

# Colorado Buffaloes in a big hurry this year

By ARNIE STAPLETON (AP Sports Writer) | The Associated Press – Wed, Aug 14, 2013 1:11 PM EDT

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[MacIntyre's up-tempo offense that he's bringing over from San Jose State.](#)

MacIntyre engineered a quick turnaround with the Spartans from 1-12 in his first season in 2010 to their first 11-win season since 1940 last fall.

Helping him in his quest to duplicate that fast fix in Boulder is speedy wide receiver [Paul Richardson](#), who missed all of last season with a torn ACL. His return gives the Buffs a playmaker who can stretch the field and open up opportunities for other receivers as well as Colorado's deep stable of running backs.

The one delivering all those passes looks like it'll be junior Connor Wood, who entered preseason camp atop the depth chart, although he's being pushed by incoming recruit Sefo Liufau, junior college transfer Jordan Gehrke and sophomore Stevie Joe Dorman.

Last year's starter, Jordan Webb, is facing a knee injury and an assault charge. Nick Hirschman transferred to Akron and Shane Dillon gave up the gridiron for the hardwood, opening the door for Wood, a transfer from Texas who played in seven games last season and started against Washington.

"We have the ability to score a lot and score really fast," Richardson said. "And I think defensively, the level of intensity has

picked up and those guys are being more disciplined."

No team in the country allowed more TD passes (39) that Colorado did last year, when the Buffs led the nation with 57 starts by true freshmen.

Five things to watch as the Buffaloes try to end their seven-year glitch and post their first winning season since 2005, before the Dan Hawkins (19-39) and Jon Embree (4-21) failures led to a decline in interest and revenue that led to a change in athletic directors this summer from Mike Bohn to Rick George:

1. Can the scarred secondary recover from last year's trial by fire? Senior Parker Orms is back at his natural safety position after playing linebacker and missing time with concussions in 2012 and he leads a group that learned plenty of lessons while getting torched by Pac-12 passers. "Last year we had a lot of inexperience and that's going to hurt you in college football these days," said Orms. "I'm not at that level yet, so I give it up to those guys for what they did last year going out and playing. They might be four years younger than some guys. Yeah, I think the experience from last year is going to help them this year."

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2. It might not matter who's under center if he doesn't have time to find Richardson downfield. The offensive linemen have to stay healthy because there is a serious lack of depth. David Bakhtiari skipped his senior season to go pro and Alex Lewis transferred to Nebraska. So, senior Jack Harris moved back from right tackle to left tackle. Daniel Munyer is the only other incumbent full-time starter and he's moving back to right guard.

3. This ain't the Big 12 anymore. The D-linemen had to lose some weight to keep up. MacIntyre told his half-dozen defensive linemen to lose a combined 100 pounds before the Sept. 1 opener against rival [Colorado State](#) in preparation for the Pac-12's athleticism. "We just need to keep being able to get a little bit quicker step in this league," he said. "If you're that much closer to the quarterback, he'll throw it high. Then all of a sudden you hit him and he starts to get nervous. Come off a block and you trip a guy in the backfield and all of a sudden he would have gone 50; instead, it's a 1-yard loss."

4. Hand it to the running backs. The best depth on the squad is in the offensive backfield where sophomore Christian Powell led the team in rushing with 691 yards last year. Junior Tony Jones is the fastest of the group, senior Josh Ford is the big-play threat, sophomore Donta Abron averaged 5 yards a carry and junior Malcolm Creer is a year removed from major knee surgery.

5. Don't look back. That's MacIntyre's mantra. "I don't talk about last year's season at all. Now, I know that they do, and I hope that they do. But, I don't bring up anything about last year or things that went on," MacIntyre said. "All I talk about is the future, and now. I talk about now more than I do the future. I talk about what we do now reaps dividends in the future."

Predicted finish:

Pac-12 South Division: Sixth.

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AP college football site: <http://collegefootball.ap.org/>

## Football: CU Buffs' Terrence Crowder happy to be back on field

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

BrushNewsTribune.com

The Colorado Buffaloes knocked heads in the first scrimmage of fall camp Tuesday morning in Folsom Field and no one enjoyed the banging more than running back Terrence Crowder.

While he has been hit at times in the first week of camp, Tuesday was the first time Crowder has been allowed to participate in full contact work since the middle of last season after tearing the same ACL twice in the past two years.

He first suffered the injury after just three carries in the season opener of his senior season in 2011 at Galena Park High School in Galena Park, Texas. He tore the ligament again in practice at CU last fall and underwent surgery in early November.

"It felt great," Crowder said. "I've been gone for so long and when you're gone for so long it kind of hurts after having ACL injuries and having to sit out for spring. So it was pretty great being able to get some pads going on and hitting people."

It remains to be seen if Crowder is far enough along in his recovery to make a big impact on this year's team. He is one of three CU running backs who have suffered ACL tears in the past two years. Malcolm Creer and true freshman Phillip Lindsay also have come back from the injury.

Coach Mike MacIntyre understands the odds are against a player who has had two major knee injuries, but he likes what he has seen so far from Crowder.

"I thought he ran in there and didn't shy away and I was impressed with that," MacIntyre said. "He had a good, hard run at the goal line but Jimmie Gilbert met him and that was a great battle. He did not tiptoe. It looked like to me he was trying to run, which is a good thing, especially your first live scrimmage after a knee injury."

Crowder said he believes the first surgery was done correctly but his recovery was not. He said he was allowed to run two months after having his first ACL tear repaired. He said CU doctors didn't allow him to run until six months after tearing it the second time.

Crowder said he never once considered giving up the sport. He said the toughest time was the first two weeks following the second surgery, but he made it through it and now is trying to earn a spot on the field again.

At the very least, he understands that his scholarship at CU is allowing him to pursue a degree in communications and he plans to earn that degree.

"I just don't want to go back to where I came from," he said. "I just love football so much. I just can't see myself not playing. Even if I was to tear it a third time, I would still want to play. It would be them stopping me, not me."

## Football: CU Buffs' Yuri Wright ready to help secondary

By Sarah Kuta Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

DailyCamera.com

These days, Yuri Wright stays off Twitter and sticks mainly to his new favorite app, Instagram.

Wright, the University of Colorado cornerback who was expelled from his high school for posting sexually explicit and racially charged comments on Twitter, has a year of college football and classes under his belt. The sophomore is older, wiser and more mature, his coaches say, and this year, Wright plans to step up as a key member of Colorado's secondary.

"I don't even go on Twitter," Wright said, laughing. "I'm more of an Instagram guy now. The pictures can't get me in trouble."

The four-star recruit, who was courted by schools like Michigan and Notre Dame, seems to have avoided any more online drama since coming to Boulder last fall. He's learned his lesson, he said. When you're an athlete, especially a highly touted athlete, he said, someone is always watching.

Last year, Wright earned some playing time against Oregon and Stanford as a true freshman, but sat out four games during Pac-12 play, first because of a concussion and then an ankle injury. He's listed as third on the depth chart behind sophomore Kenneth Crawley and redshirt freshman John Walker. But Colorado faces plenty of spread offenses this season, which bodes well for Wright.

"Pretty much all I can do is compete and then the coaches are going to decide whether they're going to put me out there or not," Wright said of his chances to see more playing time in 2013.

The biggest change Wright said he's seen so far under coach Mike MacIntyre and his staff has been an emphasis on re-learning, or in his case learning, the game's fundamentals.

In high school in Ramsey, N.J., Wright focused mostly on basketball until he picked up football as a junior. Wright grew up in the Caribbean playing cricket with his dad, and moved to the United States as a six-year-old.

In his short three-year football career, Wright said he never had the chance to learn some football basics.

With basketball, Wright, 20, can pick up the ball and start playing instinctively. He's not there yet with football, he said.

"I'm actually learning the game now," he said. "I'm actually being taught and I'm understanding defenses and offenses and stuff like that."

Wright suffered yet another injury in the spring, this time in his right hamstring and groin, so it's been hard for new cornerback's coach Andy LaRussa to see Wright at full strength. LaRussa said he and the rest of the defensive coaching staff is still trying to sort out who will play which

roles in 2013.

"It's very hard to evaluate him properly and say 'Yes he can do this really well, no he can't,' " LaRussa said. "We wanted to make sure he was healthy for summer. The biggest thing we're looking to see is kind of what we get in those team situations. I'd like to see him tackle a bit more."

Coming off a season where Colorado's secondary allowed 39 touchdown passes -- the most of any team in the country -- and had only three interceptions in 12 games, Wright said this year already feels different.

MacIntyre also said he's seen improvement in the secondary already thanks to a lot of work with individual players and a focus on open-field tackling so far this year.

The new coaching staff is more organized and "on top of things," Wright said, and he's been watching -- and understanding -- more film this year than in the past.

"These guys go about things a lot differently than the last coaching staff," Wright said. "They're doing a real good job. You're going to see a different Buffaloes team this season."

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## Football: CU Buffs safeties have much to prove

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

DailyCamera.com

Mike MacIntyre used to be a defensive back and he's coached many of them at the college and professional level. So it's no surprise his eyes often wander to the secondary during practices now that he is the head coach at Colorado.

MacIntyre inherited a lot of young players in the secondary most of whom had played some part in the Buffs finishing last season 97th nationally against the pass and worst in giving up 39 touchdown passes. The Buffs will enter the 2013 season having not made an interception in eight straight games.

MacIntyre made it no secret that he had concerns about that part of the defense during the spring. But he's starting to see the performance of the group improve in fall camp.

He spent part of Tuesday's scrimmage teaching several of his safeties after they made mistakes, but overall he likes what he has seen from Parker Orms, Terrel Smith, Jered Bell and Marques Mosley.

"I thought they did some good things today and being an old secondary guy, I'm really critical of 'em," MacIntyre said. "I thought they did some good things and did some bad things, but I think the secondary has really improved from our first scrimmage in the spring to now. You all can tell. It's freakin light years how much we've improved."

Orms is probably the one player among the four top safeties on the depth chart who can count on a starting role as long as he remains healthy. That has always been a problem for him throughout his CU career. He sat out much of spring ball and had surgery to remove some floating cartilage, a residual effect from his torn ACL several years ago.

Orms said coaches are playing it safe with him in camp and limiting his reps. He is listed as the starter at strong safety on the latest depth chart ahead of fellow senior Smith, who has played a lot of football in his time in Boulder.

The surprise at safety has to be Bell, a junior who came to CU as a cornerback recruited by Dan Hawkins' staff. He had earned a starting job at cornerback early in fall camp in 2011 but blew out his knee and missed the entire year. He has been working his way back to a prominent role ever since.

Bell is listed as the starting free safety ahead of sophomore Marques Mosley, who started four games at strong safety and one at outside linebacker as a true freshman in 2012.

"It feels like second nature now," Bell said. "I'm loving it. I'm embracing it. I plan on being there for the rest of my career."

Safeties coach Charles Clark said he feels good about his core group of safeties as he tries to bring along some young players such as sophomore Isaac Archuleta and true freshman Tedric

Thompson.

Clark said Mosley can play both safety positions as well as nickel back and gives coaches a lot of flexibility.

Clark said the entire group has work to do to get to the level at which he wants them to play, but he echoed MacIntyre in saying his safeties have improved since he first began working with them on the field in March.

"I think we got a couple leaders with Parker Orms who has played a lot of football and Terrel Smith who has been here for four years now and Jered Bell is starting to come into his own as well," Clark said. "I would say right now Parker is the leader of that group and he's doing a good job."

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