



Coach Jon Embree believes big win at WSU has been handled properly.
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



Brooks: Buffs Say They Can Handle Swig Of Success

Release: 09/25/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER - Football teams, particularly young ones, can linger on losses. Exception to the rule: The Colorado Buffaloes. They didn't linger on the three unsightly defeats they absorbed before opening Pac-12 Conference play last weekend at Washington State, rallying from 17 points back in the fourth quarter to win by a point.

Now, the questions become: Will the Buffs linger on a 'W?' Can they handle a short but satisfying swig of success?

The Buffs and their coach believe so. They are at home on Saturday against UCLA (4 p.m., Pac-12 Network) and they're still oh-fer this season at Folsom Field, where Sacramento State shocked them (30-28) earlier this month in their only home game to date.

CU quarterback Jordan Webb said he and his teammates are "feeling confident, hopefully not cocky. But that's not the

BUFFALO EXTRAS



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(right) word, that's not how any of us are wired. So I don't think it should be a problem, we have to put (the WSU win) behind us. It won't matter on Saturday whether we had won or lost the previous Saturday. We just have to go out there and give it our best shot."

Tight end DaVaughn Thornton called the dramatic 35-34 win in Pullman, Wash., "a great, beautiful victory that we'll still reminisce on . . . but it's over. If we don't win on Saturday, that one was all for nothing. We'll be back to where we were.

"But I believe wholeheartedly that was a stepping stone. I've been here for four years now and there was something about that win . . . not to take anything away from Utah, but there was something about that Washington State win. It was like, 'OK, let's go.'"

Added fellow tight end Kyle Slavin on the win at Wazzu: "I think it's already in the past. All it really does is get our energy level back up and everyone around us back up. But I think we're already focusing on UCLA; that's no easy task this week. We believed in ourselves, but it still was a good thing to get that victory."

Next on the to-do list is a home win. With consecutive Pac-12 road wins, counting the season-ending trip to Utah in 2011 and 17-14 triumph, one of CU's priorities is re-creating a home-field advantage - something that Buffs teams of late have let slide. CU was 1-4 at Folsom last season. The most recent winning record at home was compiled in 2010, a 4-2 record that was matched in 2008.

Webb said if the Buffs' frustration from the previous weekend - a 69-14 smackdown at Fresno State - could be pushed behind them, then surely they can properly deal with the season's first win.

"As athletes we were about as frustrated as you can be, disappointed with how Fresno went," he said. "It speaks volumes of how we are as a team, being able to bounce back and not only win but come from behind and win. It felt really good to win; it was a little bit of a monkey off our backs. But we also know that game's over; we've got another challenge coming up this weekend with UCLA. Every week you've got a challenge. We know that."

The Pac-12 offensive player-of-the-week for his four-touchdown performance (two passing, two rushing) at WSU, Webb said the Buffs "played with energy the entire (WSU) game, which is something we haven't done and been consistent with. That's great. The whole time we kept our heads up . . . it was great to see the whole team working together and kind of being one cohesive group."

Coach Jon Embree didn't seem concerned about his young team digesting its first win and re-focusing on UCLA. He said it was discussed in the jubilant locker room last weekend: "It's 24 hours and then we move. They'll be handled appropriately . . . I'm not worried about it; they're going to respond how they're going to respond. Whatever happens Saturday, whatever happened last week is not really going to have a bearing on it. It's going to be another step in our process with these kids. We haven't won a home game yet. There's a lot out there for them to go out and get."

Through his team's three consecutive losses to open the season, Embree said he had detected no red flags that his younger players had lost focus or confidence in how they were being coached. Telltale signs would have been tardiness or absences from study table and class, slacking in the weight room, even in dress, he noted.

"The things you look for as a coach - are they still doing the little things," he said. "Those, to me, are the red flags saying 'we're giving up' or 'oh well' - whatever it is you want to say. Those things have never dipped. We've had great class attendance, great effort on that side of the program . . . same in the weight room, same in when they get on the field."

The Buffs, said Webb, aspire to be "the kind of team that plays to the very end no matter what the score is . . .



Parade Of Buffs



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National Football Foundation - Colorado Chapter

moving forward, we just have to build on it."

NOT A DOUBTING THOMAS (OR JORDAN): Webb scored CU's game-tying touchdown last weekend on a 4-yard quarterback draw with nine seconds to play. He also scored in the third quarter on a one-yard sneak and completed 29-of-42 passes for 345 yards and touchdowns of 16 yards to receiver Nelson Spruce and 70 yards to tight end Nick Kasa.

Webb also took a helmet to the mid-section that forced him out of the game for a play in the fourth quarter. But he bounced back to guide the Buffs on their game-winning march.

After three frustrating weeks, it was easily Webb's finest game as Buff. The Kansas transfer said he never doubted he eventually would experience success at CU: "No, I'm not that type of person . . . I'm here for a reason, the coaches believe in me for a reason. I think that reason is because I'm a good player. I'm definitely not going to doubt myself now."

At KU, Webb started 19 games and won four. Before Saturday's game, he was the QB in 13 consecutive losses. Embree wasn't aware of that statistic and said from day one in Boulder, Webb had exhibited leadership and a swagger throughout August practice.

"I think a lot of it with Jordan was probably in how he was raised," Embree said. "When you have a good support system, good coaches around you when you're growing up and people telling you you can and helping you believe in yourself and helping you see the positives in some of the setbacks you have, that adds to it."

"There's no way you can play at this level - whether you're losing or winning - if you don't believe in yourself at the end of the day. We have some guys in that locker room down there that haven't played a down, but they're going in the Hall of Fame if you asked them. That's got to be within your DNA, your makeup . . . and you've got to be able to block it out. When they're saying bad things about you, you can't listen; and when they're saying good things about you, you can't listen."

He said keeping an even keel while pushing to improve were critical elements, and Webb "does a good job of that."

BUFF BITS: This is Breast Cancer Awareness week and the Buffs will wear a pink accessory Saturday against the Bruins. Embree said the disease has hit close to home with the football program, athletic department and school. "We want to do all we can to help with awareness," he said. "So wear your black and your pink." . . . Embree is familiar with UCLA. He was an assistant there under Karl Dorrell and Rick Neuheisel and knows some of the Bruins assistants who coached in the NFL and elsewhere. But he is not as well-acquainted with first-year head coach Jim Mora, Jr., having been with him only on a couple of occasions . . . UCLA tailback Jonathan "Jet Ski" Franklin had strung together three consecutive 100-plus yard rushing games before being held to 45 by Oregon State. Still, Franklin ranks fourth nationally in rushing (146.5 yards a game) . . . Freshman Brett Hundley is the first Bruins QB to throw for at least 300 yards in three consecutive games. He's second in the Pac-12 in passing offense (299.7 yards a game) . . . CU leads the series with UCLA 5-2, but the Bruins won in a breeze (45-6) last season in the Rose Bowl.

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SHOW MENU



Football: CU Buffs' Jon Embree touts Will Pericak's skills

By Ryan Thorburn *Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera*

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Jon Embree doesn't know when or if Will Pericak will be selected in the NFL draft next spring.

Colorado's head coach only knows that the former Boulder High School standout shouldn't be finished playing football after this season.

"Will Pericak has had a heck of a year so far. Will Pericak has done a lot of really good things," Embree said at his Tuesday press conference. "He's a guy that's going to play on Sunday."

The CU staff, which has an impressive amount of NFL coaching experience, believes Pericak can play defensive tackle at the next level in a 4-3 defense. But they feel the versatile 6-4, 285-pound prospect is better suited for defensive end in a 3-4 scheme.

After playing inside against Colorado State in the opener, Pericak was moved to left defensive end. He has been named as a team captain in three of CU's first four games and notched his first sack of the season in the breakthrough win at Washington State.

"I've got to have a good season and that's really all I'm focused on," Pericak said when asked about Embree's NFL projection. "I'm focused on having the time of my life playing college football. ... Doing that is going to create the best opportunity to play at the next level. Whatever happens, happens."

Pericak will be grilled by scouts about being a Type 1 Diabetic and how that impacts his football life. It's an issue the fifth-year senior is happy to talk about publicly if it can serve as motivation for young people with the disease.

"It's definitely a curve ball you're not expecting," said Pericak, who was diagnosed at age 15 when he was a freshman at BHS. "It has forced me to kind of watch what I do eat and know what I eat. And also the differences in how exercise affects blood sugar and how to stay on top of that and in control. ...

"Football has kept me in shape and to be as healthy as I can. It's an extra step I've gotten used to."

Respect for (real) refs

Embree said he is consistently engaging in respectable dialogue with officials during CU's games. Besides the horribly blown calls, a lack of respect for the replacement officials in the NFL has the CU coach concerned about the future of the sport at its highest level.

"Can Mr. Roger Goodell's hand reach this far and get in my pocket?" Embree said with a smile when asked about the controversial lockout of NFL officials and the performance of their replacements.

No, the commissioner can't fine college coaches. Embree was an assistant with the Kansas City Chiefs and Washington Redskins before returning to his alma mater.

After working late preparing for Saturday's game against UCLA, Embree did catch the final play of the Seattle-Green Bay Monday Night Football game that many Americans are talking about.

"I could not believe it. It's just crazy," Embree said. "It's the best game out there, the NFL. It's the best league, it's

the best game going. I think what people will understand when they do get it fixed is just how good those guys in the stripes (the locked out NFL officials) are. They're the easiest target, but those guys get it right a lot."

Celebration time, come on?

Speaking of penalties Embree doesn't agree with, Josh Ford was flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct after coming off the sideline to celebrate a touchdown in the fourth quarter at Washington State.

After the 15-yard penalty on the kickoff, CU allowed a 56-yard return that set up a field goal for the Cougars to make the score 34-28.

It only added to the drama as CU marched down for the winning score, a 4-yard Jordan Webb touchdown run with nine seconds remaining.

"It didn't bother me," Embree said of Ford's penalty. "The funny thing to me is Parker Orms was the first one down there. Parker was also the first one to get back before Josh, so Josh gets the penalty."

Injury report

The Buffs could be getting some important players back from injury this week. Linebacker Doug Rippy (knee) plans to play for the first time since getting injured in the Sacramento State game.

Starting center Gus Handler (ankle) is listed as questionable. Defensive tackle Josh Tupou (concussion) and linebacker Paul Vigo (concussion) are day-to-day.

Only free safety Ray Polk (ankle) and center Brad Cotner (toe) have been ruled out for this Saturday's game.

"You start getting some key pieces back, that will also help you," Embree said.

Quotable

"It looks like Oregon has gotten faster, which is disappointing," said Embree, who watched the Ducks' 49-0 win over Arizona on CU's flight home from Spokane. Wash. "I don't know where Chip (Kelly) gets it, but he's got it rolling."

Notable

Jim Mora, a CU assistant from 1968-73, will be in Boulder to on Saturday as part of the 1970s reunion. His son, Jim Mora Jr., is UCLA's head coach. ... The Buffs are 16-4 all-time during Family Weekend (originally called Parents' Weekend). ... The last seven times the Buffs opened up conference play with a win they went on to make it 2-0.

Follow Ryan on Twitter: @RyanThorburn

Thorburn: Sometimes a video can change everything

By Ryan Thorburn Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

It's time for the guys behind the camera to take a bow.

After Colorado's inspired comeback victory at Washington State last Saturday, head coach Jon Embree presented Jamie Guy and John Snelson with game balls in the exultant visiting locker room.

Neither man played a down or even suited up.

Guy is CU's award-winning director of sports video. Snelson is his dedicated and tireless assistant.

These behind-the-scenes guys love what they do as much as Embree loves coaching.

After painfully searching for highlights to edit from the unsightly non-conference losses to Colorado State, Sacramento State and Fresno State, a brilliant idea came into focus for Guy.

"Last Wednesday morning I was kind of frustrated and trying to figure out how to help in any way possible," Guy said. "I wanted to go above and beyond to do something."

Guy's vision was to put together a video package where legendary Buffs would talk about what the program and singing the fight song after a road victory meant to them.

Embree and offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy, two passionate former Buffs players, gave the video team two thumb's up. Guy and Snelson began contacting former players and conducting interviews.

Chad Brown, Charles Johnson and Alfred Williams are among the many familiar CU faces who appear in the video.

A project that would normally take two or three weeks was painstakingly produced in about 48 hours.

"I couldn't have done it without (Snelson). We're very proud of it. It was a crazy thing to do in two days," Guy said. "John pulled an all-nighter to finish it before we left. All that time and effort, for us, was well worth it."

Embree debuted the video last Friday night at the team hotel in Spokane, Wash., to rave reviews.

"When that was all said in done, I think it put a lot of things in perspective for them," Embree said. "Hearing from the former players, how they believe in them and they're behind them, that's what they needed to hear at that time.

"And they responded."

CU rallied from 17 points down in the fourth quarter to stun the Cougars in Pullman. It was the largest fourth-quarter deficit the Buffs have ever overcome on the road.

Not even the sports video staff could have scripted such a wild turn of events a week after the same team lost 69-14 at Fresno State.

"I could tell on the sideline that there was something different about the guys than the previous two games," Guy said. "I didn't know exactly what that was, but I could tell they were focused and there were a lot of emotions

going on with the players and the coaches."

Jordan Webb's 70-yard touchdown pass to Nick Kasa changed the momentum of the game. The much-maligned defense taking a stand and forcing Mike Leach's offense into punts and field goals down the stretch kept CU within reach on the scoreboard. Tony Jones' 84-yard touchdown run and Webb's final touchdown scamper made the comeback a reality.

But the players say it all started with an extra (special) film session on the eve of the game.

"I kind of grew up watching CU football and seeing all those guys that were in the video, it gives you shivers a little bit," said senior defensive end Will Pericak. "Seeing Chad Brown in there and all these other guys ... knowing that they've got your back is good to know."

All of the players interviewed provided some affecting words for the Buffs. Guy said the raw emotion from Brown, a 15-year NFL veteran who was a member of CU's 1990 national championship team, was the most powerful and moving piece of footage, which made for a perfect ending to the video.

"I think it's kind of risky when you do that because there's a difference between rah, rah, and then real, true emotions and feelings," Brown said. "If it's false, even though a lot of these kids have only been on campus for two months now, they can see that. But when it's real, honest, true feelings ... I got emotional talking about it because my time here was so special.

"The players can sense that and that helps make an impact and helps penetrate."

Brown had to coach in a Pop Warner football game on Saturday afternoon and missed the end of CU's memorable Pac-12 opener.

But he already knew the ending.

"I saw the comeback starting to mount. I could feel it and my last words to my wife before I left out the door were: 'Buffs are going to win, Buffs are going to win,'" Brown said.

CU fans can view an encore performance of the video at the "Parade of Buffs" rally this Thursday night at Broomfield's 1st Bank Center.

Bill McCartney, Gary Barnett, Cliff Branch, Deon Figures, Matt Russell, Kordell Stewart, Michael Westbrook and other former coaches and players will be in attendance at the rally ahead of Saturday's game against UCLA at Folsom Field.

Perhaps Guy and Snelson will be asked to take a bow.

Follow Ryan on Twitter: @RyanThorburn.

Colorado looking for first home win with Bruins in town

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Colorado coach Jon Embree praised the play of quarterback Jordan Webb and defensive lineman Will Pericak today during his weekly media luncheon and said last week's victory at Washington State was good for the team's psyche.

The Buffs overcame a 17-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat the Cougars and stabilize the season after fans and boosters had been in an uproar following three straight losses to start Embree's second season as coach.

"To win in that manner was important and to do it on the road was important," Embree said. "It gives them confidence and helps validate the things we've been asking them to do. We put a lot of demands on them and when you put all these demands on them and there is no success, it can be demoralizing."

The Buffs will host UCLA (3-1, 0-1) which is coming off a loss to Oregon State. The Buffs are looking for their first home win against an opponent that beat them soundly a year ago 45-6 at the Rose Bowl.

Of course, both teams are significantly different this fall. The Buffs are a young group finding their way behind Webb, who earned his first win as CU's starter last week. The Bruins are under new management with coach Jim Mora in his first season at the helm and redshirt freshman quarterback Brett Hundley guiding the offense.

Embree said Hundley is a talented dual-threat player who will make things difficult on a CU defense that has allowed at least 30 points in each of its past three games. Hundley is second in total offense in the Pac-12 Conference and has the league's leading rusher, Jonathan Franklin in his backfield.

"When you have a dual-threat quarterback like that, you have to be very assignment conscious," Embree said.

Embree is very familiar with many members of the UCLA team because his oldest son, Taylor, played wide receiver for the Bruins the past five seasons.

Mora's father, Jim Mora Sr., is a former CU assistant coach who will be at Folsom Field on Saturday as one of many former players and coaches from the 1970s who were invited back to campus for a celebration of that era in the program's history.

Other notable names who are making their way back to campus this weekend are former coach Bill Mallory, former players Cliff Branch, Larry Brunson, Greg Horton, Jim Kelleher and Emery Moorehead.

The Buffs will be wearing pink accents to uniforms on Saturday against the Bruins in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness.

"It has hit a few people close to us, coaches and players, so wear your black and your pink," Embree said.

This weekend is also parents weekend at CU, which has become a bigger draw than homecoming at CU over the past decade.

Motivational video contributed to Colorado's first win, players say

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

Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER — In Colorado's 35-34 win at Washington State, the Buffaloes got some huge breakaway plays in the fourth quarter, a passing effort from quarterback Jordan Webb that earned him Pac-12 offensive player of the week, even some timely defensive stops.

Something else contributed — a 20-minute video that the team contends impacted the victory as much as anything.

The tape, produced by the Colorado sports video department, was shown to the team Friday night at the team hotel and featured messages from former CU players such as Alfred Williams, Chad Brown, Charles Johnson and others.

"Those guys talked about what it meant to be a Buff," CU coach Jon Embree said Tuesday during his weekly media luncheon. "They talked about the legacy of this program, and what it means when you're through being a Buff and how you look back on it.

"That was big for our players. It put some things in perspective for them."

Following the victory in Pullman, Wash., CU director of sports video Jamie Guy and his assistant were awarded game balls from Embree.

"I think that video affected guys a lot," said sophomore tailback Tony Jones, whose 84-yard touchdown run pulled Colorado to within three points with 4:23 remaining.

"Seeing them singing that fight song, it's like an anthem. That translated big time to the game. Everybody felt the way those former Buffs felt. Seeing that, you're always going to want to finish plays. You're always going to want to fight to the last whistle.

"That's what they told us to do — fight to the end of the final whistle to make sure you go out there to play your hardest."

Chad Brown, now a local sports radio talk-show host, said it is gratifying to hear that the message made an impact.

"When players and coaches point to your words as somehow inspiring them to victory, it's special," Brown said.

Colorado (1-3, 1-0 Pac-12) hosts UCLA (3-1, 0-1) Saturday at 4 p.m. (Pac-12 Network).

"We have to put (the win at Washington State) behind us," Webb said. "It won't matter on Saturday against UCLA whether we won our last game or lost."

Beware of Bruins' D. UCLA, which had been nationally ranked prior to losing at home to Oregon State last weekend, has the Pac-12's top rusher, senior Johnathan Franklin (146.5 yards per game) and third leading passer, redshirt freshman Brett Hundley (299.8). But any discussion about the Bruins, Embree said, should start with their defense.

"Their defense creates a lot of opportunities for their offense," Embree said. "We have to do a good job of converting third downs. And when we get opportunities, we have to get touchdowns, not field goals."

UCLA's opportunistic defense rates only ninth this week among Pac-12 teams in total defense, yielding 421.5 yards per game. But the Bruins are tied for first in interceptions (eight) and rank second in turnover margin (plus-1 per game).

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John Henderson: Washington State's collapse vs. CU Buffs was stunning

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

Posted:

DenverPost.com

Mike Leach never had any problems with this when he was at Texas Tech. His Red Raiders were great at holding leads. They were pretty good turning big leads into pinball scores too.

His teams beat Clemson 55-15 and Kansas State 66-14, and don't forget the 70-10 pummeling of Nebraska.

Yet there were his young Washington State Cougars, leading Colorado 34-17 with 7½ minutes left Saturday, and they couldn't hold on.

"I don't get it," WSU cornerback Daniel Simmons told reporters after the game. "In my opinion, we lost to a team we're far better than."

The Cougars' defensive collapse was about as poor as I've seen. How does a secondary with a 17-point lead let Nick Kasa, a 260-pound converted defensive end playing his fifth game at tight end, get loose for a 70-yard touchdown pass?

"I didn't realize it was an 'empty' formation," safety Deone Bucannon said. "I was on the wrong guy. It was totally my fault."

Then, on Colorado's next possession, tailback Tony Jones got loose down around right end without a single Cougar turning him inside. He went 84 yards to give the Buffs true hope in their 35-34 victory.

Remember, handing off to Jones was backup quarterback Connor Wood, in for one snap while the injured Jordan Webb looked for his esophagus after getting clobbered the previous play. What were the chances of Wood, cold off the bench, going back to pass?

"We have guys that ... a lot of times you want to play when you're ahead," Leach said on Tuesday's Pac-12 coaches conference call. "You get excited, then all of a sudden it gets tough and we collapse." CU gets Mora's attention. Normally I never print a coach's quotes about his upcoming opponent. The line of coaches who have been honest about an opponent begins and ends with Barry Switzer.

But Colorado's stunning comeback impressed everyone, including UCLA coach Jim Mora, who faces a suddenly rejuvenated team at Folsom Field on Saturday.

"They started out fast," Mora said on Tuesday's call. "They had a really good first drive. They went right down the field and scored. They played fast and looked efficient. Then when they mounted that comeback in the fourth quarter, you could just see confidence in what they were doing growing.

"They showed a ton of heart and great character."

Arizona cold in red zone. Arizona may have set some kind of record for reaching the red zone six times Saturday and coming away with zero points. Those miscues led to a 49-0 loss at Oregon. Yes, six times Arizona had the ball at or inside the 20 yet came away with zip, including on their first four possessions. On the Wildcats' first possession, they reached the Oregon 4 and botched the hold on a field goal. They then reached the 18 and threw an interception. They reached the 2 next, and quarterback Matt Scott was thrown for a 1-yard loss. Then, from the 13, they missed a field goal. By then, Oregon was well on its way to victory.

"It was really poor execution," Arizona coach Rich Rodriguez said. "It's certainly going to be a point of emphasis."

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The Field House — Blogs — The Denver Post

SEPTEMBER 26, 2012, 6:53 AM

Terrific timing: Colorado Buffs pep rally follows Pac-12 road win

By **TOM KENSLER** |  No Comments

BOULDER — How's this for perfect timing: The previously scheduled "Parade of Buffs Shoulder-to-Shoulder Rally" on Thursday evening (Sept. 27) at 1stBank Center in Broomfield will now follow an exciting Pac-12 road win — Colorado's come-from-behind 35-34 victory last weekend at Washington State.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. 1stBank Center is the former Broomfield Events Center, 11450 Broomfield Lane.

The event is free to the public with advanced registration. To register, go to www.cubuffs.com/events or call 303-492-5497.

Scheduled to speak include Colorado coach Jon Embree, legendary CU coach Bill McCartney, CU great and current Broncos executive Matt Russell and many others.

The event also will feature the CU Pep Band and the school's mascot Chip. Light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be provided. Parking is free.

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<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2012/09/26/terrific-timing-colorado-buffs-pep-rally-pac12-road-win/24986/>

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SEPTEMBER 25, 2012, 11:52 AM

Colorado's Jordan Webb showed why Jon Embree picked him as quarterback

By **JOHN HENDERSON** |  No Comments

How quarterback Jordan Wynn led Colorado back from 17 points down to beat Washington State Saturday is the reason he won the position battle in fall camp, coach Jon Embree said.

“That’s one of the reasons we picked him for the job,” Embree said on Tuesday’s Pac-12 Conference call. “In competitive situations he seems to raise up and do things. Some of the struggles have been being on the same page with his receivers and his protection. It hasn’t always been him.

“He never doubted himself. He never really doubted his teammates. You could tell by how he was practicing. You could tell by how he was carrying himself through these games at different times. He’s a great leader. He has a lot of intangibles you look for at that position.”

Last week met with them individually. some of those things talked about showed up in tha tgame and showed up in right way. all those facotrs along with fact that thoroughout this enitre game, flow it, tempo of it, kids always believed tha tthey could win.

It ranks up there. Been fortunate to be in some great wins but it was very satisfying. Satisfying just for plays. Been through a lot, bee thorough a lot of stuff. felt like we wree close, lost a few clothes game.s Obv Fres State game over at coint oss., so to speak. But happy for kids Valideate lot of work putting in.

Run-pass option. If blitzing, k got to make sure not get beat by pass. not just simple, do this. Have to decide what the best way is to try and defend pass and run. Just depends on personnel and what philosophy is. They had five guys in the box so it wasn’t like it was vacated. They would’ If they had 6 or 7 in box, we would’ve checked just dpeending on what look was.

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<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2012/09/25/colorados-jordan-webb-showed-jon-embree-picked-quarterback/24964/>

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SEPTEMBER 25, 2012, 11:33 AM

Colorado coach Jon Embree says Buffaloes never doubted they could beat WSU

By **JOHN HENDERSON** |  No Comments

Colorado coach Jon Embree said his team's performance early in the Washington State game gave it hope for the end when it came back from 17 points down to win Saturday, 35-34.

"The whole game we felt like we were doing a lot of good things but weren't getting the results we desired," Embree said on Tuesday's Pac-12 Conference call. "Either we had a turnover or missed an opportunity on third down. We hit the fourth quarter and we got a couple stops on the defensive side. The offense started clicking and making plays."

Embree said he could tell the difference with his players.

"There was a lot of resolve on the sideline the whole game," Embree said. "The guys felt and believed they were going to win. They weren't overly concerned with what was going on with the scoreboard. We talk about this the whole time: Focus on the next play, not knowing what play will turn in your favor. The team did a good job with that."

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<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2012/09/25/colorado-coach-jon-embree-buffaloes-doubted-beat-wsu/24962/>

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ESPN

Monday, September 24, 2012

First Look: UCLA at Colorado

By Peter Yoon

LOS ANGELES -- The [UCLA Bruins](#) will be looking to atone for their first loss of the season when they face the [Colorado Buffaloes](#) on Saturday at 3 p.m. PT in Boulder, Colo. But they'll be going up against a re-energized Colorado squad coming off of a dramatic victory at [Washington State](#).

The Buffaloes had been pegged to finish last in the Pac-12 this season and had done little to dispel the notion that they would through the first three weeks, but they came alive with three touchdowns in the final seven minutes Saturday for a 35-34 victory against the Cougars.

The game-winning score came on a quarterback draw with nine seconds remaining, giving Colorado its first victory after losses to [Colorado State](#) to [Sacramento State](#), along with a 69-14 drubbing at [Fresno State](#). It was the kind of victory that could jump start a season ... and that has UCLA coach Jim Mora concerned.

"It's a great come-from-behind win on the road against a Pac-12 opponent," Mora said. "I think that boosts your spirits. They had a couple of tough losses and now they get to come home off of a win. I think that'll help them emotionally."

While Colorado will be playing at home for the first time in three weeks, UCLA will be on the road for the first time in nearly a month. The Bruins opened with a victory at Rice, but have since played Nebraska, Houston and Oregon State at the Rose Bowl.

Mora said it will be important to understand that UCLA could be in the same boat as Washington State, which was surprised by Colorado. The Buffaloes looked bad in their first three games. Consider: Colorado State ended last season on an eight-game losing streak, but defeated Colorado, 22-17, in the season opener. The Buffaloes then lost to FBS Sacramento State, 30-28, before getting blasted at Fresno State.

It would have been easy to overlook Colorado, a team UCLA defeated 45-6 last season, but their victory at Washington State should get UCLA's attention.

"We really try to stay away from looking at a team's record," Mora said. "We try to stay away from looking at a team's emotional state of being. That takes the focus off of what we need to do, which is to prepare the best we can. I'm sure there is always a little bit of that, but we do the best job we can of keeping our guys focused on what we need to do to win the football game each week."

Colorado quarterback [Jordan Webb](#), a [Kansas](#) transfer, seemed to find his rhythm in Pullman, Wash., where he passed for 345 yards and two touchdowns and ran for two more scores. Webb, named Pac-12 offensive player of the week, had only 432 yards passing in the first three games combined.



Jim Mora says his UCLA defenders will have to wrap up if they hope to contain Colorado's bruising frosh running back Christian Powell, who is prone to breaking tackles.

[Christian Powell](#), a 6-foot, 235-pound freshman running back, provides the running threat. He has 265 yards and three touchdowns and, a converted fullback, is a much bigger back than UCLA has faced so far this season.

"He's hard to bring down," Mora said. "This is not a guy that you are going to block down. You're going to have to bring your arms; you're going to have to grab cloth, drive your feet, roll your hips and do all those things. And you're going to have to gang tackle, because this guy will break tackles."

Defensively, Colorado has proven vulnerable. The Buffaloes are giving up 38.75 points per game and rank No. 114 in the nation in scoring defense. They are No. 102 in total defense, having allowed an average of 472.5 yards per game to date.

Still, Mora is more concerned about the way Colorado fought till the end at Washington State, where the Buffaloes scored on a 70-yard pass and an 84-yard run in the fourth quarter.

"It's exponentially more difficult to fight back on the road when you are down the way they were and get a win," Mora said. "That was really impressive to me. Really impressive. It says a lot about the character of their kids and about their coaching staff."



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College Football RapidReports

Preview: UCLA Bruins at Colorado Buffaloes

By Jon Gold | CBSSports.com

September 26, 2012 12:16 am ET

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Chin up, UCLA head coach Jim Mora, the Buffaloes are on deck. (AP Images)

UCLA (3-1, 0-1 Pac-12) at Colorado (1-3, 1-0 Pac-12)

Kickoff: Saturday, 6 p.m. ET (Pac-12 Network)

Spread: UCLA by 20

Watchability: Not a whole lot. The Buffaloes may be riding high coming off a last-second win over Washington State, but the Bruins should be able to defeat Colorado handily for a rare conference road win.

Shining stars: **UCLA:** Freshman [Brett Hundley](#) did not just capture the UCLA starting quarterback position, he has run away with it. Hundley is lighting up the scoreboard for the Bruins, coming off yet another 300-yard performance, and it appears the team finally has the star quarterback it has sought. **Colorado:** [Chidera Uzo-Diribe](#) has become a true force for the Buffaloes. If offensive guard [Jeff Baca](#) shows some wear as he returns from injury, Uzo-Diribe could be the prime benefactor.



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Magic number for Colorado: 1,268. The Buffaloes have allowed 1,268 passing yards this year, 119th out of 120 FBS teams. Hundley has thrown for 1,199 yards, seventh in the country. This is a wild one waiting to happen.

This game comes down to: UCLA's ability to stretch the field. With Evans emerging as a threat opposing [Jerry Johnson](#), the mammoth [Joseph Fauria](#) and promising young targets in [Steven Manfro](#), [Devin Lucien](#), [Jordan Payton](#) and [Kenneth Walker](#), the Buffaloes might be backpedalling all day.

Prediction: UCLA 44, Colorado 24

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PAC12 FOOTBALL

Pac-12 football this week: Colorado's improbable victory

Buffaloes' comeback against WSU biggest Pac-12 surprise of '12



9 HOURS AGO • [PATRICK FINLEY ARIZONA DAILY STAR](#)

Colorado hadn't won a game until Saturday and might not win another this year.

But the Buffaloes' comeback at Washington State - after having trailed by 17 with 7:07 to play - might be the most remarkable feat in the Pac-12 all year.

Here are six reasons why:

1. They'd been buffaloed. Since joining the Pac-12, CU had been outscored by an average of about 37-20, while going 3-13.

The team's worst losses came the previous two weeks: a 30-28 defeat to FCS (Div. I-AA) Sacramento State and a 69-14 thumping by Fresno State, both at home.

Coach Jon Embree - who said the FSU game was "over at the coin toss" - met with every player last week.

"Some of those things we talked about was showing up in that (WSU) game," he said.

2. Saturday wasn't going well. After scoring on its first drive, CU trailed 21-7 at halftime after a missed field goal, two fumbles and one turnover on downs.

Still, Embree said there was "a lot of resolve on our sideline" despite the deficit.

"We talk about this all the time - about focusing on the next play, not knowing which play will be the one to turn the game in your favor," he said.

3. Then they ripped off huge plays. With 7:06 left, tight end Nick Kasa caught a 70-yard touchdown pass from Jordan Webb to cut the deficit to 10.

The Buffaloes coaxed a WSU punt with 4:58 to play.

On CU's second play, Tony Jones ripped off an 84-yard touchdown run, the eighth-longest in school history, to pull within three.

"Confidence is huge in all sports," Embree said. "Especially when you start talking about young players, as young as we are.

"It plays a huge role."

The Cougars were starting to feel the pressure.

"We have guys that a lot of times want to play when we're ahead and get excited then," WSU coach Mike Leach said.

"All of a sudden, it gets tough - and we collapse."

4. They tried to throw it away, again. A CU unsportsmanlike conduct penalty forced the Buffaloes to kick off from the 20-yard line. The boot was returned by WSU's Teondray Caldwell for 56 yards, to CU's 26.

The Cougars had to settle for a field goal, though, and gave CU the ball back down six with 3:11 to play and all three timeouts left.

5. They were hot. On the final drive, Webb completed 2 of 4 passes for 23 yards, while two running backs helped the team march.

Jones ran three times for 21 yards. Christian Powell ran four times for 7 yards. He fumbled at the WSU 7, but Kasa recovered.

"When they mounted that comeback in the fourth quarter, you could just see their confidence in what they were doing, growing," said UCLA coach Jim Mora, whose Bruins play at Folsom Field on Saturday. "They showed a ton of heart, great character."

6. And then they pulled off the buzzer-beater. With Colorado facing fourth-and-goal at the 4, Embree called a run-pass option.

Seeing WSU with five defenders between the tackles, Webb ran for a touchdown with :09 left.

"When he's in real competitive situations, he seems to raise up and do things," Embree said.

The extra point won the game.

The second-largest fourth-quarter rally in school history became one of Embree's favorites.

"I've been fortunate to be in some great wins, but it was very satisfying," he said.

"It was satisfying just for the players, because they've been through a lot."

Wednesday, September 26, 2012

Colorado brings home hope to face UCLA

By Ted Miller

With 8:07 remaining at Washington State, Colorado took possession at its 8-yard line, trailing 31-14. Not only was quarterback [Jordan Webb](#) sacked on first down, he also was flagged for intentional grounding. So it was second-and-15 on the Buffaloes' 3.

Nothing -- nothing! -- suggested at that moment that the Buffaloes, widely considered the worst team playing in a major college football conference, would provide anything more than another wan whimper of defeat.

They'd lost their opener to a terrible Colorado State team. They'd lost Game 2 to a Sacramento State, a middling FCS team. They'd been humiliated at Fresno State, 69-14.

Again, zero suggestion of hope.

"It's hard to keep believing," Webb said, "but, honestly, all of us really did."

Webb completed consecutive passes totaling 27 yards to [DaVaughn Thornton](#), who'd been suspended for the first two games. He failed to connect with tight end [Nick Kasa](#). On second-and-10 from the 30, he found Kasa wide open over the middle for a 70-yard touchdown.

Then running back [Tony Jones](#) dashed for an 84-yard touchdown. That was followed by a defensive stand after the Cougars returned the ensuing kickoff to the Colorado 23-yard line. And, finally, a 12-play, 70-yard drive was capped by a fourth-down QB draw from the Cougars' 4-yard line for the winning score.

"It opened up like the Red Sea," Webb said.

And from the ashes of a season that seemed headed toward winless ignominy, sprouted hope. At least for one weekend.

The Buffaloes play host to UCLA on Saturday. The 3-1 Bruins are smarting from a home loss to Oregon State that knocked them out of the national rankings. That, coupled with the Buffaloes getting off life support, makes it seem likely the Bruins will take the matchup seriously.

"When they mounted that comeback in the fourth quarter, you could just see their confidence in what they were doing growing," UCLA coach Jim Mora said. "They showed a ton of heart. They showed great character. I think that's hard to do coming off three losses. I think that's a real credit to their coaches and their older players."



Jordan Webb rallied Colorado to its first win of the season.

The question is whether Colorado's fourth-quarter fireworks were merely a flash or an enduring flame, and whether they have the talent to continue trending up. It's entirely possible that they just caught their top competition for last place in the Pac-12 taking a win for granted.

Not surprisingly, that's not the way the Buffaloes see it.

"Our No. 1 goal is to win a bowl game," Webb said. "We have eight more games to win five. That's our goal. I don't think anyone here is looking at it like we can't obtain that goal."

While that seems like a long shot, Webb, a transfer from Kansas, is where a sustained turnaround would start. He and the offense piled up 531 yards against the Cougars with a mixture of big plays and sustained drives. While Webb and his teammates could have been beaten down by all the negativity that surrounded the team for three games and three quarters, their confidence has never flagged, coach Jon Embree said.

"[Webb] never doubted himself; he never doubted his teammates," Embree said. "You could tell how he was practicing"

The Buffs seemed to find their footing in the fourth quarter, and the presence of fiery offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy on the sideline instead of the press box -- as he'd been the previous three games -- seemed to help.

Embree said the win at Washington State validated his team's hard work, but now comes the rest of the season. The competition is going to ramp up, not down.

But the win in Pullman at least provides a foundation for hope that the season isn't lost.

"We were super-focused for four quarters, and that's something we hadn't done yet," Webb said. "Now we've just got to build on it."

He then added, "This program is headed in the right direction."
