

## CU Buffs learned to believe in Wonder at Wazzu

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

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PULLMAN, WASH. — Colorado's Pac-12 schedule toughens, so it remains to be seen whether Saturday's stunning, 35-34, roar-from-behind victory over Washington State will beget more big wins. But for now, it is just as important that a young Buffaloes team learned something about itself.

Colorado (1-3, 1-0 Pac-12) trailed 31-14 midway through the fourth quarter. But unlike a week earlier, when there was a lot of head shaking on the Buffs' sideline as Fresno State jumped to a huge early lead, CU players remained focused.

"We told each other to just stay in it," CU sophomore tailback Tony Jones said. "We definitely weren't going to let go. We stayed up, stayed up. The offense was cheering on the defense, and the defense was cheering on the offense."

Jones became proof positive that some of those steps can turn into long sprints. On a simple stretch play with 4 ½ minutes to go, Jones swept around right end. By the time he stopped running, 84 yards later in the end zone, he had pulled Colorado within 31-28. Suddenly, it was a ballgame.

"I just thought: 'I can't get caught from behind. I can't get caught from behind,' " Jones said.

Jones, 5-foot-7 and 190 pounds, was an unlikely hero. He entered the game with a long carry of just 8 yards, missed a game with an ankle injury and had lost his starting job to true freshman Christian Powell, a 235-pound bruiser. Jones' 84-yard score was the eighth-longest rush in 123 years of CU football, the longest run for a Buff back in almost 10 years — since Chris Brown galloped 85 yards against Kansas State in 2002.

CU's Jordan Webb scored on a 4-yard quarterback draw with nine seconds left for the game-winner. The Buffs had taken possession at their 30 after a Washington State field goal that put the Cougars up 34-28 with 3:17 to go. Running the ball effectively, CU moved downfield and appeared in good shape with first-and-goal. But the WSU defense limited Powell on three carries, and the Buffs faced a fourth-and-goal.

CU coaches called a run-pass option for Webb. If the Cougars' defense didn't clog the middle, he was to tuck it and go. He put his head down, ran through the left side and was mobbed by teammates in the end zone.

"We had the look that we needed," CU coach Jon Embree said.

In addition to Jones' 84-yarder, the afternoon produced several superlatives for Colorado, including:

- The 17-point comeback tied for the fourth largest in CU history, and ranked second among fourth-quarter rallies. CU rallied from 19 down against Kansas in 1961.
- Nick Kasa's 70-yard touchdown reception from Webb with 7:06 remaining became the longest ever to a CU tight end in the regular season.
- Redshirt freshman wide receiver Nelson Spruce recorded his first 100-yard game (eight catches for 103 yards). Seven of his eight receptions earned first downs.

"It was a great win," Webb said. "Coach (Embree) said there's a 24-hour rule. We can bask in the win for a day."

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But Monday we have to come back to work."

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## Colorado to host UCLA on Saturday

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UCLA at Colorado, 4 p.m., Saturday, Pac-12 Network

For the record: UCLA entered its home game against Oregon State ranked No. 19 in the polls. The Bruins ended the afternoon with their first loss, dropping to 3-1 and 0-1 Pac-12 with a 27-20 loss to the Beavers and falling out of the top 25.

Steaking: Despite their national ranking, the Bruins began the weekend ranked ninth among Pac-12 teams in total defense and yielded 501 yards to the Beavers.

Who's hot: Redshirt freshman quarterback Brett Hundley threw for 372 yards and a touchdown against Oregon State, completing 27-of-42 passes.

Who's not: UCLA running back Johnathan Franklin had been the nation's top rusher (180.3 yards per game) but was limited by Oregon State to 45 yards on 12 carries.

Key stat: The Bruins' defense allowed Oregon State sophomore QB Sean Mannion to have a huge day with 379 yards passing.

FYI: UCLA's ties to CU are gone, with Rick Neuheisel no longer the Bruins' coach and wide receivers Josh Smith (ex-Buff) and Taylor Embree (son of Buffs coach Jon Embree) and C Kai Maiava (ex-Buff) having completed their eligibility.

Injury report: None reported.

Coach speak: "We have lots of lessons to learn from this. We'll see how we handle adversity." — UCLA coach Jim Mora Tom Kensler, The Denver Post

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## Colorado continues trend: upset conference win over Wazzu

By **TOM KENSLER** |  No Comments

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Washington State may never want to be favored in a conference game again.

The Cougars were favored by as many as 20 points Saturday at home against Colorado. Oops. Colorado roared back from being 17 points down midway through the fourth quarter and upset Wazzu 35-34 on a 4-yard touchdown keeper by CU's Jordan Webb with nine seconds remaining.

The two previous times WSU was favored in a league game came in 2011 and 2007, both against Oregon State.

Oops.

Opps.

Oregon State was a 3-point underdog to WSU in 2011 and won 44-21. In 2007, the Beavers were again a 3-point underdog to Wazzu and waxed the Cougars 52-17.

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## Football: Bruins bring familiar name to Boulder

By Ryan Thorburn *Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera*

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Buffzone.com

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There is going to be a highly skilled and physically imposing tight end named Fauria playing at Folsom Field on Saturday.

Unfortunately for the Buffs, Christian Fauria is out of eligibility.

But the former Colorado star is very proud of what his nephew Joseph Fauria is starting to accomplish at UCLA.

The Bruins (3-1) are preparing this week to play the Buffs (1-3) in Boulder for the first time as a Pac-12 rival (4 p.m., Pac-12 Network).

"I think he's playing OK. Obviously, I grade a lot tougher than most," Christian said of Joseph during a recent interview with the Camera. "He can do a lot better though. The upside for him is ridiculous as far as what he's capable of with the skills he has."

In three games this season, Joseph Fauria has 11 receptions for 142 yards and three touchdowns. The 6-foot-7, 255-pound senior only had two catches for 20 yards in UCLA's 27-20 home loss to Oregon State on Saturday.

Bruins redshirt freshman quarterback Brett Hundley threw 42 times for 372 yards. The Beavers shut down UCLA's fifth-ranked rushing attack (72 net yards).

"I don't think they use Joseph enough. I yell at the TV all the time," Christian Fauria said. "He's physically imposing and he has phenomenal hands. He's tall, he's not afraid to get hit, and he's deceptively fast for a guy that big."

Sounds a lot like Christian Fauria. At CU he had 98 catches for 1,458 yards (14.87 per) and 12 touchdowns catching passes from Kordell Stewart.

The 1994 Buffs are considered to be the most talented team in school history. The team went 11-1 that season, Fauria's senior year, with the tight end helping block for Rashaan Salaam's successful 2,000-yard Heisman Trophy campaign.

The current Buffs are rebuilding from the ashes of six consecutive losing seasons, but the team is coming off a galvanizing 35-34 victory at Washington State.

Christian Fauria, a two-time Super Bowl champion with the New England Patriots, was no doubt smiling as tight end Nick Kasa was churning down field for a 70-yard touchdown to help spark the comeback.

Fauria, who lives in the Boston area and does a pre- and post-game Patriots show, said it was difficult to follow the Buffs from afar as Jon Embree's second season began with losses to Colorado State, Sacramento State and Fresno State.

However, the 13-year NFL veteran believes the coaching staff can make CU football relevant again on the recruiting trail.

"Take out the football program, Boulder is just a great place to go to school," Fauria said. "A lot of people don't

know about it and don't care to. But half our team was from California and Texas. We were getting the kids that usually went to Texas, Notre Dame and USC.

"The effort is there. I know they have a great coaching staff. All they need is the players."

Rick Neuheisel, Christian Fauria's coach at CU, also coached Joseph Fauria last season. He was fired and replaced by Jim Mora Jr., whose father was once an assistant for the Buffs.

"I'm a Joseph Fauria fan," Christian Fauria said when asked about Neuheisel. "I think Rick did a good job. Rick recruited very well. Mora has obviously brought a different attitude to that team that was lacking."

Fauria is also an Embree fan. He was in agreement with Bill McCartney last week when the legendary CU coach preached patience to the fan base before the breakthrough win over Washington State.

"Look at McCartney and at how long it took him to build it. He suffered a lot in those early years," Fauria said. "I know they have the right coach. They need to give him some more support and hopefully they don't pull the plug after three years."

Pac-12 fan

"I love it," Fauria, a 1990 graduate of Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino, Calif., said of CU's move to the Pac-12. "I wish we would have been in the Pac-12 because I could have gone home to play every year.

"I always thought Colorado was more of a West Coast school anyway."

Well-connected

Embree's son Taylor played with Joseph Fauria last season at UCLA. Both Embree and offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy were assistants for the Bruins before coaching in the NFL and then returning to their alma mater.

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