

Kyle Ringo Blog: Grading Rick George on first big test as CU Buffs AD

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera
Posted:

Buffzone.com

Colorado athletic director Rick George faced a difficult set of circumstances when flooding overwhelmed Boulder in mid-September forcing the school to postpone a football game against Fresno State at Folsom Field.

George had to find another team to bring to Folsom Field. The 'had to' part is the key portion of the last sentence.

In other years, CU might have been content to simply play 11 games, but the athletic department is coming off a year in which it suffered a \$7.5 million budget shortfall caused by poor ticket sales in a lousy 2012 football season and coaching change.

It couldn't afford to lose a full game of revenue this year and George deserves credit to making sure that won't happen. After weeks of trying to find a solution and discussions with dozens of schools, George announced Charleston Southern has agreed to come to Boulder Oct. 19.

We should give some credit here to Charleston Southern being willing to come to Boulder and take on a Bowl Championship Series team in the middle of the season. Obviously, the Buccaneers will get a sizeable paycheck for doing so but it's still a gutsy move that program should be credited for taking.

Sure, it would have been nice to convince a Football Bowl Subdivision opponent to schedule a game in the middle of the season, but that always was unlikely and a hard sell for every program CU approached. This is another point where George deserves credit. A few FBS programs were willing to come but wanted way too much money to make it happen. George smartly said no to those options.

Finally, George also worked to get a waiver from the NCAA that will allow the Buffs to play in a bowl game if they get to six wins with two of those wins against FCS teams. Normally only one win over an FCS team is countable toward bowl eligibility.

The NCAA gets a lot of things wrong and often paints with too big a brush, but it deserves credit for working with the Buffs here and granting that waiver ahead of time.

All in all, George did almost as well as he could have considering all the options. I think the only fair grade here is an A-minus. George as much as any CU fan could have hoped for under the circumstances.

Colorado football: Buffs looking forward to challenging No. 2 Oregon

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Fifteen years ago, Mike MacIntyre was the defensive coordinator at Temple.

The Owls suffered an embarrassing home loss to Division I-AA William & Mary and then got blown out at home by West Virginia to fall to 0-6.

Heading into a road game against No. 14 Virginia Tech, Temple carried an eight-game losing streak and was 0-26 all-time in Big East road games. Add in the fact that they had a freshman quarterback making his first start, and it was no wonder the Owls were 35-point underdogs.

At the end of the game, however, Temple walked out of town with a stunning 28-24 victory.

"Anything can happen on any given Saturday," MacIntyre said. "I've seen it before personally, so I know it can be done."

Now in his first season as the head coach at Colorado, MacIntyre faces a task this week that seems as daunting, if not more so, than the one Temple faced 15 years ago. CU (2-1, 0-1 Pac-12) will host No. 2 Oregon (4-0, 1-0) on Saturday at 4 p.m. at Folsom Field.

Even with a new coach -- former CU offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich -- Oregon is rolling along in its usual dominating fashion. The Ducks have scored at least 55 points in every game and have outscored their four opponents by a combined score of 239-43.

MacIntyre has admitted that Oregon seems to be playing at a level above anyone else in the Pac-12. So, how do the Buffs, coming off a 44-17 loss at Oregon State, compete?

"Wow," he said. "Get on the field and play our hearts out, and we'll see how that goes."

For many of Oregon's opponents in recent years, it hasn't gone well at all. That includes CU, which is 0-2 against the Ducks since joining the Pac-12, losing 45-2 in 2011 and 70-14 a year ago.

MacIntyre and junior receiver Paul Richardson are excited about this game, however.

"Oregon is extremely good," MacIntyre said. "It's going to be a lot of fun for our kids. You always want to play against the best and they're the best in the West, there's no doubt about it. It'll be a lot of fun for us to play them."

Richardson has never been on the field against the Ducks. He was dealing with knee injuries both times the teams have met.

"I think it'll be good," said Richardson, who has 26 catches for 487 yards this season. "They have arguably the best corner in the country (Ifo Ekpere-Olomu) and then they have two other corners that they rotate in that are really good as well. It'll be a test for our receivers."

It's going to be a challenge for the whole team, but it's one Richardson is looking forward to taking on.

"I think it's going to be a good test for our defense," Richardson said. "It's going to be on our offense to hold onto the ball and keep their offense off the field as much as we can and it should be a good one."

Much like Temple did 15 years ago, the Buffs are looking for the type of upset that will be remembered for a long time.

"This is a game for each position to go out there and try to make a name for themselves and for our team to try to make a name for ourselves," Richardson said. "I know we're all looking forward to it."

MacIntyre knows the task ahead is a daunting one, but he said it's not impossible.

"It's a game you've got to be on your Ps and Qs and you've got to play extremely hard and hopefully we will," MacIntyre said. "We've got to go get ready to play and go play them. We plan on winning the game. That's what we plan on doing. They plan on winning the game, too."

"Both teams better plan on winning, so we're excited about the game."

Notable

On Monday, CU announced that it's Oct. 12 game at Arizona State will kick off at 8 p.m. MDT. The game will be broadcast on the Pac-12 Networks.

Contact staff writer Brian Howell at howellb@dailycamera.com or twitter.com/BrianHowell33.

Oregon at CU

When/where: Saturday, 4 p.m. at Folsom Field

TV/Radio: Pac-12 Network/KOA (850 AM)

The Ducks at a glance

2013 record: 4-0, 1-0 in Pac-12

2012 record: 12-1, won Fiesta Bowl

Last week: Defeated California, 55-16.

Head coach: Mark Helfrich, 1st season (4-0)

Key players: WR/PR Bralon Addison, 5-10, So.; CB Ifo Ekpere-Olomu, 5-10, Jr.; DT Taylor Hart, 6-6, Sr.; WR Josh Huff, 5-11, Sr.; LB Derrick Malone, 6-2, Jr.; QB Marcus Mariota, 6-4, So.; RB Byron Marshall, 5-10, So.; RB De'Anthony Thomas, 5-9, Jr.; DE Tony Washington, 6-3, Jr.

Notable: Helfrich was the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Colorado from 2006-08, working under former CU head coach Dan Hawkins. ... The Ducks are 40-4 since the start of the 2010 season, with three of the losses coming by three points. ... Oregon has scored at least 50 points in 11 of its last 17 games and has scored at least 42 points in 15 of those 17 games. ... The Ducks have hit the 200-yard rushing mark in 28 of their last 30 games. They finished with 180 and 198 yards in the other two games. ... Mariota has completed just 56.1 percent of his passes, but has 1,003 yards, nine touchdowns and no interceptions. ... Addison has returned two punts for touchdowns and also has two receiving touchdowns.

Game is makeup for Fresno State game Sept. 14 postponed by historic Boulder flooding

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Colorado athletic director Rick George has scheduled Charleston Southern to replace Fresno State on this season's football schedule, the school announced today.

Charleston Southern will visit Boulder on Oct. 19, a previously scheduled bye week for the Buffs. The Buccaneers are a member of the Big South Conference at the Football Championship Subdivision level and are 5-0 so far this season.

CU was forced to postpone its Sept. 14 home game against Fresno State because of historic deadly flooding in and around the Boulder area. Colorado and Fresno State officials were unable to reschedule the game this season because they didn't have a bye week that matched up and the complexities of trying to rework schedules involved too many other teams to be feasible.

"The Fresno State athletic department leadership, their president and their fans have all been very supportive and cooperative in our efforts to reschedule this contest," George said in a statement. "We are also most appreciative of Fresno State's student-athletes collecting donations to aid those victims of the flood."

CU will honor tickets for the Fresno State game at the Charleston Southern game. Fans who made plans for that weekend thinking the Buffs would be on a bye can exchange their Fresno State game tickets for tickets to any of the Buffs other four remaining home games.

Charleston Southern will be the second FCS team CU has played this season. The Buffs previously beat Central Arkansas at Folsom Field on Sept. 7. The NCAA has granted CU a waiver to count both games against FCS schools toward bowl eligibility this season assuming the Buffs also beat Charleston Southern and finish the season with six or more wins.

"We really appreciate (CSU athletic director) Hank Small and Charleston Southern working with us to schedule this game and we look forward to hosting the Buccaneers on October 19," George said.

Contact staff writer Kyle Ringo at ringok@dailycamera.com or twitter.com/kyleringo.

CU Buffs schedule Charleston Southern as Fresno St. makeup for Oct. 19

The Denver Post The Denver Post
Posted:

DenverPost.com

The University of Colorado has secured Charleston Southern University as the opponent to replace the Sept. 14 Fresno State football game that was postponed due to the record rainfall and subsequent flooding in Boulder, CU athletic director Rick George announced Monday.

The game has been scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 19; the kickoff time will be determined once the Pac-12 Conference sets the television schedule for that day next Monday.

CU and Fresno State officials couldn't come up with a workable scenario to make up the game this season and will discuss future options. The series is a "two-for-one" (two in Boulder, one in Fresno) as the Buffaloes played on the road at Fresno last year; the two are scheduled to meet in Boulder on Sept. 14, 2019.

"The Fresno State athletic-department leadership, their president and their fans have all been very supportive and cooperative in our efforts to reschedule this contest," George said in a statement. "We are also most appreciative of Fresno State's student-athletes collecting donations to aid those victims of the flood."

Over the last two weeks, George and CU officials contacted nearly three dozen schools on both the FBS (Football Bowl Subdivision) and FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) levels, exploring all options available to find an opponent, preferably for Oct. 19, which was the second open date on CU's 2013 schedule. The only other possible date would have been the first Friday or Saturday in December, but those were fraught with complications.

Last Friday, Colorado received a waiver from the NCAA for it to be bowl eligible if it gets to six wins this season but if two were to come against FCS teams. Under the current rules, schools are allowed one win over an FCS opponent to count toward the minimum six required for postseason eligibility. The Buffaloes already played an FCS school, Central Arkansas, winning that game 38-24 on Sept. 7.

Fans can use the tickets and parking passes dated Sept. 14 with Fresno State for admission to the game. If ticket holders are unable to attend the makeup game Oct. 19, they can make an exchange for any of CU's other four home games (Oregon, Arizona, California or Southern California). Those doing so would be on a value-for-value, best-available-seating basis, which would need to be done before the final home game against USC on Nov. 23.

Charleston Southern (which also goes by CSU) is a member of the Big South Conference and is currently 5-0 on the season; the Buccaneers are ranked just outside the Top 25 in the FCS. To date, they have played and won four games on the road (at The Citadel, Campbell, Norfolk State and Appalachian State) with a win over Shorter at home. They also received a waiver from the NCAA, one that allowed them to play a 13th game, eight of which will be away from Charleston.

"We really appreciate (Charleston Southern athletic director) Hank Small and Charleston Southern working with us to schedule this game and we look forward to hosting the Buccaneers on Oct. 19," George said.

The Buccaneers will be the first school from South Carolina to play a football game in Boulder; CU has played Clemson twice, both in bowl games, and has never faced the University of South Carolina or other FCS schools that have traditionally played schools one division higher, including Coastal Carolina, Furman, Presbyterian or The Citadel.

There are five Pac-12 conference games on Oct. 19, along with one non-league affair (USC playing at Notre Dame). The conference and its television partners make their selections Monday mornings, so the game time will be known Oct. 7.



Oregon football notebook: Upsets can happen in Boulder

SEPTEMBER 30, 2013 11:15 PM • [BY RYAN THORBURN, THE REGISTER-GUARD](#)

EUGENE -- Mark Helfrich has witnessed the death of a visiting team's national championship dreams at Folsom Field once before.

On Sept. 29, 2007, No. 3 Oklahoma suffered a stunning 27-24 loss at Colorado. It was one of the only highlights of the Dan Hawkins era in Boulder.

Helfrich, CU's offensive coordinator the day redshirt freshman Cody Hawkins completed 22 of 36 passes for 219 yards against the Sooners, will return to Folsom Field this Saturday as the head coach of No. 2 Oregon.

"We had a couple of great wins there," Helfrich recalled after Monday's practice. "There was a game very much like ours, we beat Oklahoma, who were second or third in the country at that time, Sam Bradford and all those guys, and we beat them at home. West Virginia on a Thursday night, we beat them at home. It's a great place, very passionate student body, which is part of the challenge."

The Ducks (4-0, 1-0) are heavy favorites to beat the rebuilding Buffaloes (2-1, 0-1). The seniors in the struggling program are playing for their third head coach (Mike MacIntyre) in four seasons.

Two years ago, Oregon won 45-2 at Folsom Field with Bryan Bennett starting for an injured Darron Thomas at quarterback, and Kenjon Barner carrying the load at running back for an injured LaMichael James.

Even if De'Anthony Thomas misses this meeting, the Ducks should be in good shape, as long as they get out of Ralphie's way when the powerful live mascot runs around the field before kickoff.

"They were training a new Ralphie one year I remember at the spring game, and she broke loose, which was entertaining," said Helfrich, who was CU's offensive coordinator from 2006 to 2008 before taking the same position at Oregon. "It's always good watching the visiting team when she makes the U-turn and comes back down the sideline. Everybody becomes like a rodeo cowboy after he gets kicked off the bull, climbing up the fence. We'll do our best to avoid that."

Helfrich's fondest memory of Boulder? That's an easy one, his son Max was born there.

Addison honored

Oregon's Bralon Addison was named the Pac-12 special teams player of the week after

returning punts of 75 and 67 yards for touchdowns during the 55-16 victory over California. The sophomore wide receiver now leads the nation in punt return average (36.5 yards per attempt).

Helfrich said the other 10 players on the punt return team made the scoring plays possible by executing their blocks. The coach showed the team film of Addison making a block on offense, which allowed another receiver to score a touchdown.

"It's definitely everybody, and that's the neat part about that," Helfrich said.

Oregon State quarterback Sean Mannion is the conference's offensive player of the week after passing for 414 yards and six touchdowns during a 44-17 win over CU in Corvallis.

DAT update

Per his policy, Helfrich did not discuss Thomas' health status for Saturday's game. Quarterback Marcus Mariota is optimistic the dynamic running back will recover quickly from his ankle injury.

"He's doing good," Mariota said. "Obviously, he's nursing it a little bit, but he'll be fine."

Washington kickoff time

The Pac-12 announced on Monday the Ducks' game at No. 15 Washington will kickoff at 1 p.m. and will be televised by Fox Sports 1.

The Post and Courier

Charleston Southern adds 13th game to football schedule, will play at Colorado on Oct. 19

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Posted: Monday, September 30, 2013 6:21 p.m., Updated: Monday, September 30, 2013 7:12 p.m.



CSU's Christian Reyes drags a would be tackler on one of his CSU school record 34 carries in Saturday's win (Shane Roper/CSU Sports)

Charleston Southern's magical football season just got a little more special with the announcement Monday that the Buccaneers have made a late addition to their 2013 schedule and will play the University of Colorado later this month.

Charleston Southern, 5-0 after a stunning upset at Appalachian State on Saturday, will play Colorado on Oct. 19 in Boulder. The Buffaloes (2-1) play in the Pac-12 Conference. CSU is a member of the Big South.



The late schedule change is the result of Colorado postponing its game with Fresno State on Sept. 14 because of damaging floods in the Boulder area. The schools were unable to come up with a workable scenario to make up the game this season.

Colorado officials contacted nearly three dozen schools on both the FBS and FCS levels, searching for an available opponent.

Both Colorado and Charleston Southern had Oct. 19 as an open date, so the game was set. The Bucs were granted a waiver by the NCAA late last week to play a 13th game.

"Obviously, adding a game at this point in the season is a unique situation," said first-year CSU head coach Jamey Chadwell. "It is a big opportunity for us, though. It's a chance for us to showcase Charleston Southern University and our football program against a PAC-12 school for the first time."

The kickoff time is expected to be announced next Monday when the Pac-12 sets the television schedule for all its games on that day.

"We really appreciate (CSU athletic director) Hank Small and Charleston Southern working with us to schedule this game," Colorado athletic director Rick George said Monday. "We look forward to hosting the Buccaneers on Oct. 19."

Colorado joins a growing list of FBS opponents for the Bucs, who played at Illinois last season. CSU also has played at Florida, Florida State and Miami. The Bucs are scheduled to play at Georgia and Vanderbilt next season.

"The game is an exciting opportunity to play a Pac-12 school," Small said. "Our players have had the experience playing Big Ten, SEC and ACC schools, and this is a chance to add the Pac-12 program to that group and to continue to move our program forward."

Said CSU vice president for student affairs and athletics Dr. Rick Brewer: "This contest represents the university's desire to compete at the highest level of NCAA Division I athletics.

Consistent with our previous practice, funds from this game will be applied to enhancing CSU's football facilities and program."

The Bucs and Buffaloes are separated by more than 1,700 miles. The trip will be the longest for Charleston Southern since games at Hawaii in 2007 and 2010. The Buccaneers will be the first school from South Carolina to play at Colorado. The Buffaloes have played Clemson twice, both times in bowl games, and have never played South Carolina.

Coming off a three-game road trip, Charleston Southern returns home on Saturday to host North Greenville. Kickoff is at 11 a.m. at Buccaneer Field.

Colorado hosts No. 2-ranked Oregon on Saturday and plays at No. 22 Arizona State on Oct. 12.