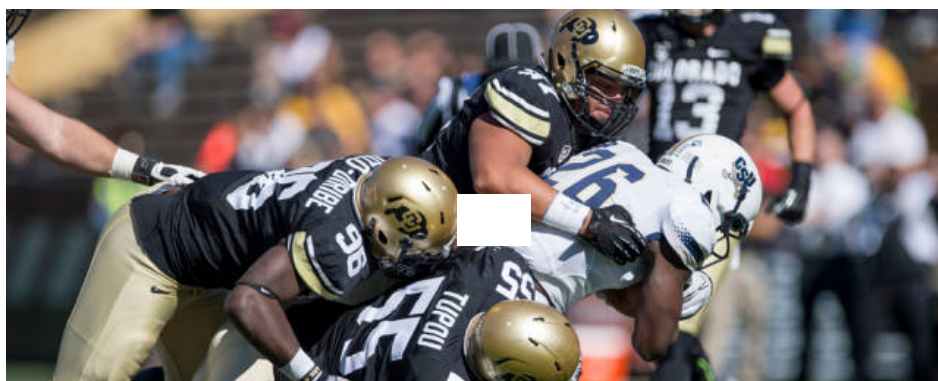




By: Joel Broida

Colorado's defensive line, including Justin Solis (top), Josh Tupou and Chidera Uzo-Diribe hope to bottle up Arizona's Ka'Deem Carey



Brooks: Buffs' Memories Of Carey Nothing But Bad

Release: October 22, 2013

By: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER – Ka'Deem Carey went on an extended afternoon run last November 10, and all Parker Orms could do was watch. Unfortunately, his Colorado defensive teammates also slipped into spectators' roles for Carey's fun run in sunny Tucson.

Orms was recovering from a concussion and watched from the sideline when the Buffaloes lined up to play Arizona. At day's end, Carey had stomped into the Arizona, CU and Pac-12 Conference record books, rushing for 366 yards and scoring five touchdowns in the Wildcats' 56-31 rout.

No Arizona back had run for that many yards in a single game. No back CU ever played had run as productively. And no back in Pac-12/10 history had reached that yardage as Carey broke the former league mark (357) set by Washington State's Rueben Mayes in 1984.

Carey's total was just short of being 100 yards more than the 268 that Kansas' David Winbush pounded out of CU's defense in 1998. Carey had 293 yards in the first three quarters, and the Wildcats finished the game with 438 yards rushing (574 total).

In a season of bad CU Saturdays, this one was among the worst.

"It was embarrassing, very embarrassing," CU defensive end Chidera Uzo-Diribe said. "As a defense one of the things you always take pride in is being able to stop the run. Having given up all those yards to one guy, it definitely hurts."

Buff's coach Mike MacIntyre said rather than his defenders getting "mad and angry" over the memory of Carey prancing past them last season, they should concentrate on getting their assignments right for Saturday night's visit by Arizona (6 p.m., Pac-12 Network) "then be mad and angry when you hit him."

Taking in last season's carnage from the sidelines, Orms said Carey "found holes whenever anyone had a missed assignment and then he was off to the races . . . he's the type of back that makes the first guy miss and you can't have that. You have to have the first guy wrap up, then have the other ten guys coming."

On Saturday night in Folsom Field, Orms, a senior safety, hopes to get the shot(s) at Carey he missed last season. Same can be said for the other Buffs. The Wildcats (4-2, 1-2) are two wins shy of bowl

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eligibility (they became bowl eligible last season on Carey's run-it-up afternoon) while the Buffs (3-3, 0-3) are seeking a signature October win that will send them into October thinking bowl.

Carey, a 5-10, 207-pound junior, led the nation in rushing in 2012 (148.3 yards a game) and he's ahead of that pace this season. Coming off a 236-yard performance in last weekend's 35-24 win over Utah, Carey is averaging a nation-best 161.0 yards a game.

"He's the same guy (as last season), an explosive back, very strong, very fast with good vision," Uzo-Diribe said. "He's as advertised."

On Monday night, the Buffs' defensive staff watched Carey run on tape, viewing last season's CU game as well as Carey's five 2013 games (he was suspended for the opener against Northern Arizona "per team policy"). What Carey did to the Buffs, said defensive coordinator Kent Baer, "he's done to a lot of people. He's probably the best back in the country."

Carey's lowest rushing total this season has been 128 yards against Texas-San Antonio (UTSA) in a comfy 38-13 Arizona win. To keep him from running amok as he did against CU last November and Utah last week, Baer says defensive alignment and "playing your gaps perfectly" are required. Plus, his players must use their hands to shed blockers before Carey slips past them.

"That's where he gashes people," Baer said, adding that Arizona's offensive line has been "good blocking against all fronts. It's really a simple running game, but we have to be sound in what we're doing."

Arizona's O-line, said Baer, doesn't need to hold blocks abnormally long for Carey to find a crease and slip through: "Just a second is all he needs and he's gone." But, Baer added, "He gets a lot (of yards) on his own. He's also got great vision, good speed and he's not afraid to lower his shoulder and run you over. He's a pretty physical kid."

The Buffs are No. 10 in the Pac-12 in rushing defense, allowing 174.5 yards a game. The Wildcats, with Carey getting an assist from quarterback B.J. Denker, are second in the conference in rushing offense behind Oregon (332.4-268.5). Denker adds 54.5 yards a game to Arizona's rushing average.

Better tackling has been atop Baer's wish list for his defense since August camp. MacIntyre said there has been noticeable improvement since last spring, but Baer shrugged and said, "I don't know," when asked Tuesday how much better tacklers the Buffs might have become.

"There have been a couple of games I was disappointed in them," he said. "We work on it every day and just have to keep pushing it."

MacIntyre wasn't pleased with the Buffs' tackling last weekend in their 43-10 rout of Charleston Southern. He said the Buccaneers "made us miss" too many times and this week against Carey the Buffs "have to make open-field tackles, one-on-one tackles in the hole and run to the ball."

Facing Carey, MacIntyre said, represents a steep step up and if he had his druthers, "I wish we were playing Jim Carrey and not Ka'Deem Carey."

(You can add your own *Dumb and Dumber* line.)

NOTABLE: Freshman quarterback Sefo Liufau, who made his first college start last weekend, said he believed he did "a good job of managing the game" and taking what the defense gave him . . . CU junior receiver Paul Richardson's cousin, Shaquille Richardson, is an Arizona cornerback. Liufau said "P-Rich" has offered "tips on both (Arizona) corners and what they're good at." Liufau hopes that will allow him and his offense "to do a couple of things that will help us win." . . . MacIntyre believes the Wildcats have "improved drastically on defense." They rank fifth in the Pac-12 in total defense, allowing 369.2 yards a game. Last season, Arizona finished last in the conference in that category, allowing 499 yards a game . . . The Buffs opened Pac-12 play at Oregon State after a 21-day layoff. They resume conference play coming off their lopsided win against CSU. Is that a sign of momentum for Saturday night? "I don't know," MacIntyre said, "but Tuesday was our best Tuesday practice all year. He said he didn't know whether to attribute it to the weather, the 'W' or what, "but hopefully it shows up Saturday." . . . Michael Adkins II rushed for a 137 yards and a freshman record four TDs last weekend. MacIntyre said Adkins and sophomore Christian Powell will continue to be the Buffs' 1-2 tailback punch, with Powell playing fullback as dictated by opponents' defensive sets. "He's a good versatile player," MacIntyre said . . . Freshman Ryan Severson is fourth in the conference in kickoff returns, averaging 23.5 yards. "I think he's break one," MacIntyre said. "He's a 10.7 hundred meter kid." . . . Win Saturday night and CU will exit October 4-3 and two wins shy of bowl eligibility. MacIntyre said bowl talk is not rampant among the Buffs, "but there's the first time to utter it." Even if postseason talk is premature, MacIntyre called it "good motivation to go out and practice (and) stay

positive.” . . . Sophomore tackle Marc Mustoe is scheduled for surgery (leg) before the end of the week. MacIntyre said senior tight end/fullback Alex Wood (concussion) could return this weekend, dependent on testing he was to undergo on Tuesday . . . MacIntyre said he has used all the true freshmen he intends to play – unless something disastrous occurs in the offensive line and a first-year player or two is needed.

Contact: BG.Brooks@Colorado.EDU

Colorado Buffaloes Football

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Colorado football: Buffs' Paul Richardson ready for match-up with cousin

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Three and a half years ago, Paul Richardson and his cousin, Shaquille Richardson, were excited about playing football together at UCLA.

Then, life changed. An off the field incident during the summer of 2010 led former Bruins coach Rick Neuheisel to dismiss the Richardsons, along with linebacker Josh Shirley, from the team. They had yet to begin their freshman season.

In the aftermath, Paul Richardson accepted a scholarship at Colorado, Shaquille Richardson landed at Arizona and Shirley at Washington.

The incident broke up the cousins, who have been close their entire lives, but as they prepare to square off against each other on Saturday, Paul Richardson doesn't have a shred of regret.

"I think things did turn out the way we wanted, at the end of the day," Paul said. "He went to Arizona and started all four years and I've been starting since my freshman year, as well, so I think it went perfectly.

"Don't dwell on the past. We know that we were blessed with this second opportunity and we've been making the most of it."

Colorado (3-3, 0-3 Pac-12) will host Arizona (4-2, 1-2) on Saturday at 6 p.m. Chances are, Paul, a star wide receiver, will have a few opportunities to go one-on-one against Shaquille, a standout cornerback.

"He's not going to be following me around (on every play), but whenever we are matched up, it'll be very competitive," said Paul, a junior.

Born just a few months apart, Paul and Shaquille, now a senior, grew up near each other and have had countless battles on the field.

"We haven't had a year when we haven't gone against each other," Paul said. "We go at it a lot in the offseason. That's why we compete the way we do at such a high level."

They have met just once in college, though. Two years ago, the Wildcats visited Boulder. Both played, but Shaquille was nursing an ankle sprain and that was Paul's first game back from a knee injury. Paul caught just one pass, for 2 yards.

This time, they are coming in at the top of their games.

Paul ranks fourth in the country with 130.3 receiving yards per game. Shaquille, who is considered a potential NFL draft pick next spring, has picked off a pair of passes.

"This will be the first game that we really get to go at each other and compete," Paul said.

When they do line up against each other on Saturday, expect intense battles.

"We get after it," said Paul, who added that he and Shaquille frequently give each other tips on how to play better. "You would think we hate each other. We have a lot of respect for each other, but we know that sometimes there's not enough food on the plate for us both to eat and somebody has to go after it."

When the game is over, though, family will take center stage again. Paul expects as many as 20 members of the family in attendance Saturday. It'll be the last time the Richardson's get to see Paul and Shaquille on the field together at the college level.

"We have to make the most of it because these are your biggest memories at this level," Paul said.

Notable

CU head coach Mike MacIntyre said Michael Adkins and Christian Powell have separated themselves as CU's top two running backs, but that junior Tony Jones will have a role, too. "We have some things for Tony to do also," MacIntyre said. ... MacIntyre said facing Arizona will test CU's tackling ability, which has been an issue in the past. "We'll get a steady dose of it to see if we've improved," he said. "Especially from the spring practices, I feel like we've really improved." ... Running back Josh Ford (ankle) is not close to returning, but MacIntyre said he hopes Ford will be back this season.

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

Colorado football: Arizona's B.J. Denker becoming more confident

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera
Posted:

Buffzone.com

Arizona coach Rich Rodriguez freely admits there have been moments dating back to the start of training camp when he has been frustrated with starting quarterback B.J. Denker and his lack of efficiency and productivity in the passing game.

Denker's passing statistics are south of impressive, especially in a conference with a Heisman Trophy frontrunner and five of the nation's top-20 passers at the position.

But Denker, a senior lefty, appears to be making some progress at the halfway point of the season just in time for a trip to Boulder to face the Colorado Buffaloes on Saturday night at Folsom Field (6:07 p.m., Pac-12 Network).

"I saw toward the end of the USC game his confidence was growing and just trusting the footwork and the timing and the plays itself," Rodriguez said. "There was a few times (against Utah) where a little hesitation came back out. I hope he's getting more confidence not just in himself but also in the guys around him."

Two weeks ago, Denker nearly led the Wildcats to a come-from-behind win over USC by completing 28 of 44 passes for 363 yards and four touchdown passes. While he's still shy of 1,000 yards passing for the season, that kind of production against a USC defense has eyes wide open in the defensive meeting rooms in the Dal Ward Center this week.

CU is also mindful of Denker's ability to make plays on the ground, contributing to the Pac-12's second best rushing offense.

"In what they ask him to do, he's really good at it," CU coach Mike MacIntyre said. "He can really run. He made a play against Washington where he hurdled a guy and then outran the whole team to the 1-yard line. That was a spectacular play. I haven't seen many quarterbacks that can do what he did running the ball-wise. Then he is very accurate on the run as a thrower, which is hard to do."

Denker played against the Buffs last season when former Wildcats' start Matt Scott was hurt. Denker was overshadowed in that game by running back Ka'Deem Carey setting the single-game Pac-12 rushing record against the Buffs with 366 yards and five touchdowns.

Denker did some damage, too, with two touchdown passes and a touchdown run in a 56-31 rout in Tucson.

"This quarterback is a freakish athlete," CU defensive end De'Jon Wilson said. "He's probably one of the greatest quarterbacks we've seen. I don't know how he's overlooked (in the Pac-12). He's quick. He releases the ball fast. When he does the zone-read, he'll give you a double move. He's a great athlete at quarterback."

"We've got to contain him, make him feel uncomfortable and put pressure on him."

CU senior Chidera Uzo-Diribe didn't blink in saying Denker might be the most athletic quarterback the Buffs will face this season. This is a team that has already seen Oregon's Marcus Mariota, the aforementioned Heisman contender.

Senior safety Parker Orms said Denker brings the potential for more moments of frustration for CU defenders if they're not assignment sound and sure tacklers.

"I remember that he could run the ball and that he has a quick release so you've got to be on your guy," Orms said.

Denker has completed 91 of 164 passes this season for 976 yards and seven touchdowns. But he has only thrown two interceptions this fall and he's the second leading rusher on a team with an All-American at tailback. Denker is averaging 4.4 yards a carry and leads the Wildcats with eight touchdown runs.

Rodriguez has seen teams load up against the run wanting to force Denker to beat them with his arm and he has no reason to believe the Buffs won't do the same.

"We have to be able to throw the ball effectively," Rodriguez said.

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

CU Buffs quarterback Sefo Liufau ready for first Pac-12 start

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Colorado quarterback Sefo Liufau has had a few days to review his first college start and digest the results and he's happy with it all things considered.

Now it's on to a much larger challenge this week with his first start against a Pac-12 Conference opponent. The Buffs host Arizona on Saturday night in a blackout game at Folsom Field (6:07 p.m., Pac-12 Networks) and CU needs a win to get above the .500 mark and give some credibility to the idea they could become bowl eligible this season.

A win would snap an 11-game losing streak in Pac-12 play and give the Buffs some motivation heading into November, a month in which the Buffs haven't played many meaningful games the past two years. CU is 3-3 overall and 0-3 in conference play.

"I'd say it's very important," Liufau said Tuesday at the Buffs' weekly press conference when asked how big this week's game is for the program. "We all want to go to a bowl. We know how possible it is if we stay consistent and we take the coaching we learn and put it out on the field."

Liufau wasn't asked to do much in his first start last week against Charleston Southern. CU used the running game featuring running backs Michael Adkins and Christian Powell to overwhelm the Buccaneers.

Much more will likely be required from the true freshman quarterback this week against a ball-hawking Arizona defense that leads the nation in interceptions returned for touchdowns and is ranked No. 21 against the pass. The Wildcats are 4-2 overall and 1-2 in the conference coming off a big win at home last week over Utah, which had upset Stanford the week before.

"So far I've just seen that they're really good cover guys and a lot of quarterbacks have forced throws into their coverages," Liufau said. "I just have to keep watching film and see what they're good at, each corner, each safety, and their backups if they're in and just get prepared."

Liufau said CU wide receiver Paul Richardson has given him some tips about the abilities of Arizona defensive backs, especially cornerback Shaquille Richardson who is Paul Richardson's cousin.

While this will be Liufau's first start in the Pac-12, it won't be his first action in the conference. He was called off the bench for his college playing time two weeks ago against Arizona State in a lopsided loss

Liufau said he did have to utilize some checks at the line of scrimmage in the Charleston Southern game and he's comfortable making those decisions.

“At the college level, they do a lot more switching mid-play and you have to read it and you to be able to act on the move,” Liufau said. “It's a lot different from high school.”

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

CU Buffs WR Richardson takes on cousin, Arizona CB Richardson

By John Henderson *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER — They'll stare at each other from across the line of scrimmage, two Richardsons with history that goes way before Colorado ever dreamed of being in the Pac-12.

It goes from when Paul and Shaq Richardson, both 8 years old, tackled each other in Shaq's front lawn in Compton, Calif., to when they went one on one — with their feet and their fists — at Los Alamitos (Calif.) High School. It goes back to last summer on the hot football field of Los Angeles' Dorsey High, where Paul the receiver and Shaq the cornerback prepped each other for this one upcoming moment.

Saturday night. In Boulder. Arizona (4-2, 1-2 Pac-12) versus Colorado (3-3, 0-3).

Shaq Richardson, Arizona's vastly improved and healthy cornerback, vs. Paul Richardson, Colorado's best player and the fourth most-prolific receiver in the country — and his cousin.

A whole lot more is at stake than Colorado trying to gain its first conference win. Saturday night will be no place for kissin' cousins. Due to assignments and alignments, they'll likely face each other half the game.

"You don't want to go home and he's talking trash," Paul said. "That'll make the holidays kind of awkward."

Said Shaq from Tucson: "Our whole family's coming to the game. They're staying at the same hotel. They're riding together. They're flying together. He's going to hear about it — for a long time."

For the record, this won't be the first time they played against each other in college. Two years ago, in Colorado's 48-29 win in Boulder, they met — barely. It was Paul's first game after spraining his ACL. Shaq was coming off a high ankle sprain.

Paul had one catch for 2 yards and a run for 15. Shaq made the tackle.

"I did hit him pretty hard, though," Shaq said. "I think I put him out of the game, honestly. I think I gave him a concussion probably. He knows."

Paul also knows Shaq's kidding.

The pair talk and text every week. They compare notes. They compare dreams. But in the nouveau verbal art that is cornerback-receiver trash talk, the Richardsons add new material to the canvas: family.

"Paul is a hard person to talk trash to because he'll try to ignore you and make you feel stupid and make you feel awkward," Shaq said. "But if I get the better of him, he'll for sure hear it."

They were unable to trash talk last year, with a torn ACL sidelining Paul. They've been going at it on the football field since grade school, when they practiced tackling each other. While the rest of their teammates were goofing off before practice, they'd do footwork and cone drills and go one on one.

They both wound up at Los Alamitos, where they helped each other again — usually.

"We used to fight in practice, literally," Paul said. "I remember one day he held me on an under route and the next play I lined up in front of him and we just started fighting.

"We had good times, man."

They both signed with UCLA but were tossed from the team before their freshman year after being arrested for stealing a purse. ("I learned a lot," Shaq said. "Don't steal. It was an immature act.")

Shaq transferred to Arizona and Paul, seeing a dearth of receivers, signed with Colorado. When they put down their guard, the cousins are exclusive members of their own mutual admiration society.

"His mental ability, he takes the game to another level," Shaq said. "He'll see something and attack it. As the play's going on, he adjusts. You can't show him the same look the whole game and expect it to work."

Shaq struggled last year with a torn labrum. But after surgery and training in Phoenix at Will Sullivan's cornerback school, called Shutdown U., Shaq has two interceptions and 26 tackles this season.

"He's good at reading drops," said Paul, who has 43 catches for 782 yards and six touchdowns. "When he gets his eyes on the quarterback, he can read a drop fast and reacts very well. You can never really tell what his weakness is."

It's only one game. But it's a long offseason. For whom will it be the longest?

"When someone makes a good catch on you, you think, 'Oh, I hope that's not on 'SportsCenter,' " Paul said. "So you're thinking, 'I hope he doesn't say anything when we get back home.' "

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