

Colorado football: Flood affecting Buffs in several ways

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

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Buffzone.com

Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre said there is some good that can come from having an extra week off early in the season created by the postponement of last week's game against Fresno State.

MacIntyre said the flooding that occurred in the Boulder area teaches his players about the realities of life outside of football and college life and it will serve them well in the long run.

He also said the extra week allowed the team to heal some of its nagging injuries.

On the flip side, MacIntyre said the team will now play 10 straight weeks with athletic director Rick George working to schedule a makeup game Oct. 19 in the Buffs' other previously scheduled open date.

"We'll have to temper practice a little bit differently with 10 straight games without a break in there," MacIntyre said. "So they understand this is kind of our last time to fix a few things.

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Colorado football: Buffs' Kaiwi Crabb getting back in swing of things

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

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There was plenty of uncertainty about Colorado left guard Kaiwi Crabb at the start of the season.

Crabb was slated for the first major playing time of his career after missing an entire season with a back injury. It hasn't been perfect by any means, but through the first two games of 2013, Crabb has become one of the feel-good stories on the CU roster.

Crabb played a total of 77 plays from scrimmage as a redshirt freshman in 2011 and was part of the field goal team that season, but he suffered a lower back injury in winter workouts in February 2012 that kept him out of action for most of the year. Crabb said he never worried that the injury could be career threatening, but it's safe to say no one else in the program was betting on him being a big contributor until they saw him return to practices and stay in practices for an extended period of time.

"It was real frustrating at first, but I was working a lot with the trainers and talking a lot with the old coaching staff," Crabb said of his unexpected second redshirt year. "They kept me positive. They kept my head in it. I did everything I could. They put me in a bit of coaching roll helping out some of the younger guys. So that kept my mind off some things and helped me do something during practice, which helped out a lot."

Crabb can play both guard and center and through his first two games as a starter, he is third among the five starting linemen with eight knockdown blocks. He dealt with a little flare up in his back just before fall camp started, but so far this season, he has managed to stay healthy and play every snap.

He graded out at 72.9 percent for the Central Arkansas game. It was the same grade his much more experienced line mates Gus Handler and Daniel Munyer received.

"He's a versatile guy," offensive line coach Gary Bernardi said. "I've even worked him at tackle a few days. So he's very versatile. I think there is a lot of room to get better though, too. And for us to be better, he's got to be better. As does everybody."

But Crabb seems to be thriving again. He stayed after Tuesday's practice to work on shotgun snaps with Bernardi and fellow lineman Alex Kelley. Bernardi, who has had two surgeries on his back, can relate to what Crabb experiences when his back flares up.

"Totally, I mean, I wouldn't have him doing certain extension drills or something like that," Bernardi said.

Crabb said his biggest concern entering the season was catching up to the speed of the game after a year off. It's one thing to practice hard and scrimmage well against your

teammates, but an entirely different level of play is required to have consistent success in games.

The three-week layoff from playing caused by a postponed game and a regularly scheduled bye week might actually work against a guy like Crabb and other Buffs who are playing for the first time because they must adapt to game speed once again.

"I think just playing full speed all the time is something I really need to get better at," Crabb said. "Good footwork, playing full speed with good technique, using all the right steps and hand placement but at full speed.

"Sometimes when I think about things too much, I slow down a little bit. It kind of jeopardizes my play and the play itself."

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CU Buffs explore options for 12th game beyond rescheduling Fresno St.

By John Henderson The Denver Post The Denver Post
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DenverPost.com

BOULDER — Colorado athletic director Rick George said Tuesday that he likely must find a different team to provide a 12th game after flooding caused postponement of last Saturday's game against Fresno State.

"We'd love to get them back, but the possibilities are becoming more and more remote," George said. "We'll still have conversations with them and see if there's an opportunity."

Rescheduling the Fresno State game has few options. The Bulldogs' open dates are Oct. 12 (when Colorado visits Arizona State) and Nov. 16 (when the Buffaloes host California).

The Mountain West and Pac-12 title games are Dec. 7.

"If they make the championship game, it'll be impossible," George said. "You can't plan for that. Well, you can and you can't. You can have a plan, and you can have a backup plan if it's likely either one of us are going to be in it."

Colorado is the only Pac-12 school to have a bye Oct. 19. One possibility is becoming a 13th opponent for a school that plays at Hawaii. The NCAA allows teams that play in Hawaii to have a 13th game.

San Diego State and San Jose State play at Hawaii and have only 12 games on their schedules. They also have byes Oct. 19. But the Aztecs may want that bye week to prepare for their home game with Fresno State.

San Jose State, where CU's Mike MacIntyre coached from 2010-12, hosts Wyoming the following week.

Scheduling an FCS school (formerly I-AA) is also a possibility. But a 6-6 record with two wins over FCS teams won't qualify for a bowl game unless the NCAA grants a waiver. George has had frequent discussions with the NCAA.

"I've asked them a lot of things, and that's one of them," George said. "They didn't say yes. They don't say yes to anything at this point. I'm certain once we find a scenario that works for us, they'll have to rule on that."

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CU Buffs football team shares meals and tales during flood in Boulder

By John Henderson The Denver Post The Denver Post
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DenverPost.com

BOULDER —Last week's flood touched all of us, either physically or emotionally. It especially touched Colorado's football team for which the good fortune of player safety turned into a Saturday goodwill gesture of feeding more than 700 meals to displaced families at Folsom Field.

Eight football players were displaced. Two more also lost power. However, the NCAA allows athletic departments to find emergency housing for them. Still, three Buffaloes had especially riveting tales to tell about last week's flood.

• **Paul Richardson, Jr., wide receiver:** He was essentially trapped in his second-floor apartment across Foothills Parkway. He was told to leave immediately, but he couldn't escape to Denver. U.S. Highway 36 nearby was closed.

Going anywhere outside was too dangerous to comprehend. All he had to do was look out through the rain-splattered windows.

"If we leave my house, the only way to get out is deeper into Boulder and you'd have to go across where the flood was the worst," Richardson said. "You're going over trees. The stop lights were out. It was ridiculous."

He tried to reach his car. But even though his parking area is elevated, he couldn't drive away to safety.

"Where our cars were on the street, that was completely flooded," he said. "It came up past our tires so we couldn't move our cars."

He waited out the storm and was fine. So is his apartment, although it wasn't easy living with the power going on and off Thursday and Friday.

• **Marc Mustoe, So., offensive tackle:** He lives with four non-football players in a house on Moorhead Avenue next to U.S. 36. After his Thursday afternoon meetings, he returned home to find water filling the basement.

"I thought we could win the battle by scooping up water and throwing it outside but it kept coming in and the water was rising," Mustoe said.

He knew the battle was lost when he looked outside to see neighbors paddling by in kayaks. U.S. 36 was closed, so going to his parents' house in Broomfield was out of the question.

But Mustoe lived on an upper floor and his belongings were safe.

"Honestly, it was weird feeling," Mustoe said. "I wasn't really feeling about football. I was just trying to save everything. Like what you see on TV, like Katrina or something, a natural disaster. We were doing everything we could."

"Cars were being flooded in the street, houses were being flooded. There were so many people in and out of the house trying to save stuff."

• **Will Oliver, Jr., place kicker:** He lives on the third floor of the University Village on 28th Street and Taft Road. He knew something was up when ceiling tiles started falling on his floor.

In an odd twist, the building evacuated the upper floors. They were afraid the excess rain would collapse the ceiling.

He wound up with friends on the Hill adjacent to campus. He, as well as the other players, are thankful they postponed last Saturday's home game against Fresno State.

"Personally, the game obviously isn't ideal but we spent so much of (last) week practicing and focusing on Fresno," he said. "The fact is we were trying to make sure our homes were intact and everyone was safe, it may have taken a little toll on our ability to purely focus on our opponent Saturday. It's good for the city not to have the game and move on."

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