



*CU tailback Christian Powell (46) fights for yardage against Fresno State.  
Photo Courtesy: Associated Press*



## Brooks: No Simple Fix For What's Wrong With Buffs

Release: 09/15/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

**FRESNO, Calif.** - Simpler was supposed to be better. Instead, it turned into simply bad here Saturday night.

After consecutive losses to opponents they were favored to beat, the Colorado Buffaloes shrunk their offensive and defensive game plans for Fresno State. The theory, said CU coach Jon Embree and his coordinators, was to mentally free up their players - particularly the younger ones - with fewer sets and assignments.

An adage in football is to do a handful of things well rather than try to do too much and succeed at nothing - and success had clearly eluded CU in the season's first two weeks. This week's goal, Embree said, was "to give our guys fewer things to think about and let them play faster."

Coordinator Eric Bieniemy said his offense went into Saturday's game with about 50 percent of what was made

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available in the first two games. The running game, which went from 58 yards in the opener to 153 last week, remained his priority. But, Bieniemy added, no matter how simple a game plan becomes, sloppy execution will kill it.

Defensively, coordinator Greg Brown said what his players practiced last week was reduced considerably, with the objective to remain in their base defense and work in various blitzes when called for. The onus remained on the D-line to produce pressure on Fresno State quarterback Derek Carr, and on CU's "Baby Buff" secondary - freshmen corners Yuri Wright and Kenneth Crawley, and safety/nickel back Marques Mosley - to cover.

But on this night, simplification didn't work. Nothing did. And Fresno State did whatever it wanted . . . with ease. Anything simple or elaborate CU had in mind drifted out of Bulldogs Stadium after the Buffs fell behind 35-0 in the first quarter. They left dizzied by allowing 69 points while scoring only 14. Fresno State practically rewrote CU's football record book, with all the revisions in the worst possible context for the slumping Buffs.

"At the end of the day we have to help ourselves by making plays . . . we didn't make the plays," junior linebacker Derrick Webb said. "The coaches did their jobs by making it simpler, but the players, we have to step up and do our jobs."

CU's deplorable first quarter offered reason to flash back to an afternoon in Lawrence, Kan., three seasons ago when the Buffs allowed that many fourth-quarter points in a meltdown loss to Kansas. Embree wasn't there for that one, but some of his players were.

Derrick Webb was among them. "It's a loss," he said. "Kansas was bad, today is bad. I don't know if it gets too much worse than those two games right there. A loss like this should motivate you. If it doesn't, that's another issue.

"All I can do is try to take this loss and turn it into a positive. That sounds crazy (because) we came out here and got our butts kicked. If you have any pride at all you're going to find a way. That's going to be our next challenge - to find a way."

Webb said he had "never been a part of anything like this. The way we played the first half - all the points, all the yards we gave up . . . that was a first for me."

The question is, what's to be done about it? And answers weren't readily available before Embree, his staff and players boarded their charter for a somber return to Colorado.

Embree still insists that his second CU team is better than his first, which finished 3-10, although this team's 0-3 record doesn't reflect it. "I just know what I see for the most part every day," he said. "I still believe in this team; I still do."

As Webb did earlier in the week in a players-only meeting, junior offensive tackle David Bakhtiari stood and addressed the Buffs Saturday in their stunned locker room. Bakhtiari asked his teammates "what they play for" and told them "these coaches know how to win - they're the best I've played for. I'm completely distraught to see how we can't execute what they've set out for us. I told them if they're not willing to give them 100 percent and do what they tell you, buy into this program, be a Buffalo, I don't want you coming to practice or suiting up.

"If I had an answer, I'd love to tell you . . . there's something in the turbine that's not letting it spin. I don't know what is going on exactly. I wish I knew so I could tell the team. But whatever it is it needs to go away, I'm sick of it. I don't like it, I want it to change."

Other players also stood up for the staff and their position coaches. Senior linebacker Jon Major said the coaches "haven't gotten what they deserve. It's going to fall a lot on us players (to accomplish that). The amount of respect we all have for them, the work they put in. it's not exaggerating when they put in 16 hours a day at some points. They're some of the best coaches we've ever had. It's sad; if the players can't put something together, something has to happen . . . when they get 69 against you something has to happen. We'll see what they come

up with and what we can do as players."

Embree blamed "breakdowns" on both sides of the ball for the Buffs' horrific first quarter, which saw his defense yield 322 yards of total offense and scoring plays of 97 and 94 yards. "Sometimes when we're eager to make plays we give up plays," he said. "We have to do our assignments, particularly on defense. It just takes one guy . . ."

Embree also said the starting quarterback job was due for "reassessment sometime next week." Jordan Webb started the game, Connor Wood opened the second half and Nick Hirschman finished. Combined they were 11-of-30 for 173 yards, with one TD and four interceptions. Webb and Wood threw two each, with each having a pick that was returned for a Fresno State touchdown.

Said Jordan Webb: "Everything went wrong as far as I'm concerned. We don't get beat by that much if just one thing went wrong. I've got to take responsibility for myself; I made mistakes and I have to fix those. That's where I'll start."

The running game that featured freshman fullback-turned-tailback Christian Powell last week (147 yards, three TDs) was a non-starter and non-factor, mainly because "we were down 21-0 before we knew what happened," Embree said. "That took us out of what we wanted to do (running)." Powell carried 17 times for 49 yards.

Embree said his team has "no choice but to come back, no choice. The clock doesn't stop. We've got to keep going, grinding, find a way. We'll see what happens with our leadership, how we respond as coaches. It's on all of us; we have to come back on Monday and find a way to fix whatever it is that's ailing us and keep moving forward."

Added Derrick Webb: "It's three games into the season and we've dug ourselves a great hole. It's going to be a challenge. I'm willing to take up that challenge and help bring my teammates up with me. I know we're better every day than what we play. That's the biggest disappointment."

An even bigger disappointment is that it's happened now for three consecutive Saturdays, and next Saturday brings the Pac-12 Conference opener at Washington State. The Buffs' September grace period is gone, and unless they right themselves quickly their season will follow.

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CU's Chidera Uzo-Diribe and Paul Vigo (32) tackle Fresno State running back Robbie Rouse  
Photo Courtesy: Associated Press



## Brooks: Bulldogs Shred Buffs, Rip Apart Record Book

Release: 09/15/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

**FRESNO, Calif.** – On a night that tied for the hottest in history for a University of Colorado football game, the Buffaloes shriveled – but not from the heat.

Fast-striking Fresno State scorched CU and much of the school's 123-year-old record book, humiliating the visitors 69-14 on Saturday night in the Buffs' final non-conference game. Dropping to 0-3 under second-year coach Jon Embree, CU opens its Pac-12 Conference schedule next Saturday at Washington State.

"We ran into a buzz saw," Embree said. "We gave up too many big plays early. We didn't sustain drives and it seemed like every time we threw an interception it was a touchdown."

Embree said the Buffs must "keep grinding, keep fighting, keep competing . . . I don't know what else to tell you. We have to find a way to come out and take what we do on the practice

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field and transfer it on Saturday."

He said he still believes in his coaching staff and believes his players will show "a lot of resolve, a lot of fight to figure out how to do it on the road again next week in our first conference game."

The temperature in Bulldogs Stadium at kickoff was 102 degrees, matching the temperature for CU's 2007 trip to Arizona State. But Fresno State quarterback Derek Carr was several degrees beyond that. He threw for 300 yards and five touchdown passes in the first half as the Bulldogs rolled to a 35-0 advantage after one quarter and were up 55-7 at intermission.

CU used three quarterbacks – Jordan Webb, Connor Wood and Nick Hirschman. None was effective, with Webb and Wood throwing interceptions that were returned for touchdowns by Fresno State safety Phillip Thomas.

Webb, the transfer from Kansas, started his third consecutive game and threw his two picks in the first half. Wood, the transfer from Texas, replaced him as the second-half starter, but threw a pair of third-quarter interceptions and was replaced by Hirschman.

Carr, the younger brother of former Bulldogs QB David Carr, carved up CU's green, freshman-stocked secondary. He didn't play in the second half, finishing his night 17-of-22 for 300 yards, with the five TDs and one interception. Carr's yardage total was the most ever against CU in one half.

His help on the ground came from senior tailback Robbie Rouse, who entered the game needing 79 yards to become the school's career rushing leader. Rouse, who entered the game averaging 119 yards, ran for the record in the first quarter, shredding the CU defense for 144 yards on nine carries and scoring twice. His night was finished, as were the Buffs.

After losses of five points to Colorado State (22-17) and two to Sacramento State (30-28), Fresno State made sure Saturday night's game would never be that close – and it only took a quarter.

Actually it took less than that. Only a few ticks over half a quarter were required before the Buffs had settled into an historic first-quarter hole with no escape route.

When the first 15 minutes was done – it took just over an hour to complete – CU trailed 35-0, with the Bulldogs' total the most ever allowed in a first quarter in 123 years of CU football.

Fresno State (2-1) led by three touchdowns at the 7:25 mark, having scored on an eight-play, 65-yard drive to open the game (7-0), intercepting Webb to set up its second score on a quick 45-yard march (14-0), then using a 28-yard punt return by Isaiah Burse to set up a one-play, four-second drive to make it 21-0.

But the Bulldogs, beaten 42-25 last week at No. 4 Oregon, were barely getting loose on this 102-degree evening in California's mid-section.

After forcing a CU three-and-out, Carr and Burse connected for a 97-yard catch-and-run TD – the second-longest scoring play against the Buffs in history. That one-play drive required 13 seconds and sent the Bulldogs up 28-0.

They capped the quarter with Rouse's record-setting run – a 94-yarder that gave him the Fresno State career rushing mark and also was the longest ever allowed by the Buffs. After he crossed the goal line with 2:39 left in the quarter and Quentin Breashears kicked the PAT, the Bulldogs owned a 35-0 lead and the 2012 Buffs owned a dark spot in the school's record manual.

Fresno State finished the quarter with a 322-45 edge in total offense and a 10-1 bulge in first-downs. The Bulldogs' yardage total was the most given up by the Buffs in a quarter since Oklahoma racked up 312 in the third quarter of its 82-42 rout in Boulder in 1980.

Could it get worse? Unbelievably, yes.

Fresno State outscored CU 20-7 in the second quarter to take a 55-7 halftime lead and finished with 516 yards in total offense. The 55 points were second-most ever allowed by CU in a half, and the Bulldogs' 516 first-half yards were the most ever run up by a CU opponent in any half.

In their nightmarish first two quarters, the Buffs avoided a shutout on a 23-yard scoring pass from Webb to Tyler McCulloch. But less than 3 minutes later, Webb gave those points back with his second interception of the half. Thomas returned it 16 yards for a score, and at 2:10 before intermission Fresno State had its 55-7 advantage while CU was stuck with its most humbling half of football in school history.

Thomas opened Fresno State's second-half scoring by intercepting Wood and returning the pick 43 yards for his second TD of the night. Breashears kicked the Bulldogs in front 62-7 with 9:06 left in the third quarter.

The quarter ended that way, but the Bulldogs' reserves weren't satisfied. Freshman running back Marteze Waller's 1-yard run with 9:07 to play finished Fresno State's final drive and at 69-7 the carnage was complete for the Bulldogs.

With 2:58 remaining, CU got a 1-yard TD run by Josh Ford and an extra point kick by Will Oliver to make the score 69-14 – and that's how the Buffs' hellish night ended.

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Sep. 15, 2012

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FRESNO, Calif. (AP) - Robbie Rouse set the Fresno State all-time rushing record on a 94-yard run that gave him four touchdowns in the first quarter as the Bulldogs rolled past winless Colorado 69-14 on Saturday night.

Rouse's long run that tied the school record for a single play helped him pass Ron Rivers as the leading rusher in Bulldogs history. Rouse ran for 144 yards on the night, giving him 3,519 to Rivers' 3,473.

Rouse started the rout with a 4-yard TD run on the first drive for Fresno State (2-1) and also caught TD passes of 9 and 12 yards from Derek Carr as the Bulldogs broke out to a 35-0 first-quarter lead and were up 55-7 at the half.

Colorado (0-3), coming off a 30-28 loss to Sacramento State of the FCS, is off to its worst start since losing its first six games in 2006. The Buffaloes got there by playing perhaps their worst half of football ever.

Colorado was outgained 516-123 in the first half, and the Bulldogs had twice as many touchdowns (eight) as the Buffaloes had first downs (four). It was the most yards allowed in any half by Colorado and one point shy of UCLA's 56-point first half in 1980 against the Buffaloes.

Fresno State had lost its previous four games against teams from the six major conferences, including a 42-25 loss at Oregon last week. Colorado was no match for the Bulldogs, who got their biggest win under first-year coach Tim DeRuyter.

Fresno State scored touchdowns on its first six possessions as Colorado had only one first down in that span. Carr threw five touchdown passes in the first 23 minutes, including a 97-yarder to Isaiah Burse that was the second-longest play in school history. Carr finished 17 for 22 for 300 yards and didn't play the second half.

Phillip Thomas intercepted three passes and returned two for touchdowns for the Bulldogs.

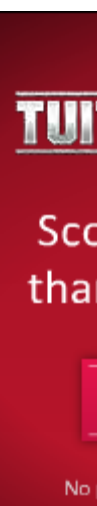
The Buffaloes got their first stop when Marques Mosley intercepted Carr midway through the second quarter. They appeared to stop Fresno State on the previous drive before a personal foul

### Scoreboard

Final

Colorado (0-3)

Fresno State (2-1)



CBSSports.com

on Thor Eaton on a punt prolonged a drive that Carr capped with a 4-yard TD pass to Josh Harper.

After losing close games to Colorado State of the Mountain West Conference and Sacramento State to open the season, the Buffaloes were never in this game. The tone for the game was set on the first play when Buffaloes cornerback Kenneth Crawley was called for a personal foul.

That helped set up Rouse's first score, a nifty 4-yard run where he ran left, reversed field when he found no opening and then over a defender into the end zone.

After Thomas intercepted Jordan Webb to end Colorado's first drive, the Bulldogs drove to another score when Carr found Rouse. That was the first of three touchdown passes on three successive plays from scrimmage for Carr.

He capped it with the long catch and run by Burse that was 1 yard short of the school record set on a play, a pass from Paul Pinegar to Paul Williams against Boise State in 2005.

Even the defense got in on the scoring act for Fresno State, with Thomas returning two interceptions for scores. He took one back 16 yards from Webb that made it 55-7 just before the half and added a 43-yarder against Connor Wood in the third quarter.

Colorado avoided the most lopsided loss by a team from a BCS conference against a team from a non-automatic qualifier when Josh Ford scored on a 1-yard run with 2:58 to play. UCLA still holds that ignominious record with a 59-0 loss against BYU in 2008.

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Team Stats

First Downs
Third Down Efficiency
Fourth Down Efficiency

## Football: Fresno State crushes CU Buffs

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

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FRESNO, Calif. -- It got worse. ... Much worse.

In fact, it got so bad for the Colorado football program Saturday evening at Bulldog Stadium, former Colorado coach Dan Hawkins is off the hook for the worst quarter of football in CU history. He only owned the badge for two years.

When the Buffs gave up 35 unanswered points in Kansas two seasons ago, it cost Hawkins his job and led to the hiring of Jon Embree, who has to answer for a whole new standard of dreadful in a 69-14 loss to Fresno State on Saturday night.

"We ran into a buzz saw," Embree said.

The Buffs came here after a week of soul searching following close losses to Colorado State and Sacramento State to start the season. The Buffs were 14-point underdogs, but few believed a new low point was in store. By the end of the first quarter, which took an hour to play, the Buffs had somehow managed to sink further.

Some have called the Colorado program a laughing stock previously. If it wasn't then, how can it not be now?

Earlier in the week Embree said one of the changes he has seen in his team this year is that it expects to win. The Buffs certainly didn't appear to Saturday en route to their 25th loss in their last 26 games played outside the state.

Embree said he maintains faith in his coaching staff and doesn't plan any changes.

Several players emerged from the locker room and defended their coaches without being provoked to do so by questions from reporters.

"They haven't gotten what they deserve," linebacker Jon Major said. "So it's going to call a lot on us players."

Tackle David Bakhtiari addressed the team in the locker room and said he challenged his teammates to find what it is they play for and come back to work next week. Bakhtiari said he doesn't believe the team is fractured and there is no hostility between players recruited by the former coaching staff and player recruited by Embree.

"I just see that there is a rut," Bakhtiari said. "There is something in the turbines that is not letting it spin."

The game time temperature was 102 degrees -- matching the warmest ever for a CU game -- and the Buffs seemed to feel it as they lumbered on to the field in a slow jog behind Embree. It turned out the temperature was just the first of many jaw-dropping numbers for CU.

Fresno State racked up 322 yards of total offense -- 160 rushing, 162 passing -- in a quarter that looked more like a track meet in which the Buffs kept finishing last in each race. The total yardage was the most ever allowed by a CU defense, replacing in the record books the 312 yards Oklahoma amassed in a quarter in its 82-42 beat down of the Buffs in 1980.

The quarter included the longest run (94 yards) and the second longest pass (97 yards) ever given up by a Colorado defense. It is the first time CU has allowed two plays of 80 yards or more in the same game. Fresno State

running back Robbie Rouse scored four touchdowns and finished the quarter with 190 yards of total offense, becoming the Bulldogs' all-time leading rusher in the process.

When asked what happened to allow so many big plays, Embree said, "Breakdowns."

Much has been made of how young the Buffs are this season. While CU once again started three freshmen in the secondary, there were plenty of veterans on the field as Fresno State seemed to move effortlessly up and down the field.

Meanwhile, the Colorado offense went nowhere.

The Buffs gained 45 total yards on 19 plays in the first quarter and punted five times. CU also committed six penalties in the quarter for 36 yards.

Quarterback Jordan Webb started for the third week in a row and completed only one of four passes in the quarter and threw the first of his two interceptions. CU coaches gave Connor Wood several opportunities to lead drives as planned in the first half, but Wood fared no better.

Webb finally led the Buffs to their only points of the first half late in the second quarter when he connected with wide receiver Tyler McCulloch on a 33-yard touchdown pass to end a seven-play, 69-yard drive. That score made it Fresno State 48, Buffs 7.

Three minutes later, Webb made a poor decision to throw into coverage on a sideline route and was intercepted by FSU safety Phillip Thomas, who returned it 16 yards for a touchdown.

The 55 points scored by Fresno in the first half tied for the second most ever allowed by CU in a half. The 516 total yards of offense by the Bulldogs in the first half was the most ever allowed in one half by the Buffs.

Midway through the third quarter, Wood repeated Webb's mistake throwing late to the wide side of the field and Thomas picked it off and ran it back 43 yards for another touchdown making the score 62-7. Wood threw another interception later and coaches moved on to their third quarterback of the evening, Nick Hirschman.

This is the first time in the modern era of CU football the team has lost three games in the same season to teams from non-BCS conferences. Of course, in many years, CU didn't play three such teams in one season. The Buffs are 0-3 to start the season for the first time since Hawkins' first season in 2006.

For those Buffs fans who aren't sure they believe what they saw Saturday, CBS Sports Network is scheduled to replay the game three times Sunday.

Follow Kyle on Twitter:

@KyleRingo

Fresno St. 69, Colorado 14

Colorado 0 7 0 7 -- 14

Fresno St. 35 20 7 7 -- 69

First Quarter

Fre -- Rouse 4 run (Breshears kick), 12:06.

Fre -- Rouse 9 pass from D.Carr (Breshears kick), 9:13.

Fre -- Rouse 12 pass from D.Carr (Breshears kick), 7:25.

Fre -- Burse 97 pass from D.Carr (Breshears kick), 5:41.

Fre -- Rouse 94 run (Breshears kick), 2:39.

#### Second Quarter

Fre -- Harper 4 pass from D.Carr (kick blocked), 12:09.

Fre -- Adams 60 pass from D.Carr (Breshears kick), 7:46.

Col -- McCulloch 23 pass from J.Webb (Oliver kick), 5:25.

Fre -- P.Thomas 16 interception return (Breshears kick), 2:10.

#### Third Quarter

Fre -- P.Thomas 43 interception return (Breshears kick), 9:06.

#### Fourth Quarter

Fre -- Waller 1 run (Breshears kick), 9:07.

Col -- Ford 1 run (Oliver kick), 2:58.

A -- 27,513.

Col Fre

First downs 11 23

Rushes-yards 41-105 38-288

Passing 173 377

Comp-Att-Int 11-30-4 20-29-1

Return Yards 0 129

Punts-Avg. 10-42.8 4-45.3

Fumbles-Lost 2-0 1-1

Penalties-Yards 11-89 8-63

Time of Possession 32:59 27:01

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING -- Colorado, Ford 10-61, Powell 17-49, Abron 5-6, C.Wood 3-3, Hirschman 3-(minus 5), J.Webb 3-(minus 9). Fresno St., Rouse 9-144, Waller 13-63, Knox 5-48, Watson 7-28, McDade 1-6, D.Carr 1-2, Cash 2-(minus 3).

PASSING -- Colorado, C.Wood 5-14-2-47, J.Webb 5-13-2-85, Hirschman 1-3-0-41. Fresno St., D.Carr 17-22-1-300, Watson 3-7-0-77.

RECEIVING -- Colorado, McCulloch 3-73, Spruce 3-39, Ebner 1-41, Slavin 1-12, Canty 1-8, G.Thomas 1-6, Abron 1-(minus 6). Fresno St., Harper 5-52, Adams 4-74, Rouse 4-42, Burse 3-107, Dean 3-97, Barnes 1-5.

## Football: CU Buffs play three quarterbacks

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

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FRESNO, Calif. -- Jon Embree is searching for a lot of answers three weeks into the college football season, nowhere more so than at quarterback.

Embree named Kansas transfer Jordan Webb his starter during training camp because he liked the decisions Webb was making in practices and he was comforted by the fact that Webb had started 19 games for the Jayhawks.

After two lackluster performances to start the season and, perhaps, to quiet the naysayers, Embree decided to give sophomore Connor Wood several series Saturday at Fresno State in one of the worst losses in the program's history.

Both quarterbacks appeared overwhelmed at times, desperately searching for an open receiver amid a flood of defenders charging through a porous offensive line.

Webb completed five of 13 passes for 85 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions. Fresno State safety Philip Thomas picked off a late pass to the sideline from Webb 2 minutes before halftime and returned it 16 yards for a touchdown.

At the end of his press conference last week, Embree was asked if there were things Webb could do better.

"Yeah, he's usually fairly accurate on the deep ball," Embree said. "A couple of times it's been the receiver, but sometimes it's been him, too, and we need him to be that guy like he was in camp, completing those."

Wood appeared to have the second half to make his case for more playing time, but he made the same mistake in the third quarter, throwing late to the wide side of the field where Thomas made the interception and returned it 43 yards for a score. Wood was intercepted again later in the quarter and Embree turned to third-year sophomore Nick Hirschman, his third quarterback of the night.

Wood completed five of 14 passes for 47 yards and two interceptions.

"After the initial disappointment, he's bounced back," Embree said of Wood this week. "He's competing again against Jordan. He's better at taking what is out there instead of forcing things. I think he's gotten a lot better at that."

When training camp began in early August in Boulder, the same three quarterbacks were involved and while Webb was initially dubbed the starter, it doesn't appear any of the three has distinguished himself in contests that matter.

CU coaches don't have many other options with true freshman Shane Dillon redshirting this season after undergoing shoulder surgery in the spring and walk-on John Schrock sick with mononucleosis. Perhaps coaches will give Hirschman another look with renewed enthusiasm after he had some success against players deep in the Fresno depth chart in the second half.

Hirschman was Tyler Hansen's backup during the 2011 season and played in five games, including one start last season.

[http://www.buffzone.com/football/ci\\_21555480/football-cu-buffs-plays-three-quarterbacks](http://www.buffzone.com/football/ci_21555480/football-cu-buffs-plays-three-quarterbacks)

The Buffs have a slew of problems that might not get answered at all this season, but finding some consistency under center will be a priority as they begin another long week of searching for remedies.

Follow Kyle on Twitter:

@KyleRingo

## Colorado loses another one, this time 69-14 at Fresno State

By Tom Kensler *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

Posted:

DenverPost.com

FRESNO, Calif. — Which team, again, represented a power conference? Colorado certainly didn't look like one of the big boys Saturday night against Mountain West member Fresno State at Bulldog Stadium.

Fresno State, which historically has prided itself in knocking off teams from the bigger conferences, raced to a 35-0 lead in the first quarter. Yes, first quarter. Then 48-0 midway through the second quarter. It was 55-7 at halftime.

But the time the final gun sounded, Fresno State had geared down to finish with a 69-14 victory.

Fresno State didn't use its best two offensive players, quarterback Derek Carr and tailback Robbie Rouse, in the second half. It was that bad. The Bulldogs finished with 665 yards of offense to the Buffaloes' 278.

"I still believe in this team. We have to fight and come back," CU coach Jon Embree said. "You have no choice. We have to come back Monday and find out what's ailing this team."

It could be said that Colorado's top performer in the game was sophomore punter Darragh O'Neill, who had 10 punts for a 42.8-yard average. Teams can't live on punting alone.

The Bulldogs bullied a winless Colorado team that couldn't do anything right and looked outmanned, outcoached and unprepared. Even a change at quarterback couldn't spark Colorado. With the Buffaloes already trailing 21-0 midway through the first period, sophomore Connor Wood replaced junior starter Jordan Webb.

After Wood threw two interceptions in the third quarter, Colorado replaced him with third-team quarterback Nick Hirschman, a sophomore from northern California who played sparingly in five games last year.

After the game, Embree said they'd have to look at the film to make a decision about the quarterback situation, and he also said he does not foresee any changes in his coaching staff this week.

During one possession, Wood was given good field position at the Fresno State 35 following a fumble on a Bulldogs punt return. But bumbling CU went three-and-out.

The three quarterbacks finished a combined 11-of-30 passing for 173 yards with four interceptions. CU had 105 yards rushing.

After a first quarter that lasted an hour, Colorado had 45 yards of total offense. That compared with 322 yards for Fresno State, which broke an ignominious CU record that had stood since 1980.

The onslaught included explosive scoring plays of 97 yards (Carr pass to Isaiah Burse) and 94 yards (run by Rouse).

The latter enabled Rouse, a 5-foot-7, 190-pound senior, to become the Bulldogs' all-time leading rusher and was the longest run from scrimmage ever by a CU opponent. He had 144 yards on only nine carries in the first half.

"There were breakdowns," Embree said of his defense in the first half on the big plays. "Sometimes we're so eager to make plays, we miss plays."

Carr finished 17-of-22 passing for 300 yards with five touchdowns, and all came in the first half. His backup, Greg

Watson, went 3-of-7 in the second half for 77 yards, including a 50-yard pass that led to the Bulldogs' final score.

In losing its first two games, Colorado at least had jumped out to early leads of 14-3 against Colorado State and 14-0 against Sacramento State. But Fresno State wanted no part of that. The Bulldogs took the game's opening kickoff and marched 65 yards for a touchdown, with Rouse doing the honors in acrobatic style.

Rouse took a handoff and started left, reversed to the right and then hurdled two CU defenders waiting for him at the 1-yard line.

Then, after an interception of a Webb pass by Bulldogs safety Phillip Thomas, Fresno State moved 45 yards for another score.

Following a 28-yard punt return, Fresno State made it 21-0 on the third touchdown by Rouse, the second via the air. The two length-of-the-field scores then put the finishing touches on a 35-0 first quarter that CU sports information officials said was the worst in the school's 123 years of football.

Thomas returned a second-half interception of Wood 43 yards for a 62-7 lead.

"The coaches have reminded us that we know how to win," CU linebacker Jon Major said. "We have to be a team that shows improvement and resolve and take everything with a grain of salt when we watch the film."

Colorado was hoping to avoid losing for the third time in a season to a team outside the power conferences during the modern (1950 and later) era.

Since 1980, Colorado had previously started a season 0-3 five times: 1980 (0-7), 1984 (0-5), 1986 (0-4), 2000 (0-4) and 2006 (0-6). The Buffs finished only one of those seasons with more than three victories — 6-6 in 1984.

Midway through the second quarter, Colorado was down 48-0.

And to think CU now begins Pac-12 Conference play, next Saturday at Washington State (2-1).

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Ugly 30 minutes

Fresno State set or came close to a number of records for a CU opponent in the first half:

35

Most points allowed by CU in the first quarter; previous record: 29 by Oregon on Oct. 22, 2011.

55

Fresno State's first-half points, the second-most allowed by CU in one half, just shy of the record (56 by UCLA on Sept. 13, 1980).

322

Most total yards allowed by CU in one quarter. Old mark was 312 vs. Oklahoma on Oct. 4, 1980.

516

[http://www.denverpost.com/cu/ci\\_21554547/colorado-loses-another-one-this-time-69-14](http://www.denverpost.com/cu/ci_21554547/colorado-loses-another-one-this-time-69-14)

Most total yards allowed by CU in one half. Old record was 486 vs. Oklahoma on Oct. 4, 1980.

Source: CU sports information dept.

## CU Buffs OT David Bakhtiari speaks from the heart to teammates

Posted:

DenverPost.com

FRESNO, Calif. —Colorado junior offensive tackle David Bakhtiari isn't usually the most talkative player on the team. But after the 69-14 spanking Saturday by Fresno State, he was the first to stand up before his teammates in the locker room.

"It was very emotional. It came from my heart," Bakhtiari said. "I'm not a very vocal person, unless I'm joking around having fun.

"So I told the guys, 'I'm not a guy that usually talks, but what do you guys play (the game) for?' I told them what I play for, and I went into detail about that.

"I told them that these coaches know how to win. They're the best coaches I've ever played for. I was completely distraught that we cannot execute what they set out for us. I told them, 'Look. If you're not willing to give 100 percent, to do exactly what they tell you, buy into this program, be a Buffalo, then I don't want you coming to practice, I don't want you suiting up, I don't want any of that.' "

No coaching changes. CU coach Jon Embree said after the game he does not plan on making any staff changes.

"I believe in our coaches," he said.

Pericak liking defensive end. A defensive tackle for most of his career, senior Will Pericak (6-foot-4, 285 pounds) made his second start at defensive end. That enabled true freshman defensive tackle Josh Tupou (6-3, 325) to move into the starting lineup.

"We want to get our best players on the field," Embree said.

Pericak said he enjoys playing at end.

"It's something new, and there is more space playing D-end," Pericak said. "It was a little awkward at first, but I'm getting used to it."

Embree said the move could improve Pericak's stock in the eyes of NFL scouts.

Doghouse. Fresno State now has a 12-5 home record against Pac-12 teams. The Bulldogs have 13 victories over teams from the power conferences since 2003.

Footnotes. Fresno State entered the game averaging 31 points but ranked just 119th among FBS teams in third-down conversion percentage. ... The temperature at kickoff was 102 degrees. Tom Kensler, The Denver Post

# Fresno State football: Rouse breaks record, Bulldogs rout Colorado

By Bryant-Jon Anteola / The Fresno Bee

Saturday, Sep. 15, 2012 | 11:06 PM

Turns out, the memorable, record-setting night wasn't reserved just for Fresno State running back Robbie Rouse.

The entire Bulldogs team decided to join the fun while providing maybe the most dominating first-half performance in Fresno State history.

Rouse surpassed Ron Rivers as the Bulldogs' career rushing leader and tied another school record in the process.

And Fresno State scored 55 in the first half alone to set a Mountain West record for points in a half en route to a 69-14 walloping of the Pac-12's Colorado on Saturday before an announced crowd of 27,513 at Bulldog Stadium.

Safety Phillip Thomas, too, entered the records books after tying the school mark and Mountain West record with three interceptions, two of which were returned for touchdowns.

"I was pleased by the way our guys came out of the gate," Fresno State coach Tim DeRuyter said. "Our guys got confidence in the system, confidence in believing in each other, what we're capable of doing. ... I think we have a good, hard edge to our team."

Almost every Bulldogs unit contributed on this rare occasion that Fresno State unquestionably dominated a BCS program from start to finish.

Colorado (0-3) might be the worst, if not the most undisciplined, BCS program in the nation after drawing 11 penalties for 89 yards. But Fresno State hardly cared.

The Bulldogs (2-1) scored touchdowns on each of their first six possessions and rolled up 516 total yards in the first half behind their no-huddle, spread offense that looked more potent than ever. They passed deep. They passed short, which turned into big plays. They turned runs into long gains.

"Once we were connecting on all plays, that's just what I was expecting us to do," said Bulldogs quarterback Derek Carr, who completed 17 of 22 passes for 300 yards and five touchdowns. "And then once you look over at the scoreboard and it's 35-0, you're like 'Wow. That happened so fast.' We didn't have time to think about it."

By the end of the night, Fresno State amassed 665 total yards and 10 touchdowns.

The Bulldogs' aggressive defense, meanwhile, held Colorado scoreless for the first 25 minutes as their fire-zone blitzing proved to be too confusing for either of the two Buffaloes quarterbacks to figure out. Colorado completed just 10 of 27 passes.

In all, the Bulldogs had four turnovers and four sacks. Colorado finished with 278 total yards and a mere 11 first downs as the Bulldogs seemed to carry over their intensity shown during an impressive second half during a 42-25 loss at No. 4 Oregon last week.

"We see how good our defense can play when you watch the second half against Oregon," Thomas said. "We hold it upon ourselves to play at that level or get better each week now."

As impressive as each unit was as a whole, much of the fanfare still belonged to Rouse -- Fresno State's undersized but immensely appreciated playmaker.

The 5-foot-7, 190-pound senior scored Fresno State's first two touchdowns as the Bulldogs seemed intent to put Rouse in position to have a memorable night. Then came the play that caused Bulldog Stadium to roar.

With Fresno State backed up on its own 6, Rouse took a handoff from Carr and broke loose with a run to the right. Fresno State fans loudly cheered as Rouse ran toward the record and the end zone en route a 94-yard touchdown and the Bulldogs pulled ahead 35-0.

The run gave Rouse the school's career rushing record. He also tied Fresno State's record for longest run.

Rouse carried the ball just nine times as several reserves got to play as the game progressed. But he still finished with 144 rushing yards and two touchdowns. In addition, Rouse made four catches for 42 yards and two touchdowns.

"It was better than I even imagined," Rouse said of the night. "The way we came out and played ... we should expect to play like this each week."

## **Winning big**

### **Largest margins of victory in Fresno State history:**

**80:** 80-0 vs. Fort Ord, 1942

**77:** 94-17 vs. New Mexico, 1991

**66:** 66-0 vs. San Diego State, 1934

**66:** 66-0 vs. Cal Tech 0, 1934

**60:** 60-0 vs. San Diego State, 1960

**57:** 63-6 vs. Barbarians, 1925

**56:** 70-14 vs. Hawaii, 2004

**55:** 69-14 vs. Colorado, 2012

**54:** 54-0 vs. Washburn, 1965

**53:** 60-7 vs. Pepperdine, 1952

**53:** 55-2 vs. Montana State, 1986