

CU Buffs scrimmage highlighted by Sefo Liufau's impressive showing

By Mike Chambers *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

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BOULDER — Colorado freshman quarterback Sefo Liufau threw a 64-yard touchdown to Paul Richardson to open the scoring and added another long passing play to set up a field goal in Saturday's hurry-up intrasquad scrimmage at Folsom Field.

New coach Mike MacIntyre rotated Liufau and three others: projected opening-day starter junior Connor Wood and sophomores Stevie Joe Dorman and Jordan Gehrke in the 100-play offense-vs.-defense situational scrimmage.

Dorman and Gehrke also threw for touchdowns from 25 and 1 yards, respectively, and Wood directed a six-play, 70-yard scoring drive capped by Donta Abron's 13-yard run. MacIntyre opened the scrimmage to the public under the condition that non-scoring statistics not be revealed.

"Sefo's done well. He has a lot of tools to be a really, really good football player," MacIntyre said of the 6-foot-4 true freshman from Tacoma, Wash. "I'm excited (about) what he's done so far."

Liufau and other freshmen who are not proclaimed starters are forbidden to talk to reporters until the Sept. 1 season opener against Colorado State. But Liufau could be in a position to back up Wood against the Rams and beyond, or at least until senior Jordan Webb's possible midseason return from major knee surgery and legal problems.

When asked about the play of his quarterbacks, MacIntyre said he would have to "watch on tape" to give a final opinion.

"Sometimes the receiver might have gone to the right place, other times the wrong place. Some of the quarterbacks had pressure. Some of them didn't," MacIntyre said. "We'll watch on tape and find out, but I thought they made some plays."

Offensive coordinator Brian Lindgren called a fast-paced scrimmage but said the tempo will get quicker during the season. He was disappointed in the offense's showing on third down.

"We tried to get all (quarterbacks) through with the first group, the first unit, and overall we've got to throw more completions," Lindgren said. "There were some passes that we missed, that we've got to make, particularly on third down."

Wood is CU's most experienced/available QB. The transfer from the University of Texas played in seven games last season, completing 21-of-42 passes for 265 yards (one TD, four interceptions). He said his comfort level from a year ago is "night and day."

"I think these coaches and this offense — it's been really, really good to me, and Coach MacIntyre and Coach Lindgren really speak confidence to me and my game, and that translates into the field with my production. It's gone up dramatically. It all counts on the field in a couple

weeks but through this point it's been great," he said.

Footnote. MacIntrye will give his team Sunday off before resuming two-a-days Monday. The Buffs have practiced or scrimmaged for 16 consecutive days, almost exclusively in at least helmets and shoulder pads.

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Football: CU Buffs focused on turnovers

By Adam Dunivan Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

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The defense won a lot of the battles early on, up until the big play from Richardson. Terrel Smith recovered an early fumble, and the unit finally capitalized on breaking in on a route for a Ryan Moeller interception -- the only two turnovers of the day.

Getting the ball back to the offense is a focal point for the team, and Smith said the progression is positive.

"We created a couple turnovers today. Creating turnovers wins games and that's something we continue to harp on every day," Smith said. "We're getting better and better, and you can see every day, we're getting more effort from everybody at getting to the ball. From spring to now, it's a major improvement and we just have to keep it up the next two weeks."

"We got a couple fumbles where they just dropped the ball, and we missed two picks today we probably should have caught, maybe three," said defensive coordinator Kent Baer. "We're working at (creating turnovers) and it's certainly a point of emphasis. We'll be better at it, and it's something we talk about every day."

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Football: CU Buffs' receivers deliver in scrimmage

By Adam Dunivan Buffzone.com [Boulder Daily Camera](http://BoulderDailyCamera.com)

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Goodson made one of the tougher catches Saturday, a 25-yard scoring reception from Jordan Gehrke that initially had his upper body way ahead of his feet before regaining his balance and rolling into the end zone. With the game-like feel of Saturday's run-through, the wide receivers wanted to be perfect in catching every ball that came their way.

They came pretty close, with only one notable through-the-hands, off-the-numbers drop. Head coach Mike MacIntyre noted another couple of balls guys probably should have had, but in general felt good about the way the crew came through.

So did Goodson.

"Coach came out and told us this was a game, so have your game faces on and go out and make plays, and as a receiving crew that's what we tried to do for our offense," Goodson said. "I'm proud of what we did today. We came out and had our minds set for game speed, and I think that helped out a lot."

Lindgren said he was thrilled with Richardson's potential for the season, and also praised Goodson along with Nelson Spruce and Tyler McCulloch.

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Football: CU Buffs' youngest show off in scrimmage

By Adam Dunivan Buffzone.com [Boulder Daily Camera](http://BoulderDailyCamera.com)

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Buffzone.com

Saturday was a day for the kids at Folsom Field. Appropriately, some of the Colorado Buffaloes' youngest players made the biggest plays during their morning scrimmage.

None might have stood out on offense more than Michael Adkins II. The speedy tailback from San Diego had a few decent runs against the defense but made himself known more for a couple of nice catch-and-runs out in the flats during the scrimmage that preceded Healthy Kids Day at the stadium.

Utilizing the backs in the passing game was a "running" theme of the day, and for offensive coordinator Brian Lindgren, seeing Adkins use his hands effectively was promising.

"He's a tremendous talent with really, really big-time speed, and it was nice to see him out of the backfield, out on the perimeter and into the flats," Lindgren said after the 1 hour, 13-minute scrimmage, which yielded four offensive touchdowns on 100 total plays. "We're excited about him, and he's another guy who we've got to make a decision on whether to play him or redshirt him this season. That's something that we'll make a decision on sometime in the next week or so.

"It was nice to see him catch the ball, and he had some nice runs. There are just some little details, protection stuff, little intricacies of the offense he's still learning. He's a guy that I think we're going to continue moving up the depth charts."

While Paul Richardson had the day's biggest play -- a 64-yard pass reception for a score early on -- the ball came out of the hands of freshman quarterback Sefo Liufau. It was the breakout play for the offense after being stuffed for the most part, with Richardson working his way behind the defense and Liufau hitting him in stride to get the crowd going.

Tedric Thompson, a defensive back, and Devin Ross, a wide receiver who the Buffs were utilizing in the return game, also were around the ball on several occasions.

True freshmen are not yet allowed to speak to the media, but plenty of older guys had good things to say about the young corps.

"(Adkins and Ross), they're both really good learners and really good listeners, as well," said wideout D.D. Goodson. "Their speed helps them ... I'm proud of those guys making plays out there and hope for the best for them."

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Football: CU Buffs embrace chance to tackle for real

By Sarah Kuta Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

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Coach Mike MacIntyre has put such an emphasis on tackling during fall camp that earlier this week he ran the same drill three times in a row to make sure the defense got it right.

That extra attention to tackling was on display at the University of Colorado's scrimmage at Folsom Field on Saturday morning. CU did not release full game statistics and prohibited reporters from keeping their own, but on multiple plays Buffs defenders stuffed the offense for no gain and made several tackles for loss.

MacIntyre's standard for tackling perfection in practice paid off, said senior inside linebacker and captain Derrick Webb.

"The other day we did a tackling circuit three times in a row because coach MacIntyre is big on tackling and said we had to become a better tackling team," Webb said. "The first time we went through it, it wasn't good enough for him so we had to go through a second time. I guess that wasn't good enough for him so we did it three times. It was a physical day and a physical practice but I feel like it made us better."

Outside of those drills, Webb said the team hasn't had many chances to make many live-action tackles so far this fall. The 100-play scrimmage gave Webb and his teammates a chance to apply the tackling technique they've been working on to game-like situations, he said.

"Today we actually got to wrap guys up and take them to the ground," he said. "In practice, you don't really know whether you would've made that tackle or not. I had a situation where I had Tony Jones in the hole and I had to leave my feet and grab his ankles. That's the kind of tackle you have to make sometimes. (I'm) just happy we were able to practice that today."

In 2012, even in the pass-happy Pac-12 conference, Colorado allowed 226 rushing yards per game, which ranked 115th out of 120 FBS teams. But so far this fall, MacIntyre said the defensive line and linebackers have been making strides.

"I liked their aggressiveness and I thought they did some good things there," MacIntyre said. "We're getting more physical and we're tackling there and that's something we work on every day."

Colorado ran several kickoff return simulations before officially starting the scrimmage in front of a scattered crowd of around 150 people.

MacIntyre said he achieved several of his coaching goals at the scrimmage, including his team's ability to play through the heat. Temperatures climbed into the 80s and early 90s at Folsom Field, where the sun beat down harshly except for a few brief moments of cloud cover.

"Number one, no injuries," he said. "We had zero. Number two, I wanted to see us execute and do things without coaches on the field and substitutions and all that, and I would say 99 percent of

the time, for the most part, it was good."

On offense, quarterback Connor Wood and wide receiver Paul Richardson were noticeably absent for much of the scrimmage. Wood played three series which allowed the other three quarterbacks to split most of the repetitions.

Richardson hauled in a 64-yard touchdown from freshman quarterback Sefo Liufau, but other than that, the junior didn't see much action on the field. Richardson tore a ligament in his knee during spring practice last year, an injury that kept him on the sidelines for the entire 2012 season.

"The coaches are just making sure the guys that are returning from surgery, returning from injury - keeping our legs fresh, keeping our bodies fresh," he said.

Richardson spending most of the scrimmage on the sidelines made room for junior wide receiver D.D. Goodson to shine. Goodson stretched for a 25-yard pass from sophomore quarterback Jordan Gehrke to score the offense's second touchdown.

After the scrimmage and teaching kids about fitness on the field for Healthy Kids Day on Saturday, Colorado players will take Sunday off, their first break since camp started on Aug. 6. Wood said the mid-camp scrimmage broke up the month of practices and created a sense of game-day excitement for Colorado.

"It gives a game-day mindset for all the guys," he said. "'OK how's my morning routine?' These new coaches have a different routine for us than the last coaches for game day, so we're kind of getting used to what they want to do, stretching and all that stuff, so it's not going to be foreign September 1."

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