

CU Buffs' eye on the Oregon State Beavers

By John Henderson The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

Eye on ...The Beavers

Colorado at Oregon State, 1 p.m. Saturday, Pac-12 Networks

For the record: Oregon State is 3-1. The Beavers defeated San Diego State 34-30 on Saturday night.

Streaking: Oregon State is 22-for-22 in the red zone, including 18 touchdowns.

Who's hot: Quarterback Sean Mannion leads the nation in passing yards with 1,604 and is 12th in pass efficiency, hitting 133-of-186 for 15 touchdowns with one interception.

Who's not: The Beavers have failed to top 57 yards rushing in their past three games and are 121st nationally at 55 yards a game.

Key stat: OSU is 92nd nationally in total defense, allowing 432 yards per game.

FYI: Junior Brandin Cooks' 14 catches for 141 yards Saturday moved him into seventh place on the school's all-time receiving yards list with 2,181.

Injury report: Tailback Storm Woods missed the San Diego State game with a concussion. Center Josh Mitchell hurt his ankle and missed the second half, leaving OSU with two backup offensive linemen. Fullback Tyler Anderson (hamstring) missed the game but is expected back to play against Colorado.

Coachspeak: "To win two games like this, we're both good and fortunate. I knew this was going to be really hard. ... We got back at 4 a.m. from Utah, strapped it up, found whoever was healthy and came down here and won a game. There's a lot to be concerned about, but frankly, I'm going to be concerned tomorrow." — Coach Mike Riley, after beating Utah in overtime 51-48, then coming from 13 points down in the fourth quarter to beat San Diego State


**CONNECT.
CAPTURE.
SHARE.**

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO STUDENTS SAVE
10%
 on select regularly priced
 Sprint monthly service plans.
Requires a new two-year Agreement

Mention Corp ID:
6510T_ZST
 to claim your discount.


 Samsung
GALAXY S III

SHOP NOW
Restrictions apply.

[ABOUT](#) | [CONTACT US](#) | [APPLY](#) | [CLASSIFIEDS](#) | [ADVERTISING](#) | [APARTMENTS](#) | [COUPONS](#) | [Buffs on Video](#) |


CUIndependent.com

[NEWS](#) | [ENTERTAINMENT](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [OPINION](#) | [MULTIMEDIA](#) | [CALENDAR](#) | [STATE & NATION](#)

Richardson's return to Buffs football early, but rewarding

 By [alissa.noe](#) in [Front Page](#), [Sports](#) on Sep 22, 2013 23:33 / [comments](#)

Paul Richardson did not expect that he would perform so well after returning from injury, and neither did his doctors.

Like

 10 people like this. [Sign Up](#) to see what your friends like.

Tweet

5

0

After pushing through an extensive rehabilitation process following an ACL tear in April 2012, Richardson began practicing with teammate Connor Wood that winter — earlier than his doctors recommended. He had already been sneaking out after practice to run around without the inhibition of his brace and couldn't stay off the field any longer, he said.

"I was hungry," he explained. "I wanted to play so bad after I watched my team suffer every week."

Richardson and Wood, who became the Buffs' starting quarterback this year, began throwing after practice to build the rhythm that they rely on this season.

"Outside of practice hours, Connor and I would get together and throw on Folsom," the junior wide receiver told CU Independent. "It was fun, too, so it's no surprise that we have good chemistry now."

That chemistry has proven to be crucial in the Buffs' 2-0 record this season.

After sitting out the entire 2012 football season due to the knee injury, Richardson returned to Colorado football with a bang during the first two games of 2013.

Against Colorado State, he boasted 208 receiving yards off of ten passes. It was the first 200-yard receiving game in the country this season. He was named the Pac-12 Player of the Week.

Six days later, Richardson bested himself by receiving eleven passes for 209 yards, and was again the only receiver in the country to achieve the feat. He became the first Pac-12 player in history to achieve two consecutive 200-yard games, thus earning him another Player of the Week award.

"I don't think anyone could have envisioned this," Richardson said at a Sept. 10 news conference. "I'm very grateful and very blessed to have that start. I wanted us to start off fast and I wanted us to start off doing really well, but I never expected it to be this well."

Wood believes that Richardson has returned to the field new and improved after his year on the sidelines.

"Those two back-to-back games with 200 yards, that's very impressive," Wood said at the

 SEARCH


CUI CALENDAR – LIST YOUR EVENT

Top 5 Events

MONDAY

**SEP
23**

Chanda Plan Foundation Benefit

Open Mic Night

Neurotic November

Trivia

Diamond Follies

[Add Your Event](#)


Sept. 10 news conference. "He's come back stronger."

Richardson's success started long before he became a Buffalo and can be traced all the way back to his father, Paul Richardson Sr., who played at the collegiate level with UCLA. According to Richardson and the CU Athletic Department, his father played in the NFL with the Philadelphia Eagles, the New York Jets, the Green Bay Packers, and the Oakland Raiders.

As the son of a professional football player, Paul Richardson Jr. started playing the game at an early age.

"I started playing football when I was two in a six-year-old league," Richardson told CU Independent. "I played flag, and then I started playing tackle when I was eight."

When high school rolled around, Richardson Sr. coached Richardson Jr. to adjust to several positions. For the first several years of his high school career, Richardson said he switched back and forth between cornerback and receiver.

"I played corner most of my life, so my dad was really aggressive with me, and he coached me how to weigh different attitudes of most receivers," Richardson said at the news conference. "When I crossed over to playing receiver, I already had that work ethic embedded in me."

His success paid off in high school, as nearly every school in the Pac-12 offered him scholarships to play cornerback and receiver.

"I got scholarships at corner and scholarships at receiver, but I ended up going to receiver," he said. "It's easier to score touchdowns on offense than it is to score touchdowns on defense."

In the end, he decided that Colorado would be the best fit for him because the team had just lost a receiver.

He left a big impression during his freshman year by earning a number of awards, including the team's Lee Willard Award for most outstanding freshman. He was also named the University of Colorado's Co-Male Freshman Athlete of the Year among all sports, along with basketball's Andre Roberson.

His success continued well into his sophomore year, when he broke the school record in receiving yards after catching for 284 during the game against California.

Contact CU Independent Staff Writer at Alissa.noe@colorado.edu.



About **alissa.noe**

Share this article



Post a Comment



FRONT PAGE, NEWS SEP 20, 2013 / comments

Boulder residents complain about communication during flood

Boulder City Council overhauled its regular agenda Tuesday to hear complaints from many residents about communication between citizens and safety officials during the flood. Several speakers at the Tuesday night meeting complained during the... [read more »](#)

RECENT POSTS

Richardson's return to Buffs football early, but rewarding

CU women's lacrosse preparing for inaugural season
Opinion: Party culture requires you to think before you drink

Ortiz decides to redshirt freshman year after hip surgery
What items did you try to save in the flood?



RECENT COMMENTS

Adam on Justice O'Connor packs ballroom on Constitution Day

Anonymous on Justice O'Connor packs ballroom on Constitution Day

Westridge on Officials say nearly 19K homes damaged, destroyed in floods

Steph on Depo-Provera and its silent but harmful side effects

mike on Boulder flood photos: Thursday

SPORTS UPDATE