



By: Joel Broida

Paul Richardson and the Colorado Buffaloes know a big game is on the horizon next Saturday.



Brooks: Beat Arizona And CU Eyes 'Month That Matters'

Release: October 19, 2013

By: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER - For as long as college football coaches have been blowing whistles and blasting officials, they've hoped to view November as a month to remember. It hadn't worked that way recently at Colorado.

For the Buffaloes, November has been the month reserved for football seasons to whimper and die. CU hasn't played past November - in a postseason game - since 2007, and very few Buffs fans viewed 2013 as offering a break in that woeful streak.

We're getting a little ahead of ourselves here, because with six games remaining CU is only halfway to the six wins required for postseason eligibility. The Buffs reached that midway point on Saturday at Folsom Field, disposing of Charleston Southern 43-10 in a manner they hope readies them for Arizona's visit next weekend.

Let me be among the first (hundred, I'm guessing) to proclaim this as a monster game for your Buffs. It's as big for first-year coach Mike MacIntyre as was his debut against Colorado State on Sept. 1 - and he did OK in that one, winning 41-27. It's as big for the program as the final three games of Brian Cabral's interim stint in 2010 - the last time the Buffs could honestly talk bowl talk.

But MacIntyre is still searching for 'W' No. 1 in the Pac-12 Conference, which beating Arizona would provide after three nasty league losses that saw CU outscored 155-46 by Oregon State, Oregon and Arizona State. If anyone says they expected MacIntyre's first Buffs team to prance into Pac-12 play and stand up to the upper echelon teams, I'm calling you on it. Don't even try.

In its preseason poll in late July, media covering the Pac-12 picked Arizona to finish behind UCLA, Arizona State and USC in the South Division. With the exception of USC at No. 3, that forecast could hold up nicely. Arizona was put in the fourth slot and CU was predicted to bring up the rear, behind only Utah. The Wildcats, entering their game Saturday night against Utah, were 3-2 overall, 0-2 in the conference. So I'd say calling the Buffs' next opponent a mid- to lower-echelon Pac-12 team should hurt no one's feelings.

Call the Wildcats what you will, but view next Saturday's matchup as CU receiver Paul Richardson does: "It's a huge game."

If the Buffs can leave October 4-3, they will have exceeded last season's win total by three - a major accomplishment - and will have positioned themselves for a chance to once again make November a month to remember in CU football.

Related Links

[Highlights vs. Charleston Southern](#)

[Buy Tickets](#)

[Gameday](#)

[Game Story](#)

[Adkins' Record Day](#)

[Statistics](#)

[Notes](#)

[Quotes](#)

[Final Game Book](#)

Or here's how MacIntyre put it in Saturday's postgame media conference: "We're 3-3 with three bowl (eligible) wins. We need to go get the one next week and if we do that it means November matters in Colorado - which is great. That's what our kids want to have happen."

But MacIntyre also is realistic in reflecting on how it's gone so far in his first Pac-12 season. "We have to play better in the Pac-12, I have to coach better . . . and that's what we plan on doing," he said. "I think we play better at home, too. I think they enjoy playing at home, so I'm excited about us playing at home next Saturday against a good Arizona team with a running back that can really run." (Ka'Deem Carey broke the school and conference single-game rushing records with 366 yards against CU last season).

Richardson, who caught eight of Sefo Liufau's passes for 122 yards including a 60-yard touchdown on Saturday, said creeping back above .500 would provide an immeasurable lift for the Buffs.

"You never want to be below .500," "P-Rich" said. "As much as people try not to think about it, it puts you in a different mindset to where now we're .500 and we're fighting not to be below. So now we've got a competitive edge that we need to keep fueling and I think we'll be fine."

Since their entry into the Pac-12, the Buffs and Wildcats have split their two games - each team winning at home. CU won 48-29 in Boulder in 2011, Arizona won 56-31 - with Carey running wild - last November in Tucson.

"I don't know what the big history is down the line (between CU and Arizona), but I do know that the most recent history is that they came down here on our field and we handled our business and we went to their field and they handled their business," Richardson said. "I was kind of like, 'What's up?'"

As large as the game looms for his team, Richardson also will have a personal stake in it. His cousin, Shaquille Richardson, is a senior cornerback for the Wildcats and likely will be matched up against his cuz on occasion. "We grew up together," Paul Richardson said. "He's healthy now, I'm healthy now . . . it should be a lot of fun. This will be a great game, especially with us coming off a win and knowing what we have to do in these last six games to get a bowl game."

Coaches aren't big on looking past the next game, but it's very permissible here. After Arizona, CU opens November with games against a pair of Top 25 opponents - at No. 9 UCLA on Nov. 2, at No. 20 Washington on Nov. 9. OK, upsets are possible and MacIntyre says his team gets up every Saturday morning, eats its granola and laces up its cleats believing it will win.

However . . .

November's final three Saturdays find CU hosting California (Nov. 16) and Southern California (Nov. 23) before travelling to Utah (Nov. 30). Realistically, the two 'W's required to push the Buffs into the postseason (provided they can get one against Arizona) likely must come in their final three games.

Do that, and MacIntyre's first November in Boulder truly becomes . . . go ahead and finish the sentence.

Contact: BG.Brooks@Colorado.EDU

Colorado Buffaloes Football

Show Menu





By: Joel Broida

Michael Adkins II ran for a school freshman record four touchdowns.



Adkins' Debut As Starter Produces Record-Setting Day

Release: October 19, 2013

By: Josh Casey, Graduate Assistant SID

BOULDER – After spending the majority of his afternoon in the end zone it was only fitting that he might return there one final time before it was all over.

In his debut as a starter, running back Michael Adkins II became the first Colorado freshman to score four touchdowns in a game as the Buffs ran over Charleston Southern 43-10 on Saturday.

As he was leaving Folsom Field, a reporter stopped him in the same end zone in which three of the four touchdowns took place to ask him to describe a performance that is unparalleled in CU history.

"I just took advantage of the carries I got," said Adkins. "It got me into a rhythm, just stay in the holes and keep having that consistent pounding that eventually turned into long runs and touchdowns."

Adkins, who went the first three games of his career without scoring, broke off run after explosive run through an overwhelmed Buccaneer defense. His 137 yards and four touchdowns on only 13 carries helped to ignite a previously lackluster CU running game that enjoyed by far its finest day of the season.

"I think he's a very good player," said CU coach Mike MacIntyre. "He has power, he has speed, he has vision, and he's very bright. That one run he made today over on the sidelines when it looked like it was all clogged up and he just crept in there, broke two tackles and then outran everybody to me was a really impressive run and I was excited to see that."

MacIntyre was speaking about Adkins' final touchdown, an impressive 34-yard jaunt late in the game. But he could have been talking about any number of runs by his star freshman on this day. His touchdown runs of 34, 33, 23 and 5 yards not only helped to revitalize a stagnant running attack, but also took some of the pressure off of freshman quarterback Sefo Liufau, who was also making his first career start. As a result, Liufau enjoyed a crisp turnover-free, efficient afternoon. Liufau completed 70 percent of his passes for 198 yards to go along with a 169.7 passer rating.

"It helps," said Liufau. "It keeps the defense honest because we can both run and pass the ball. Once they started manning up our guys, we ran the ball and we had big runs by Michael (Adkins)."

Adkins' performance bested the prior CU freshman touchdown record which had been held by Herchell Troutman, who had three at Texas in 1994, and Christian Powell, who had three last year against Sacramento State. It was type of performance that often brings accolade upon accolade to a player, yet after the game Adkins was more than willing to heap much of that praise onto an offensive line that may

Related Links

- [Highlights vs. Charleston Southern](#)
- [Buy Tickets](#)
- [Gameday](#)
- [Game Story](#)
- [Brooks: November Matters](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [Notes](#)
- [Quotes](#)
- [Final Game Book](#)

have enjoyed its own kind of breakthrough performance on Saturday.

"Our line blocked well," said Adkins. "I just kept grinding and fighting for yards. It was definitely a team effort."

Adkins was joined in the backfield by the sophomore Powell, who added 52 yards and a touchdown on 11 carries. The duo gave the Buffs the kind of 1-2 punch that may signify the rebirth of a ground attack that was statistically among the worst in the country coming into the game.

"Obviously having that 1-2 punch and competition between two backs helps," said Adkins. "Obviously, we want to see which one is going to do better but, we want to play together and do what we have to do to help the team win."

Colorado Buffaloes Football

Show Menu





By: Joel Broida

Michael Adkins ran for 137 yards on 13 carries and four touchdowns in Colorado's big win.



Brooks: Adkins Leads Buffs In Romp Past Buccaneers

Release: October 19, 2013

By: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER - Stepping away from their Pac-12 Conference schedule on a perfect mid-October Saturday, the Colorado Buffaloes eventually stepped out of Folsom Field with a 43-10 romp past overmatched Charleston Southern.

The Buffs' Big Stepper was tailback Michael Adkins II.

Adkins, a true freshman from San Diego, accounted for a freshman school record four touchdowns on runs of 23, 5, 33 yards and 34 yards. Entering Saturday's game, the Buffs had scored one rushing TD in their previous five games.

"We always say we want to be about 50-50 (run-pass), it depends on how the game goes," said Adkins, who finished with 137 yards on 13 carries. "But running today definitely was a factor."

And how. Tailback/fullback Christian Powell also scored on a 2-yard run as the Buffs enjoyed their most productive running afternoon of the season (218 yards). Adkins' four TDs eclipsed the school freshman record set by Herschel Troutman in 1994 and equaled by Powell last season.

The Buffs' top rushing effort this season had been 154 yards in a 44-17 loss at Oregon State. In the two games before Saturday, they had totaled 94 yards against Oregon and 99 against Arizona State. Adkins' carries had steadily risen in the three previous games, with his 98 yards on 14 attempts at OSU the previous high mark for a CU back this season.

"My carries have been increasing every week so I just took advantage of the carries I got," Adkins said. "Our line blocked well and I just kept grinding and kept finding the holes . . . it gave me a lot of confidence. I didn't score in my first two games, so scoring today gives me a lot of confidence moving forward."

The Buffs broke a three-game losing streak, evened their record at 3-3 and won their first game under first-time starting quarterback Sefo Liufau. CU returns to Pac-12 competition and remain at home next weekend, hosting Arizona (6 p.m., Pac-12 Network) in a game that suddenly looms as perhaps the schedule's most pivotal.

With Saturday's win, CU's goal now becomes to win its first Pac-12 game under first-year coach Mike MacIntyre next week and exit October 4-3 overall. That leaves five conference games in the season's final month for the Buffs to get two wins and reach six for bowl qualification — something that hasn't happened since the 2006 season.

Related Links

[Highlights vs. Charleston Southern](#)

[Buy Tickets](#)

[Gameday](#)

[Brooks: November Matters](#)

[Adkins' Record Day](#)

[Statistics](#)

[Notes](#)

[Quotes](#)

[Final Game Book](#)

"If we get the one next week," said MacIntyre, "it means November matters in Colorado."

A true freshman from Tacoma, Wash., Liufau made his college debut last weekend at Arizona State, replacing junior Connor Wood in the first quarter of CU's 54-13 loss. Liufau finished 18-of-26 for 169 yards and a touchdown, with two interceptions, in that game.

In his first start Saturday, he was 14-of-20 for 198 yards. Liufau's TD pass covered 60 yards, most of them courtesy of fleet junior Paul Richardson in the second quarter. Richardson finished with eight receptions for 122 yards.

"It feels good," Liufau said of his home debut and first start. "It was fun being out there with the guys and just playing and having fun." He called the confidence gained from the win "a tribute to the team – the O-line blocking, the receivers running the routes. Paul had a great play there . . . I definitely got confidence as I kept going."

The game against previously unbeaten CSU, the FCS' No. 24-ranked team, was arranged last month to replace Fresno State on the CU schedule. The Fresno State contest was postponed due to the mid-September floods that ravaged Boulder and Boulder County.

"I'm thankful that Charleston Southern wanted to play us," MacIntyre said. "Or we couldn't have played today."

CSU, which entered the afternoon 7-0, was without its first two quarterbacks and started freshman Kyle Copeland, who was playing in only his third game and had thrown two incompletions in his only two attempts. Copeland's final passing stats: 7-of-14 for 48 yards, one TD, one interception.

CU outgained CSU 416-196 in total offense, with the Buffs adjusting to the Buccaneers' option attack and holding them to zero points and 46 total yards in the second half.

"(CU) is just a better team than us," said CSU coach Jamey Chadwell. "We had seven wins before today and I don't think that's going to change. The only difference is that won't play quite as good of a team. They made some good adjustments during the second half, and as for us, we're going to keep doing what we do."

The Buffs got out of the first half with a 22-10 lead largely made possible by a timely fumble recovery by Nate Bonsu and Richardson's runaway speed.

Bonsu got the loose ball following defensive end Chidera Uzo-Diribe's strip of CSU quarterback Kyle Copeland at the Buccaneers' 12-yard line in the second quarter. Two plays later, Adkins took a handoff headed off left tackle, weaved to his right and scored from 5 yards out.

Will Oliver's PAT staked CU to a 15-3 lead that ballooned to 22-3 after a three-and-out CSU series and a 60-yard pitch-and-catch executed by Liufau and Richardson.

Credit Liufau with keeping the play afloat; he fielded a bouncing center snap, collected himself and spotted Richardson crossing right to left in front of the formation. "P-Rich" took the short pass, reversed his field and outran two Buccaneers in pursuit to the right pylon.

Oliver again kicked the extra point and CU seemed comfortably ahead 22-3. The Buffs had opened the game with a 65-yard, six-play scoring drive, getting 52 yards on the ground – the last 23 by Adkins. They went ahead 8-0 when holder Darragh O'Neill ran for the two-point conference.

But after CU had surged in front 22-3, CSU collected itself for its second 9-plus minute drive of the half – the first ended with a field goal when an apparent TD pass on a well-designed pitch was reviewed and overruled – and scored on a 7-yard Copeland to Colton Korn with six left before intermission.

The disallowed TD proved pivotal. The play initially was reviewed and not overturned, but MacIntyre called a time out to allow another look and said he was told by an official that the ball being bobbled by tight end Nathan Prater was missed on the first look.

Chadwell said he was upset because "they took a time out, they reviewed the play (and) it was fine. Then the other review took an hour. They (officials) didn't go by their protocol . . . I just felt like it was huge deal momentum-wise, because that could have meant a touchdown for us."

CU, which was leading 8-0 at the time, finished the half with 164 yards in total offense, while CSU had 150. Liufau attempted only six first-half passes, completing four for 74 yards – Richardson's long TD was for 60 – and being sacked once. Copeland, playing in only his second game and 0-2 in passing, was five-for-eight for 27 yards and a TD. The Buccaneers controlled the ball for 21:51 to 8:09 in the opening half.

The Buffs scored on their first possession of the second half, opening a 29-10 lead after a 13-play, 64-yard march capped by Christian Powell's 2-yard run. Exactly 3 minutes later – at 4:11 – Liufau and his offense failed to capitalize on a Jered Bell interception near midfield, and the quarter ended with CU clutching its 19-point lead.

With 11:22 to play, Adkins' 33-yard jaunt and Oliver's extra point sent the Buffs comfortably ahead 36-10. Just over 5 minutes later, Adkins broke loose again and broke three tackles en route to his record-setting fourth rushing TD.

Wood replaced Liufau and Tony Jones replaced Adkins with just over 3 minutes remaining, with CU taking possession near its 15-yard line and ending the game near midfield.

Contact: BG.Brooks@Colorado.EDU

Colorado Buffaloes Football

Show Menu



Colorado football: Buffs' Adkins has historic day vs. Bucs

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

It took running back Michael Adkins II one impressive afternoon on the football field to go from never having scored a point at the college level to being the third leading scorer on the Colorado roster this season.

Adkins, who started for the first time in his career Saturday, ran 13 times for 137 yards in the Buffs' 43-10 victory over Charleston Southern to produce the first 100-yard rushing game of his career. He also scored four touchdowns on runs of 23, five, 33 and 34 yards to set a new freshman record for rushing touchdowns in a game.

"It gave me a lot of confidence," Adkins said. "I didn't score in my first three games. So it gave me a lot of confidence moving forward."

Adkins' backfield partner Christian Powell held the old freshman record for touchdowns in a game along with Herchell Troutman. They each had three with Powell's coming last season when he made a splash in the CU offense.

Powell also ran for touchdown Saturday and finished with 52 yards on 11 carries, but it seems like Adkins has now solidified his place as the starter.

"I think me and him could be a good complement," Powell said.

While Adkins will likely remain the starter as long as he continues to earn it, coach Mike MacIntyre said he will continue to use Powell and senior Tony Jones in the offense. MacIntyre said he feels like he needs three running backs he can count on in every game and he has them in that trio.

Adkins' performance contributed to the CU offense rushing for 218 yards against the Buccaneers from the Football Championship Subdivision. CU came into the game ranked 110th in rushing offense.

"I hope it's a step forward in the running game," MacIntyre said. "We didn't run the ball as well against Central Arkansas as we did today. ... I feel like it's an extension of what we're doing and I feel like Michael is getting comfortable with it. But we need to go do it against Pac-12. There is no doubt."

Adkins stole the spotlight from fellow true freshman Sefo Liufau, who made his first start at quarterback for the Buffs. It was the first time in CU history that true freshmen made their first career starts together at quarterback and tailback.

Obviously Liufau didn't mind seeing his classmate have a big day. It was the first time since 2008 CU had two true freshmen start a game in the backfield.

"It definitely helped," Liufau said. "It keeps the defense honest because we can both run and pass the ball. Once they started running a bunch of cover zero and manning up our guys, we ran the ball and had big runs by Michael and spit it out to Paul (Richardson) and the rest of our receivers."

While Saturday's game was the highlight of his freshman season so far, Adkins is off to an impressive start to what could be one of the best freshman seasons by a CU running back. He has rushed for 315 yards in the four games in which he has played and he's averaging 6.4 yards per carry.

"I think he's a very good player," MacIntyre said. "He has power, he has speed, he has vision and he's very bright."

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

Colorado football: MacIntyre aims to make November count

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

It is safe to say at the midway point of the college football season the biggest difference between this year's team at Colorado and last season's team is these Buffs win the games they are supposed to.

Colorado snapped a three-game losing streak Saturday at a half-empty Folsom Field beating Charleston Southern 43-10. Added to victories over Colorado State and Central Arkansas back in September, the Buffs won all three of their non-conference games for the first time since 2004.

They have reached the halfway point with a 3-3 overall record and an 0-3 mark in Pac-12 Conference play.

The Buffs will dive back into Pac-12 action next week when they play host to Arizona in the biggest game the program has played since late in 2010 when the Buffs were fighting for bowl eligibility under interim coach Brian Cabral after the firing of former coach Dan Hawkins.

"We need to go get the one next week and if we do, that means November matters in Colorado," coach Mike MacIntyre said.

The problem is, of course, that CU rarely has been even competitive against its Pac-12 brethren since joining the league. The Buffs' closest conference game this season was decided by 27 points and they have lost 16 of 21 Pac-12 games by 25 or more points since the start of the 2011 season.

But CU wide receiver Paul Richardson said he believes the Buffs can get three more wins in the final six games this season to become bowl eligible for the first time since 2007. Asked why he believes that considering CU's recent history in the conference, Richardson was blunt.

"Because I have confidence in my team," he said.

Richardson led the Buffs in receiving with eight catches for 122 yards and a touchdown. He has now racked up 782 receiving yards this season, the ninth best single-season total in school history. The last CU receiver to eclipse 1,000 receiving yards in a season was D.J. Hackett in 2003.

Saturday's win over the Buccaneers from the Football Championship Subdivision was a confidence builder for the Buffs if nothing else. It especially seemed to help a running game that was ranked 110th nationally before the game.

CU tailback Michael Adkins II stole the show from quarterback Sefo Liufau. The duo became the first true freshmen to make their first career starts at running back and quarterback in the same game in school history.

Adkins set a CU freshman record with four rushing touchdowns and ran for 137 yards on 13 carries. His four scores covered 23, 5, 33 and 34 yards respectively. It is the first 100-yard rushing game of his career.

"Our line blocked well and I just kept grinding and fighting for yards," Adkins said.

Lawrence Vickers was the last CU running back to score four touchdowns in a game came against Missouri in 2005.

With Adkins enjoying a big day, all that was needed for Liufau was good decision-making and no turnovers. He finished his first start completing 14 of 20 passes for 198 yards and a touchdown.

"I thought our kids played hard today," MacIntyre said. "In the first half, if we could have just got them out on a couple third downs I think they wouldn't have been able to hang around as well. They did a good job there."

It is the first time CU won a game by 20 or more points since beating Iowa State by 20 points on Nov. 13, 2010. It was the largest margin of victory since beating Miami (Ohio 42-0 in 2007.

CU had managed 46 combined points and over the past three weeks in Pac-12 play.

The game replaced a Sept. 14 game against Fresno State on the CU schedule. That contest was canceled after historic flooding in the Boulder area. CU announced 36,730 tickets were distributed for Saturday's game. The actual attendance was somewhere between 25,000 and 30,000.

Regardless, it was the smallest crowd to see a CU home game in decades and it was the second time this season CU has had fewer than 40,000 fans in the stadium. That hadn't happened in Boulder prior to this year since 1988.

It was the first loss of the season for the Buccaneers (7-1, 1-0), who were forced to start a freshman quarterback as well because of injuries to their first and second-string signal callers.

"I'm very thankful that Charleston Southern wanted to play us or we wouldn't have been able to play today," MacIntyre said. "That was great for the city of Boulder, great for our campus and great for our team. I really appreciate those guys. They're a good football team."

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

Colorado 43,

Charleston Southern 10

Charleston Southern 0 10 0 0--10

Colorado 8 14 7 14--43

First Quarter

Col -- Adkins 23 run (O'Neill run), 12:52.

Second Quarter

ChSo -- FG Deboy 33, 14:50.

Col -- Adkins 5 run (Oliver kick), 11:41.

Col -- Richardson 60 pass from Liufau (Oliver kick), 9:16.

ChSo -- Korn 7 pass from Copeland (Higgins kick), :06.

Third Quarter

Col -- Powell 2 run (Oliver kick), 7:11.

Fourth Quarter

Col -- Adkins 33 run (Oliver kick), 11:22.

Col -- Adkins 34 run (Oliver kick), 6:09.

A -- 36,730.

ChSo Col

First downs 11 19

Rushes-yards 45-148 31-218

Passing 48 198

Comp-Att-Int 7-14-1 15-21-0

Return Yards 0 8

Punts-Avg. 7-43.1 4-39.8

Fumbles-Lost 2-1 0-0

Penalties-Yards 6-33 2-25

Time of Possession 36:47 23:13

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING -- Charleston Southern, Copeland 20-50, Holloway 5-44, Reyes 14-43, Allen 2-10, Hammond 2-2, Frazier 2-(minus 1). Colorado, Adkins 13-137, Powell 11-52, T.Jones 4-37, Liufau 3-(minus 8).

PASSING -- Charleston Southern, Copeland 7-13-1-48, Reyes 0-1-0-0. Colorado, Liufau 14-20-0-198, C.Wood 1-1-0-0.

RECEIVING -- Charleston Southern, Korn 4-32, Glears 1-16, Hammond 1-0, Reyes 1-0. Colorado, Richardson 8-122, Spruce 2-27, Goodson 1-28, Canty 1-15, McCulloch 1-5, Adkins 1-1, Ross 1-0.

Colorado football: Mike MacIntyre upset with Buffs' defense in first half

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

There were a lot of things to like about Colorado's 43-10 win against Charleston Southern on Saturday at Folsom Field.

But at halftime, head coach Mike MacIntyre found something he didn't like. During his halftime interview on KOA (850 AM) radio, MacIntyre said that the CU defensive line "sucks."

CU gave up 123 rushing yards during the first half on 28 rushes, with Charleston Southern quarterback Kyle Copeland -- a freshman third stringer making his first starter -- piling up 58 of those. Take away a 13-yard sack and Copeland had 71 yards on his other 10 attempts.

"We had three third-down plays where we had stuff called and worked on it and one of the young men is supposed to go under the tackle instead of outside the tackle and it opened it wide up when it would have got them out on third down," MacIntyre said after the game. "I was just upset about that at the time."

Coaches didn't yell at the linemen during halftime, but adjustments were made. CU gave up just 25 yards on 17 rushes in the second half.

"We just showed them adjustments and what they had to correct and made sure they got it corrected and they did in the second half," defensive line coach Jim Jeffcoat said.

Senior defensive end Chidera Uzo-Diribe was taken aback a bit when told of MacIntyre's halftime comments, but admitted he and his group played better after the break.

"They didn't score in the second half, so we definitely played better in the second half," said Uzo-Diribe, who had a sack and forced a fumble.

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

Colorado football: Big day for Paul Richardson

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

For the fourth time in six outings this season, Colorado receiver Paul Richardson topped the 100-yard mark. He finished with eight catches for 122 yards, with 60 of those coming on a touchdown pass in the second quarter.

"Once I started running, I wanted to split it and just go down the field but I didn't have that gear," he said. "So, I was smart and I just cut across the field and outran the defender's angle."

That touchdown was Richardson's 11th career play of 50 yards or more. He has averaged 55 yards on his six touchdowns this year.

Richardson has 43 catches for 782 yards and six touchdowns this season, putting him on pace for 86 catches, 1,564 yards and 12 touchdowns. CU's single-season records are 78 catches (D.J. Hackett in 2003), 1,149 yards (Charles Johnson in 1992) and 11 touchdowns (Derek McCoy in 2003).

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

Colorado football: Buffs' O-line shows improvement

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Colorado's offensive line was not perfect against Charleston Southern, but it did play fairly well. The linemen paved the way for CU to rush for 218 yards, and gave up just one sack of quarterback Sefo Liufau.

"It was good," senior tackle Jack Harris said. "We know we can do that kind of stuff against any Pac-12 team; now we just have to go out and do it. We need to do it next week."

Harris was disappointed in the sack, however, in addition to the four quarterback hurries racked up by CSU.

"I'm upset by that stuff and I think the guys are, too," Harris said. "We have to get that stuff worked out."

"We could have done better and we can always get better. But, we'll take (the overall performance) as a good thing and keep going."

Notable

Backup tackle Marc Mustoe, a sophomore, broke his fibula on Saturday and will miss the remainder of the season. ... Darragh O'Neill became the first punter in CU history to play a role in converting a two-point conversion when he ran one in during the first quarter. ... Uzo-Diribe had his fifth forced fumble of the year, and 10th for his career. CU records are seven for one season (Jashon Sykes in 1999) and 11 for a career (Brian Cabral and Barry Remington). ... Jered Bell intercepted a CSU pass. It was his second INT this year. ... Junior Connor Wood, who started the first five games at quarterback, played the final offensive series for CU. He completed his only pass. ... CU has lost the coin toss in all six games this year. ... Charleston Southern fell to 0-23 against FBS teams. ... CU is 299-158-10 all-time at Folsom Field.

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

Colorado football: Wilson makes his mark

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Redshirt freshman De'Jon Wilson got the most significant playing time of his career on Saturday. A 6-foot-2, 245-pound defensive lineman from Washington, D.C., Wilson recorded three tackles, including one for a 3-yard loss, and recovered a Buccaneers fumble.

"It was very fun," he said. "Coach said, 'Let's go dive in there and swim,' and that's what I did.

"Every practice, I go hard and every situation I get in, I try to go hard. They recognized my hard work and they wanted to give me a shot and see what I do with it."

Defensive line coach Jim Jeffcoat was pleased with the results from Wilson, who had just one tackle in 29 total snaps during the first five games.

"He deserves to get an opportunity to play," Jeffcoat said. "He's been improving each week and I wanted to get him in the game situation and see what he could do. He did some good things."

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

CU Buffs rout Charleston Southern behind freshman RB

Michael Adkins II

By John Henderson The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER — The true freshman had his breakout day in his starting debut Saturday, getting reeling Colorado back on track and showing great promise for the future.

Yep, that Michael Adkins II sure opened a lot of eyes.

No, quarterback Sefo Liufau didn't disappoint. But on this day, he was the "other" true freshman. Adkins stole his spotlight, if not his status as the Buffaloes' hopeful savior.

Adkins ran for a freshman school-record four touchdowns on his way to 137 yards as Colorado beat Charleston Southern 43-10. Only about 25,000 fans (36,730 paid) came to sunny Folsom Field to watch an FCS team test its 7-0 record and No. 24 ranking against a team that had lost its three Pac-12 games by a combined score of 155-46.

The Buccaneers replaced the flooded-out Fresno State game from Sept. 14, and it's doubtful Adkins would have broken out against the Bulldogs, now ranked 17th. No matter. Adkins' effort helped level Colorado to 3-3 under first-year coach Mike MacIntyre. That already matches the most wins the Buffs had in a season the previous two years.

Right now, that overshadows the eyesore test of the previous three weeks or that two wins are against FCS teams.

"We're 3-3 with three bowl (eligible) wins," MacIntyre said. "We need to go get the one next week and if we do, that means November matters in Colorado."

Coming in is Arizona. And it appears Adkins would be guaranteed to start as much as Liufau. Adkins' 137 yards were the fifth-most by a Colorado freshman, but more important, they may have jump-started a moribund rushing attack.

He opened the scoring by breaking safety Demaris Freeman's tackle for a 23-yard TD. Then Adkins ran for a 5-yard score to make it 15-3. He put the game away in the fourth quarter with TD runs of 33 and 34 yards, the latter after emerging from about three clinging Buccaneers.

"He's a very good player," MacIntyre said. "He's got power. He's got speed. He's got vision. He's very bright."

He may turn out to be a recruiting steal. He chose Colorado over Air Force and San Jose State after rushing for 3,115 yards and 40 touchdowns during his career at San Diego's Helix High School.

He has been battling with sophomore Christian Powell since Adkins debuted with 98 yards at Oregon State on Sept. 28.

"I didn't score in my first three games, so scoring today really gave me a lot of confidence," Adkins said.

Liufau didn't disappoint. He played mistake-free with a conservative game plan, going 14-for-20 for 198 yards and a 60-yard TD pass to Paul Richardson.

But if Colorado needed another break, besides playing an FCS team instead of Fresno State, it got it before the coin flip. Second-string quarterback Daniel Croghan, a redshirt freshman who replaced senior Damian Dixon (torn ACL) three weeks ago, wasn't cleared to play because of a concussion suffered the previous week at VMI.

Out came Kyle Copeland, a true freshman option specialist from the East Texas town of Arp (pop. 982). He gave the Buffs' defense fits in the first half, leading scoring drives of 9:50 and 9:05.

Two plays, however, killed any chance for Charleston Southern to take control. Down 8-0, Copeland threw an 11-yard TD pass to tight end Nathan Prater, who made a nice catch near the grass.

After a review and a MacIntyre timeout, to review it even more, the officials reversed it and the Bucs settled for a 33-yard Mark Deboy field goal.

Then, after forcing a three-and-out, came the play of the game. On first down, Copeland went back to pass, but defensive end Chidera Uzo-Diribe knocked it from his hand. Freshman De'Jon Wilson recovered, and two plays later, Adkins scored from the 5 to make it 15-3.

"I should just start calling him the honey badger because he just causes fumbles all the time," Mac Intyre said in reference to LSU's former ballhawk, Tyrann Mathieu.

Better yet, at the halfway mark, he can call his Buffaloes .500.

John Henderson: jhenderson@denverpost.com or twitter.com/johnhendersondp

Key play

Down only 8-3 in the second quarter Saturday and buoyed by a scoring drive that took 9:50 off the clock, Charleston Southern got the ball back at its 21-yard line. But on first down, quarterback Kyle Copeland dropped back to pass and Colorado defensive end Chidera Uzo-Diribe knocked the ball from his hand. CU freshman lineman De'Jon Wilson recovered at the 12. Michael Adkins II scored for the Buffs from the 5 for a 15-3 lead.

Key stat

Four touchdowns by Adkins, a Colorado freshman record. He opened the scoring with a 23-yard run up the middle, ran over a Buccaneers player on a 5-yard run in the second quarter and had scoring runs of 33 and 34 yards in the fourth quarter. He finished with 137 yards on 13 carries, a 10.5-yard average.

Sefo Liufau passes first test as starting QB

By Irv Moss The Denver Post The Denver Post
Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER — It was Sefo Liufau's first game as the starting quarterback for Colorado, but it didn't take long for the 18-year-old freshman to talk as if he were a veteran.

Reminded that Saturday's 43-10 victory over Charleston Southern at Folsom Field came against a lower-division opponent and not against a Pac-12 team, Liufau didn't see the difference.

"They are a good team," Liufau said of the Buccaneers, who fell to 7-1. "We executed like we know we can. If we come out and execute and do what I know we can do, I don't think it's going to be any different (next weekend)."

But there will be a difference. The Buffs return to their Pac-12 schedule next Saturday at home against Arizona. Conference opponents have won 18 of the 21 games CU has played in three years since joining the Pac-12, including all three this season.

But Liufau wasn't about to lose the euphoria of a victory.

"It's my first start and my first win," Liufau said. "I don't want to rest on that. The coaches say it's my team right now. I have the support of the team and the support of the coaches."

First-year CU coach Mike MacIntyre wasn't so nonchalant about retuning to conference play.

"We have to coach better. We have to play better," MacIntyre said. "Our players know that."

MacIntyre credited Liufau with good marks in his first start. But he remembered a throw in the dirt on Liufau's first pass of the game.

"He made some good throws," MacIntyre said. "He was able to calm down a bit."

Liufau was at his best on CU's first possession of the second half. He had completions of 9, 18 and 12 yards to Paul Richardson and a 17-yard completion to Nelson Spruce on a 13-play, 64-yard touchdown drive that put CU ahead 29-10.

Overall against the Buccaneers, six CU players caught passes from Liufau, who finished 14-of-20 for 198 yards and a touchdown.

All in all, it was a good day's work. He left the CU locker room on his way to spending time with his parents, who came from Tacoma, Wash., to watch the game.

Irv Moss: 303-954-1296, imoss@denverpost.com or twitter.com/irvmoss

Charleston Southern coach upset about erased TD

By John Henderson and Irv Moss The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER — In the long run, it may have only scared a Colorado football team that went on to win 43-10. But the reversal of a Charleston Southern touchdown on the first play of the second quarter Saturday definitely blunted some momentum.

Down 8-0, the Buccaneers' Kyle Copeland threw an apparent 11-yard touchdown pass to tight end Nathan Prater. It supposedly was automatically reviewed. Then, when CU coach Mike MacIntyre called a timeout, the play was reviewed some more. Then it was reversed.

"In a situation like that, I said, 'I'm going to give you more time to look at it,' " MacIntyre said.

Bucs coach Jamey Chadwell wasn't happy. "The other review took an hour," he said. "They didn't go by their protocol."

Charleston Southern settled for a field goal.

Receptive to big plays. Paul Richardson's 60-yard TD reception — he caught the pass over the middle and outraced the entire Bucs defense about 50 yards — was his fifth play of at least 50 yards this season. His six TD catches average 55 yards per play. He entered the weekend third nationally with an average of 132 yards receiving per game.

Half bad. Charleston Southern had 150 total yards by halftime, including scoring drives of 9:50 and 9:05. But in the second half, the Bucs gained only 46 yards.

Fab frosh. Sefo Liufau and Michael Adkins II became the first true freshmen in Colorado history to make starts at quarterback and tailback in the same game.

Injury report. Backup offensive tackle Marc Mustoe broke his fibula and is done for the season. CU suffered no other injuries.

Mental block. MacIntyre and the Buffaloes return to Pac-12 competition next Saturday at Folsom Field against Arizona. The Buffs are 0-3 in the Pac-12.

"I really think it's a mental hurdle with us, and I really think that we're closer to beating it," MacIntyre said. "Our players have to keep believing and keep doing the right thing under pressure. We have to get over that mental hump and go do it."

Points vs. possession. What you do with the ball when you have it usually is more important than time of possession.

Charleston Southern was blown out by the Buffs despite having a big advantage in time of possession. The Bucs had the ball for 36:47 overall, including 21:51 in the first half. CU finished with possession time of 23:13.

CU Buffs roll to win behind true freshmen Liufau and Adkins

By John Henderson The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER — Everyone talked about the starting debut of true freshman quarterback Sefo Liufau, but another true freshman stole Colorado's show Saturday. Michael Adkins II rushed for a school freshman-record four touchdowns and 137 yards as the Buffaloes defeated Charleston Southern, 43-10.

The game was a replacement for the flooded-out Fresno State game Sept. 14. Only about 25,000 fans (36,730 paid) came to Folsom Field on a brilliant 60-degree sunshine afternoon to see the Buffs take on the undefeated No. 24 team in FCS. Those who did saw a glimpse of the Buffaloes' future.

Adkins has been battling sophomore Christian Powell for the tailback job ever since Adkins rushed for 98 yards in his debut at Oregon State on Sept. 28.

He may have solidified the job by breaking the 100-yard mark for the first time in his career. It was the most touchdowns by a Buffaloes back since Lawrence Vickers against Missouri in 2005.

All eyes, however, were on Liufau. The prize recruit from Tacoma, Wash., debuted off the bench last week at Arizona State and Saturday went 14-of-20 for 198 yards and a touchdown. He played mistake free with a conservative game plan and threw a 60-yard TD pass to Paul Richardson for a 22-3 lead in the second quarter.

If Colorado (3-3) needed another break against an FCS opponent, it got it before the game. Second-string quarterback Daniel Croghan III, a redshirt freshman, wasn't cleared to play after suffering a concussion the week before at Virginia Military Institute.

In his place came third-string Kyle Copeland, a 6-foot-1, 196-pound true freshman from the East Texas town of Arp (pop. 976). He did throw for 5,800 yards and 60 touchdowns at Arp High and caused some problems for a Colorado defense that was expected to dominate.

In the first half he ran for 58 yards and hit 5-of-8 passes, including a 7-yard touchdown pass to Colton Korn with six seconds left for a 22-10 halftime deficit.

The Buccaneers' two scoring drives were for 9:50 and 9:05, leaving the Buffaloes with only 19 offensive plays the entire half.

However, a Copeland mistake in the second quarter was the turning point in the game. Down 8-3 with the ball at its own 21, Copeland dropped back to pass but defensive end Chidera Uzo-Diribe knocked the ball out of his hand. Lineman De'Jon Wilson, a redshirt freshman, recovered at the 12. Two plays later, Adkins ran 5 yards for a touchdown and a 15-3 lead.

Colorado had a huge weight advantage on the offensive line and dominated the line of scrimmage. It helped Adkins to 65 yards in the first half, including another scoring run of 23 yards.

Colorado's dominance in the running game took the pressure off Liufau. He only had to throw six times in the first half, but one of the completions was a safety-valve pass to Richardson just before Liufau got sacked.

The wide-open Richardson took the pass at midfield, cut right and outraced the Buccaneers defense for a 60-yard score and a 22-3 margin. It was his 11th career reception of 50 yards or longer and gives him 16 TD receptions for his career. He's one away from Javon Green (1997-2000) for fifth on the school's career list.

Liufau took charge in one third-quarter drive. He went 4-for-4 for 57 yards in a 64-yard, 13-play drive, culminated by Powell's 2-yard touchdown run to make it a safe 29-10 lead.

Charleston Southern dropped to 7-1. Colorado hosts Arizona next Saturday at 6 p.m.

John Henderson: , jhenderson@denverpost.com or twitter.com/johnhendersondp