirschman have dueled weekly for backup duty since Webb was named the starter, and Wood was believed to be set as first off the bench on Saturday. But Hirschman said that wasn't the plan. He entered the game late in the second quarter and played until late in the fourth, when Wood relieved him. Webb didn't play at all in the second half, and Embree indicated once again that the starting job will be reevaluated this week before No. 19 Stanford visits on Saturday.

Hirschman said he believed he has been making "quicker, sounder decisions" and has "matured as a player" over the last couple of weeks in practice. His goal for the offense "is what we did at the start of the third quarter," he said, referring to opening the second half with a 72-yard scoring drive, then converting a Ducks fumble into another shorter TD march.

Oregon, said Hirschman, "has a national championship caliber defense. We moved the ball on them . . . it just shows we have the ability to play like that if we're consistent. If we can keep that consistency, we can be scary."

For the record, Oregon had begun substituting liberally on both sides of the ball at halftime, which saw the Ducks trot off the field with their 56-point lead. But the Buffs did have enough of a spark remaining to open the second half with a TD march.

Embree told his team he would finish out the season with the players who demonstrated they still want to play. But he also said when he reviews the game, he doesn't expect to find anyone who has cashed it in: "I didn't see any (Saturday) and I don't expect to see it when we turn on the tape either."

His goals for the final month: "Get more consistent play at the quarterback position and get the defense to stop some people . . . that's what I want to see these next four games," he said.

Games to remember are supposedly played in November. In 2011, the Buffs fashioned an upbeat final-month finish, winning two of their last three games in Embree's three-win debut season (3-10). This schedule has them at home next Saturday against Stanford, traveling to resurgent Arizona (Nov. 10), then closing it out with visits to Folsom Field by Washington (Nov. 17) and Utah (Nov. 23).

And in case anyone's forgotten, there hasn't been a home win yet this season. November still can be a month to remember . . . it's all that's left after two months to forget.

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**Tight end Vincent Hobbs**  
Photo Courtesy: Associated Press



## Brooks: Ducks Overrun, Overwhelm Beleaguered Buffs

Release: 10/27/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

**EUGENE, Ore.** - They take their track and field seriously here. Football, too. And there are autumn afternoons when there is no discernible difference in what occurs at Oregon's world-renowned Hayward Field and just across the Willamette River in Autzen Stadium.

Saturday quickly turned into that kind of day. No. 2 Oregon, built for speed, ran for 311 first-half yards, flashed to a 56-0 halftime lead and coasted to a 70-14 win against Colorado.

Oregon's 70 points were the school's most ever in a conference game and the most allowed by CU since losing 70-3 to Texas in the 2005 Big 12 Conference championship game.

The Buffaloes' staggering defensive collapse continues; in their last four Pac-12 Conference games they've allowed 2,115 yards and 213 points. Oregon's contribution to the yardage figure was 617 yards in total offense, including 425 on the ground.

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Saturday's loss was the Buffs' fourth straight and dropped them to 1-7 overall, assuring the school of a record seventh consecutive losing football season. CU fell to 1-4 in the Pac-12, with its lone win coming five weeks ago at Washington State.

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Second-year Buffs coach Jon Embree said he hadn't thought about the seven consecutive losing seasons, instead focusing on how to fix his defense: "It's just disappointing that we're not getting stops on that side and giving ourselves a chance. It just hasn't been what you expect from a Colorado defense. Trust me, I'm trying to figure that out."

Although the Buffs' halftime deficit Saturday matched the school record, set in 1980 against UCLA, they did show vital signs after intermission. With Nick Hirschman replacing Jordan Webb at quarterback, the Buffs drove 72 yards after receiving the second-half kickoff, scoring their first touchdown since the second quarter of the Arizona State game (Oct. 11) on a 1-yard run by freshman Christian Powell.

After a fumble recovery by CU defensive back Jered Bell on the next Oregon series, the 6-1, 235-pound Powell scored his second TD on a 20-yard run. He finished the afternoon with 121 yards on 20 carries and the pair of scores.

But by the time Powell had crossed the goal line for a second time, the Ducks (8-0, 5-0) already were in cruise control and were heading toward their eighth straight win. As they did last weekend at Southern California, the Buffs fell into a first-quarter pit - 19-3 against the Trojans - and never recovered.

But this weekend, it was worse. Oregon led 28-0 at the end of the first quarter and was well on its way to a halftime total offense output of 447 yards.

The Ducks' speed was evident from the first snap. They went 57 yards in five plays to take a 7-0 lead on Kenjon Barner' 1-yard run, then got the ball back when CU's Tony Jones fumbled the kickoff and set up Oregon at the Buffs' 17-yard line.

Three plays later, De'Anthony Thomas scored on a 9-yard sweep of left end (14-0) and the mauling was underway. Barner, who entered the game averaging 124 rushing yards, carried nine times in the first half for 104 yards and two TDs, while Thomas rushed five times for 97 and one score. With those totals, both were done for the day.

In Oregon's 45-2 rout of CU last season in Boulder, Barner rushed 10 times for 115 yards and two touchdowns - one a career-long 84-yarder. The Ducks led that one 29-0 after one quarter and 35-0 at the half.

Look for Thomas' TD punt return Saturday to be replayed ad infinitum here and elsewhere - try ESPN for starters. After letting Darragh O'Neill's punt take a backward bounce, Thomas scooped it up going to his right, reversed himself and made Buffs safety Ray Polk miss, cut toward the CU sideline and made Buffs linebacker Derrick Webb whiff, then turned on the speed and outran everyone else in a white jersey to the end zone.

Embree had said all week that the Ducks appeared even faster than last year, and Saturday confirmed it. "They're fast at every position . . . defense, offense, linebacker, receiver and it showed. They closed some holes offensively quicker and got around the ball. And obviously, what they did offensively . . . (Thomas) getting around the edge, then his punt return reminded me of Ben Kelly."

That remarkable run pushed the score to 42-0 with 11:06 remaining in the first half - and the only questions left unanswered were how many more times the Ducks would cross the goal line and if the Buffs would ever get there.

By the time the fourth quarter started, Oregon had its most points - 70 - in a conference game and led by a cool 56. And Ducks coach Chip Kelly couldn't be accused of piling on; he pulled Barner, Thomas, freshman quarterback Marcus Mariota and most of his super-skilled offensive players before halftime. Mariota's first-half

work: 10-of-14 passes completed for 136 yards and two TDs.

Still, CU's second-teamers were no match for Oregon's. Backup Ducks QB Bryan Bennett, a sophomore, completed all four of his pass attempts for 56 yards and ran 10 times for 73 yards and three TDs. Third-team QB Dustin Haines replaced Bennett in the fourth quarter.

CU's Webb, starting for the eighth time, finished his afternoon completing seven of 11 passes for 31 yards. Under his direction, the Buffs' deepest first-half penetration was to the Ducks' 32-yard line. Under Hirschman, the Buffs got both TDs - although he faced the Ducks' second- and third-team defense and the game had long ago been tucked away in the win column for Oregon.

Sophomore Connor Wood spelled Hirschman for CU's final possession. Wood didn't attempt a pass, and Hirschman finished 7-of-16 for 64 yards. Embree said naming a starter for next week would be evaluated.

The Buffs' schedule remains rugged; they return to Folsom Field next Saturday to face their third straight Top 25 opponent - No. 19 Stanford. Kickoff is at noon (FX).

**BUFF BITS:** CU played without its best offensive lineman - junior left tackle David Bakhtiari, who made the trip but was held out with a knee injury. Starting in his place was senior Ryan Dannewitz, but O-line coach Steve Marshall also had sophomore left guard Alex Lewis move out and freshman Jeromy Irwin take his place . . . On defense, starting freshman nosetackle Josh Tupou (ankle) did not make the trip. Opening in his place was junior Nate Bonsu. Also, freshman Yuri Wright started in place of freshman Kenneth Crawley at cornerback, and junior Terrel Smith opened at nickel instead of freshman Marques Mosley . . . Before kickoff, Oregon honored former CU tight end Ed Reinhardt, who suffered a severe head injury in the 1984 Buffs-Ducks game here. CU head coach Jon Embree was a teammate. Reinhardt, accompanied on the trip by his father, Ed, Sr., was given a standing ovation by the Autzen Stadium crowd . . . Saturday's attendance was announced as 57,521.

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# The Sun Herald

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ESPN: League has voided Payton's contract with Saints, sources say

## Oregon stampedes Colorado

Published: October 27, 2012



DON RYAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS Oregon receiver Daryle Hawkins dives in for a touchdown as Colorado defender Ray Polk loses his helmet during the first half of Saturday's game.

Don Ryan — AP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenjon Barner rushed for 104 yards and two touchdowns, and No. 2 Oregon easily took care of Colorado 70-14 on Saturday in advance of next weekend's Pac-12 showdown with 10th-ranked USC.



De'Anthony Thomas rushed for another score and added a 73-yard punt return for a touchdown before most of the Ducks' offensive starters were pulled midway through the second quarter. Redshirt freshman quarterback Marcus Mariota passed for 136 yards and two TDs.

The Ducks (8-0, 5-0 Pac-12) built a 56-0 lead by halftime and their 70 points were the most they'd ever scored against a conference opponent. It was Oregon's 11th straight overall victory dating to a 38-35 loss at home to USC last season.

No. 4 Kansas State 55, No. 15 Texas Tech 24: Collin Klein accounted for four touchdowns, Arthur Brown returned an interception 37 yards for another score and No. 4 Kansas State roughed up No. 15 Texas Tech.

Klein was 19 of 26 for 233 yards and two touchdowns, and had 83 yards and two more scores on the ground -- bolstering his credentials for the Heisman Trophy. Most of the offense came in the second half as the Wildcats (5-0 Big 12) blew open a 13-10 game to improve to 8-0 for the first time since 1999.

No. 5 Notre Dame 30, NO. 8 Oklahoma 13: Everett Golson threw for 177 yards and plunged in for the decisive 1-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter, Manti Te'o bolstered his Heisman Trophy candidacy with a late interception and No. 5 Notre Dame beat No. 8 Oklahoma.

Te'o, the standout linebacker who has a penchant for causing turnovers, dove when Landry Jones' pass ricocheted off of Jalen Saunders and got his gloved hands under it. Kyle Brindza tacked on his third field goal soon after, and Theo Riddick added a late touchdown run as the Fighting Irish (8-0) put it away with 20 fourth-quarter points.

No. 9 Ohio State 35, Penn State 23: Braxton Miller was his usual self, running for 134 yards and accounting for three touchdowns a week after getting knocked out of a game, leading No. 9 Ohio State to a victory against Penn State.

Arizona 39, No. 10 USC 36: Matt Scott had 469 total yards and accounted for four touchdowns, helping Arizona overcome a huge day by Southern California's Marqise Lee to beat the 10th-ranked Trojans.

No. 11 Florida State 48, Duke 7: EJ Manuel tossed two touchdown passes and Devonta Freeman ran for two more scores to lead No. 11 Florida State to a victory over Duke.

Kent State 35, No. 18 Rutgers 23: Defensive end Mark Fackler returned his second interception 25 yards for a touchdown, and Kent State forced five other turnovers in stunning No. 18 Rutgers for its biggest win since its first game in 1920.

No. 19 Stanford 24, Washington State 17: Ed Reynolds returned an interception for a touchdown and No. 19 Stanford sacked Jeff Tuel 10 times to overcome a sloppy offensive effort in a victory over Washington State.

No. 21 Boise State 45, Wyoming 14: D.J. Harper rushed for 105 yards and two touchdowns to lead No. 21 Boise State past Wyoming for its seventh straight win.

Miami (Ohio) 23, No. 23 Ohio 20: Ohio gambled by going for one more play instead of a tying field goal, and Tyler Tettleton was sacked as time ran out, preserving Miami of Ohio's upset over the No. 23 Bobcats.

No. 24 Louisiana Tech 28, New Mexico State 14: Quarterback Colby Cameron led a late-surgingly Louisiana Tech offense.

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## Football: Reinhardt's injury shaped how CU Buffs' Embree deals with concussions

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera  
Posted:

Buffzone.com

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EUGENE, Ore. -- There was a feel-good moment for fans of Colorado football Saturday at Autzen Stadium, but it happened before the opening kickoff.

Former CU tight end Ed Reinhardt was honored in a pregame ceremony before the second-ranked Ducks pounded the Buffs 70-14.

Reinhardt's life changed forever on the Ducks' home field 28 years ago. He came here with the Buffs as the leading receiver in the country on Sept. 15, 1984 and left the stadium fighting for his life after suffering a blood clot in his brain after an ordinary hit late in the game.

Reinhardt underwent emergency surgery and spent more than a month in a coma at a local hospital. He never fully recovered but he did regain the ability to walk and can communicate on a limited basis, almost always doing so with a smile on his face.

"Wow," Reinhardt said when asked about the tribute from Oregon fans.

Reinhardt was accompanied by his father, Ed Sr., who has been at his side almost constantly since the day he was hurt. Reinhardt's former roommate is CU coach Jon Embree who watched the pregame ceremony Saturday from a tunnel in the west end zone.

"It's special because every time I have been back here since the incident it's something that is at the forefront of your mind," Embree said. "Ed was a great player. There is no doubt in my mind he was a guy that would have played on Sundays. It was just tragic that that happened."

Embree said Saturday he is certain that previous concussions played a part in Reinhardt's injury. He said concussions were treated differently at the time and weren't always properly diagnosed. He said Reinhardt had been complaining of headaches leading up to the game.

Embree said his experience watching his friend battle for his life and the lasting damage from the blood clot and subsequent surgery has shaped the way he deals with players who have multiple concussions in their careers.

Embree told former defensive back Will Harlos he would not be able to play football for the Buffs any more earlier this season after Harlos suffered another major concussion. Harlos remains at CU pursuing his degree on scholarship.

"I truly believe that played a part in his injury," Embree said of Reinhardt's concussion history. "I don't want to sound like I played with leather helmets, but back then you were used to getting dinged and smelling salts and all that other stuff. Obviously the way the medical field has progressed, you know now that back then there were probably times you shouldn't been doing it, but you didn't know better at the time."

Powell packs a punch

CU freshman running back Christian Powell was definitely the bright spot Saturday with the second 100-yard rushing performance of his career.

Powell rushed 20 times for 121 yards and two touchdowns, both coming in a short span early in the third quarter. Powell already has the sixth highest rushing total for a season among CU freshmen and could make a run at the top spot if he can stay healthy.

He has been in and out of the lineup this fall with a leg injury.

"It's still not 100 percent," Powell said. "It's about 90, but it's way better than it was a couple weeks ago."

#### Iron man

Defensive tackle Will Pericak started his 45th consecutive game, tying former linebacker Jordon Dizon for the most consecutive starts by a defensive player in CU history. Pericak should claim the record for most starts by any player in CU history next month. Former offensive lineman Ryan Miller holds the current record of 47.

Pericak forced two fumbles against the Ducks, giving him four this season. That is the most forced fumbles by one defender since former safety Michael Lewis forced four in 2000. It's the most forced fumbles by a CU defensive lineman since Garry Howe forced four in 1990.

#### Notable

Senior Ryan Dannewitz started at left tackle in place of David Bakhtiari who suffered minor knee injury in practice this week. ... The Buffs allowed a punt return for a touchdown for the first time since 2009. ... When the Buffs held the Ducks' reserves scoreless in the fourth quarter, it ended a CU record of 24 consecutive quarters in which the Buffs had surrendered points.

Follow Kyle on Twitter: @KyleRingo

## Embree asks fans to support team with potential recruits coming to Boulder as season winds down

By Kyle Ringo *Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera*  
Posted:

Buffzone.com

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EUGENE, Ore. -- When the Colorado football team began offseason workouts last winter in preparation for the 2012 season, it finished each of those sessions and all the ensuing practices in the spring and summer in a group huddle shouting two words.

"Bowl game."

The Buffs watched their dream of a first postseason berth since 2007 die a slow death over the first two months this season culminating in another wipeout Saturday at Autzen Stadium. The No.2 Oregon Ducks clobbered coach Jon Embree's team 70-14, ensuring a seventh consecutive losing season, the longest such stretch in school history.

In the aftermath, senior linebacker Doug Rippy trudged into a small room just beyond the west end zone to talk to reporters about where things stand for his team and where the Buffs go from here.

"You got to keep playing man," Rippy said. "We're not giving in. I know I'm not giving in. ... A bowl game is obviously out the window, but at the same time, you're still playing for Colorado and the people that played here before us. That's how I feel."

Rippy and the other seven seniors comprise the first senior class in 28 years to never have played in a bowl game. The reality is the majority if last year's seniors also suffered the same fate, but a few of them were on the roster when CU lost in the 2007 Independence Bowl to Alabama.

This season's seniors have never played beyond November.

Rippy said that despite the nosedive the program has taken in recent years, he would not change his decision to come to Boulder if he had it to do over. Embree and his assistants must hope more current recruits don't have a change of heart watching the Buffs bludgeoned week after week.

CU already had one recruit pull out of his commitment this week. Embree said after the loss to Oregon he hopes fans will continue to come to Folsom Field in the final month of the season when CU will play three home games, starting next week against Stanford.

Embree said his program will host numerous recruits in the coming weeks and landing some of those players will help CU avoid more outcomes like the pitiful results lately. The Buffs have been outscored 171-37 in the last three games, allowing at least 50 points to the opponent in all three contests.

"The guys that we have coming in next year and the guys that we have coming back, I'm excited about that," Embree said. "We have some good recruits coming in. It's important that our fans continue to come out to the games we have because they're going to make an impression on the recruits we have coming in these next couple weekends, which will help us a lot, immensely. As your players improve, your results improve. That's what keeps me going."

Colorado will likely feature a new starting quarterback against Stanford. Sophomore Nick Hirschman replaced junior Jordan Webb on Saturday after Webb missed several open receivers. Both CU quarterbacks combined to complete 14 of 27 passes for 95 yards.

Oregon's dynamic tandem of running back Kenjon Barner and do-it-all playmaker De'Anthony Thomas accounted for 201 rushing yards and four touchdowns in the first half, including a dazzling 73-yard punt return by Thomas.

"The play that epitomized their speed the most was obviously that punt return," Embree said. "We had three guys, maybe four, that had a shot at him. I don't know if we touched him."

Oregon wasted little time putting the Buffs out of their misery with two quick scores to take a 14-0 lead 2 minutes, 32 seconds into the game. The Ducks benefited from a fumbled kickoff return the first time CU touched the ball on offense.

By the end of the first quarter, Oregon led 28-0. Colorado has been outscored 112-24 in the first quarter this season.

Oregon hasn't needed to play its starters much beyond halftime of games this season and it continued that trend with ease against CU. The Ducks rolled to a 56-0 halftime lead, racking up 311 rushing yards, 447 yards of total offense in just 13 minutes, 5 seconds of possession time.

The Buffs lost their fourth consecutive game this season and their 20th consecutive game against a ranked team on the road. Oregon's 70 points set a school record for scoring in a conference game. It is the most points scored by a CU opponent this season, but just barely. CU allowed Fresno State to score 69 last month.

The last time CU allowed 70 points in a game was the 2005 Big 12 Conference championship game loss to Texas, which went on to win the national title that season. Oregon, which entered Saturday's game No. 4 in the BCS standings, looked like it could be playing for the crystal ball this January.

If there was a bright spot for Colorado, it was freshman running back Christian Powell, who carried 20 times for 121 yards and two scores. Both came early in the third quarter, the only portion of the game in which CU fans had anything to celebrate.

Follow Kyle on Twitter: @KyleRingo

Oregon 70, Colorado 14

Colorado 0 0 14 0--14

Oregon 28 28 14 0--70

First Quarter

Ore -- Barner 1 run (Beard kick), 13:13.

Ore -- D.Thomas 9 run (Beard kick), 12:28.

Ore -- Mariota 5 run (Beard kick), 6:56.

Ore -- Addison 16 pass from Mariota (Beard kick), 1:44.

Second Quarter

Ore -- Barner 24 run (Beard kick), 12:36.



Ore -- D.Thomas 73 punt return (Beard kick), 11:06.

Ore -- Hawkins 7 pass from Mariota (Beard kick), 6:16.

Ore -- Bennett 6 run (Beard kick), :20.

### Third Quarter

Col -- Powell 1 run (Oliver kick), 9:41.

Col -- Powell 20 run (Oliver kick), 8:02.

Ore -- Bennett 3 run (Beard kick), 3:55.

Ore -- Bennett 17 run (Beard kick), 1:00.

A -- 57,521.

### Col Ore

First downs 12 30

Rushes-yards 33-150 57-425

Passing 95 192

Comp-Att-Int 14-27-0 14-18-0

Return Yards 0 112

Punts-Avg. 8-45.0 3-28.7

Fumbles-Lost 2-2 2-1

Penalties-Yards 5-60 7-85

Time of Possession 32:13 27:47

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING -- Colorado, Powell 20-121, Abron 5-20, Hirschman 1-13, Goodson 2-6, Ford 2-2, T.Jones 1-1, J.Webb 1-(minus 5), Team 1-(minus 8). Oregon, Barner 9-104, D.Thomas 5-97, Bennett 10-73, Marshall 12-67, Forde 3-27, Mariota 4-22, Chimphalee 6-18, Bassett 5-13, Haines 2-6, Addison 1-(minus 2).

PASSING -- Colorado, Hirschman 7-16-0-64, J.Webb 7-11-0-31. Oregon, Mariota 10-14-0-136, Bennett 4-4-0-56.

RECEIVING -- Colorado, Hobbs 4-28, Kasa 2-26, T.Jones 2-7, Powell 2-7, McCulloch 1-24, Slavin 1-6, Spruce 1-(minus 1), G.Thomas 1-(minus 2). Oregon, Huff 4-49, Barner 2-47, Stanton 2-10, Kelley 1-32, Addison 1-16, Marshall 1-14, D.Thomas 1-9, Murphy 1-8, Hawkins 1-7.

## No. 2 Oregon steamrolls outmanned Colorado, 70-14

By John Henderson The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

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EUGENE, Ore. — In the history of Colorado football, if the Buffaloes were ever more overmatched than they were Saturday afternoon, no one alive would admit they saw it. As it was, half the packed house of 57,521 at Autzen Stadium couldn't watch anymore.

They went tailgating by halftime, finally averting their eyes as Colorado continued its Piñata of the Pac-12 tour with a 70-14 humiliation to second-ranked Oregon.

In a matchup of possibly the best team in Oregon history and the worst in Colorado history, this one became one of the worst matchups in conference history in a hurry.

The Ducks (8-0, 5-0 Pac-12) scored on their fifth play from scrimmage and touchdowns on all eight first-half possessions on their way to a 56-0 halftime laughter.

The numbers, which are becoming grimmer than the Buffs' faces as this season drones on, were merely sad. To wit:

- Oregon, the No. 2 scoring team in the country, broke its conference single-game scoring record — and hit the 70-point mark in the third quarter.
- It tied for Colorado's third-most points given up, matching the 70-3 loss to Texas in the 2005 Big 12 championship game, the last time Gary Barnett coached.
- By halftime, Oregon had outgained Colorado 447-104. That included second-stringers Oregon coach Chip Kelly mercifully played in the second quarter. The final stats were 617-245 in total offense.
- Oregon didn't punt until the fourth quarter.

"We talked this week about how we wanted to come in and compete and see where we stood, how we stacked up against them," second-year CU coach Jon Embree said. "They're what a championship team looks like."

And Colorado (1-7, 1-4) is what a rebuilding team looks like. Two plays epitomized the massive chasm between the programs. After Oregon scored on its fifth play, two later than USC did the week before, Tony Jones fumbled the Ducks' kickoff. He then ran into freshman Donta Abron trying to pick it up.

Oregon recovered, scored in three plays and led 14-0 before Colorado's offense took a snap.

Then ahead 35-0 in the second quarter, Oregon's De'Anthony Thomas scrambled to pick up a punt. He spun around and went up the sideline 73 yards to score.

"We had three guys, maybe four who had a shot at him," Embree said. "I don't know if we touched him."

It's painfully obvious Embree picked a really bad conference in which to rebuild. Counting the 69-14 nonconference loss to Fresno State on Sept. 15, Colorado's last five losses have been by an average score of 56-13.

In the historical department, Saturday's loss clinched a school-record seventh consecutive losing season. In the

throes of the worst period of football in Colorado history, this drubbing seemed particularly symbolic.

"We had a conversation at halftime about what would be on tape in the second half, and who was going to continue to play in the game," Embree said. "If I saw any sign of quit or let up, that's fine. That's it for the season."

This team's problems are too lengthy to list on only one newspaper page, and quarterback is merely one of them. But Embree has another decision to make. Junior Jordan Webb, the No. 11 quarterback in the league, was 7-of-11 for only 31 yards and was yanked for sophomore Nick Hirschman before halftime.

Hirschman led Colorado to its only points, and with a home game Saturday against 19th-ranked Stanford, the timing might be right for a change of pace. Hirschman went 7-for-16 for 64 yards.

With the Buffaloes' defense, however, renewed eligibility for Kordell Stewart couldn't help the cause. Entering the game with the nation's second-worst pass defense (176.0 rating) and scoring defense (42.6 points per game), the Buffs were helpless against the nation's No. 2 scoring team.

"We missed a couple of tackles that led to touchdowns," senior linebacker Doug Rippy said. "That's something we have to work on."

The one positive for Colorado came in the form of true freshman Christian Powell. He rushed 20 times for 121 yards and the Buffs' lone two touchdowns.

Not that many people stuck around to see it.

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## CU Buffs may promote sophomore Nick Hirschman to starting quarterback

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

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EUGENE, Ore. —Jordan Webb's tenuous hold on the Colorado quarterback job lasted an extra week so the veteran could be thrown to the wolves against the nation's No. 2 team Saturday.

Now that the painfully struggling Buffaloes return home for three of their last four games, second-year CU coach Jon Embree said he will contemplate a quarterback change.

CU's 70-14 loss to Oregon wasn't Webb's fault. He didn't give up 447 yards in the first half. But hitting only 7-of-11 passes for 31 yards against the Ducks didn't jump-start the Buffaloes' equally struggling offense.

"Yes, we will look at that," said Embree, who inserted sophomore Nick Hirschman in the second quarter with CU trailing 49-0.

Hirschman played the entire second half and finished 7-of-16 passing for 64 yards, leading touchdown drives of 72 and 41 yards in the third quarter.

"I thought Nick played well," Embree said. "I thought he did some things that were decent. He's got to get better with some ball placement. We can help him out too, catching it. But I thought he played well."

The Buffs' schedule won't let up much. Next up at home Saturday is 19th-ranked Stanford. At least whoever starts at QB will have the Folsom Field crowd behind him.

If a move is made, it'll be a personal triumph for Hirschman, who seemed to lose the starting-job battle last spring to Texas transfer Connor Wood.

When Webb transferred in from Kansas in the summer and swept his way to the job, Hirschman and Wood continued a spirited competition for No. 2. Hirschman has moved ahead.

"I'm making quicker decisions," said Hirschman, now 10-of-23 passing on the season, for 147 yards with a touchdown and interception. "Being accurate with the ball. I missed a few throws I wish I would've had. But overall, I'm pleased to get the reps."

By all indications, expect him to get more playing time next Saturday.

"As I've grown up a little bit, matured as a football player, one of my weaknesses becomes one of my strengths," he said. "I had a lot of trouble adjusting to being in this intense of a pro-style offense. As a young quarterback, reads were difficult for me to see. But through film study and hard work I've been able to get a handle on that."

It's not like CU's quarterbacks are getting much help. They have no deep threat and on Saturday wideouts caught only three passes, two for negative yards.