



COLORADO BUFFALOES

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Wood Soaks Up All He Can At Manning Camp

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THIBODAUX, La. - Perhaps there is no greater individual tribute to a young college quarterback than to know that he is both recognized and respected by the very best. It is an even higher honor when he is invited to work with and learn from those individuals he admired so much as a youth.

Last week, Connor Wood was afforded that opportunity when he attended the acclaimed Manning Passing Academy in Thibodaux, La., as a counselor and teacher for the hundreds of high school football players who gather from around the country to better understand the fundamental art of football.

Throughout their careers, quarterbacks Peyton and Eli Manning have distinguished themselves as two of the most elite players at their position in all of football. Between them they have won three Super Bowls, won four league MVP awards, three Super Bowl MVP awards, and played in a combined 15 Pro Bowls. The family quarterbacking tradition also includes father Archie, who played the position in the NFL for 13 years and founded the camp back in 1996.

That pedigree has garnered the admiration of aspiring youths everywhere, including Wood who has followed the careers of the Manning's with complete reverence throughout his childhood and adult life.

"Everything they said resonated with me," said Wood. "I soaked up a lot of information from them in a short

period of time. There were a few opportunities with social events and Q & A sessions to listen to them talk about their experiences in the NFL and college.”

However, Wood’s objective was not to simply revel in the presence of stars. He set out to also use the opportunity to continue his own development and to compete with some of the other college quarterbacks who were also invited to serve as counselors.

“Just being around the 30 or so college quarterbacks who were there, which included some pretty recognizable names, was great because I got a chance to throw with those guys and throw against them and see how they fare against me,” said Wood. “I think (the experience) will just bring me more confidence because I feel like I did well in comparison to the top guys in the country. I definitely feel like I can stick with those guys.”

Wood’s aspiration to attend the camp stemmed mostly from his desire to liken his own game to that of a few of the more celebrated quarterbacks in the sport’s history. He believes that some of the practices that made each of them so great in their own right are similar to how he prepares himself for game day.

“Their mindset of playing the position is similar to me because I really take pride in preparing and watching film and trying to do things that I need to do to get ready for the season and during game weeks,” said Wood. “I learned a lot from them and I was picking up different things that I think will make me better. I was invited back so I really look forward to working with them again next year.”

In other quarterback news for the Buffaloes, John Schrock has given up football to have more time for his studies as he intends to pursue medical school; he will remain a student at the University of Colorado.

“It was a tough decision for John as he does love football, but we talked and he is serious about becoming a doctor,” CU head coach Mike MacIntyre said. “He decided it was in his best interests to leave the team to concentrate on his academics. He is a fine young man and I think he will be successful in his pursuits.”

Schrock, a 6-4, 220-pound third-year sophomore walk-on from Kansas City, Kan. (Shawnee Mission East High School), saw action late in two games last fall, completing his only pass for seven yards. He was 13-of-22 for 124 yards (0 TD/2 INT) in the four main scrimmages this past spring.

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