

Colorado football: Buffs must find way to slow down Arizona's Ka'Deem Carey

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera
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One of the most competitive halves of football the Colorado football team has played since joining the Pac-12 Conference was quickly forgotten about last season at Arizona when the CU defense was steamrolled by running back Ka'Deem Carey.

In a 2012 autumn filled with memorable defensive low points, the game against the Wildcats might have been rock bottom. The Buffs allowed a winnable contest to get away from them in the second half as Carey set the single-game Pac-12 rushing record with 366 yards on the ground and five touchdowns.

It was not only the best rushing performance ever in a conference that has produced the likes of Marcus Allen, Charles White, Reggis Bush, Marshawn Lynch, LaMichael James and others, it was the ninth best rushing performance in NCAA history. Carey finished last season as the nation's leading rusher.

"We didn't play assignment-sound football," CU linebacker Brady Daigh said last week when asked to recall what went wrong that day for the Buffs. "That's pretty much what it comes down to. People didn't do their job. People tried to start making plays for other people and that opens up big gaps.

"... On defense, we just got down in that game and once you blow one assignment, it's a lot easier to start blowing more."

The Buffs led Arizona after the first quarter and trailed by just four points at halftime, but Arizona coaches apparently saw something in the CU defense, made adjustments at halftime and rolled to a memorable day.

Carey already was one of the better running backs in the nation prior to his big day against the Buffs last season, but his record-setting performance sealed that status. He has done nothing since but build on that résumé and likely will be playing in the NFL at this time next year even though he is only a junior.

Carey was named Pac-12 Offensive Player of the Week on Monday after another big game in a win over Utah. He rushed for 236 yards, including a 44-yard run in the final 2 minutes that cemented the Wildcats' win.

"Ka'Deem Carey is a great back," CU senior Derrick Webb said last week not wanting to look ahead a week to a shot at redemption. " ... When we get to him, he will definitely be a No. 1 priority to stop."

The Buffaloes will return to the practice fields Tuesday morning to begin work on slowing down Carey this year. Stopping him is unlikely. He is the nation's leading rusher once again, averaging 161 yards a game.

Arizona (4-2, 1-2) visits Folsom Field on Saturday (6:07 p.m., Pac-12 Network).

The Buffs have been inconsistent in trying to stop the run this season. The CU defense ranks 78th nationally against the run allowing 175 yards a game on the ground.

Linebacker Woodson Greer didn't play against Arizona last season, but should be attempting to tackle Carey on Saturday. Greer said a lot has changed in the past year, especially on the CU side of the ball where there are numerous new faces on defense playing in a new scheme under different coaches.

Greer said all that should help the Buffs against Carey and Wildcats this time around.

"That's usually one of our first things, one of our first goals all the way from camp is stop the run and make teams throw the ball," Greer said. "That's what we're going to try to do. It's nothing special. Play our gaps, play our responsibilities and try to stop them."

CU coach Mike MacIntyre said after beating Charleston Southern last week to get to 3-3 overall and 0-3 in Pac-12 play that finding a way to beat Arizona would be key toward making November matter at CU.

The Buffs haven't played meaningful games in November since 2010 when they went into the season finale at Nebraska trying to become bowl eligible only to fall short in what was their final game in the Big 12 Conference.

Notable

Saturday night's game has been dubbed the annual blackout game for the Buffs. CU is expected to wear all black uniforms and helmets with pink accents in honor of breast cancer awareness month. ... Colorado's game at UCLA on Nov. 2, will be televised on FOX Sports 1 and will kickoff at 5:30 p.m. (MDT).

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Adkins finds some running room

By [John Maffei \(/staff/john-maffei/\)](#) 8:31 p.m. Oct. 21, 2013



[\(/photos/2013/oct/21/1133707/\)](#)

Colorado running back Michael Adkins had four TDs over the weekend. *University of Colorado Athletics*

A month ago, Michael Adkins II was a running back who wasn't getting a chance to run.

A true freshman out of Helix High, Adkins didn't play in the first two games for Colorado. But during a three-week break dictated by catastrophic floods in Colorado, Adkins was able to show his stuff in practice.

He had 14 carries for 98 yards against Oregon State, gained 19 yards against Oregon and had 62 yards against Arizona State.

Saturday, he etched his name in the Colorado record book, rushing 13 times for 137 yards and a freshman-record four touchdowns in a 43-10 win over Charleston Southern. His first four college TDs came on runs of 5, 23, 33 and 34 yards.

His season totals in four games read 49 carries for 316 yards and the four scores.

"I practice like it's a game, so when I got the chance, I was ready to play," Adkins said. "The coaches told me in fall camp that I'd probably redshirt, then the decision was made to let me play."

Adkins was all set to play for San Jose State and former USD coach Ron Caragher. But when Mike MacIntyre moved from San Jose State to coach the Buffaloes, Adkins followed.

"Michael is good, and he's fast," MacIntyre said. "He'll play a lot for us."

Adkins rushed 216 times for 1,770 yards and 24 TDs last season for Helix.

"Playing for Troy Starr at Helix got me ready for college," Adkins said. "I knew a lot about schemes, how a college program was run.

"The college game is faster, the defenses are more complex, the linebackers run like safeties, and there is much more film study. The games are so much more intense."

Colorado was lucky to get Charleston Southern to replace a game against Fresno State that was wiped out by floods in September.

"Michael fits in well with the group of humble, low-ego, hardworking guys that want to help the team win," said Buffs running backs coach Klayton Adams. "His production speaks for itself."

Football

- Anthony Larceval (Helix), a fifth-year senior at San Jose State, was the national nominee for the Discover Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award. A defensive tackle, Larceval was admitted to the hospital in December with what was diagnosed as meningoencephalitis, a virus that causes swelling of the brain. He lost 40 pounds during his recovery and needed extensive therapy. He's back playing this season and has nine tackles.

- Jimmy Pruitt (Helix), a sophomore cornerback, has 26 tackles, an interception and three pass breakups for San Jose State. Hansell Wilson (Valhalla), a sophomore reserve receiver for the Spartans, has two catches for 11 yards and one carry for 20.

Hail to the Victors

Erik Magnuson (La Costa Canyon) started at right guard Saturday for Michigan, the first career start for the heavily recruited redshirt freshman. Joey Burzynski (Carlsbad), a redshirt junior who made the team as a walk-on, made his first career start Saturday, lining up at right guard. Matt Wile (Francis Parker) is the long snapper and kickoff man for the Wolverines. Michigan improved to 6-1 Saturday with a 63-47 win over Indiana and is ranked No. 24.

Field hockey

- Freshman forward Courtney Enge (Scripps Ranch) has played in 15 games for a 9-7 Michigan team that plays at Stanford and Pacific this weekend.
- Freshman forward Ali Campos (Scripps Ranch) has played in seven games for No. 18 Iowa.

Women's volleyball

- Kara Vincitorio (La Costa Canyon) is the libero on a Concordia-Irvine team that went unbeaten last season, winning the NAIA national championship. The team saw a 55-match win streak snapped Saturday at No. 2 Texas-Brownsville.
- Kyle Gilbert (Santa Fe Christian) is the libero for a Stanford team that is ranked No. 7 in the nation and is 13-4. Gilbert leads the Cardinal in digs with 236.

The Alumni Report appears every other week through the college season. Readers are encouraged to submit information on former San Diego County prep athletes to john.maffei@utsandiego.com

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