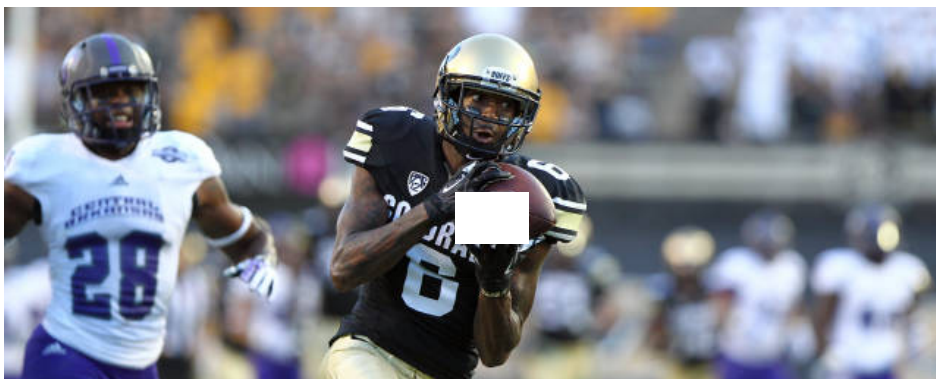




COLORADO BUFFALOES



By: CUBuffs.com

Two of the Pac-12's best receivers will be showcased on Saturday, Colorado's Paul Richardson (above) and Oregon State's Brandin Cooks.



MacIntyre Sees Pac-12 As Deep, Talented, Competitive

Release: September 25, 2013

By: Josh Casey, Graduate Assistant SID

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BOULDER – Almost a month into the season, first-year Colorado Coach Mike MacIntyre has been extremely impressed with what he has seen from his new conference.

After spending the previous three seasons in the Western Athletic Conference, MacIntyre expected to see an increase in talent when he agreed to make the jump to the more prominent Pac-12 Conference. But even he has been surprised by the overall depth and quality the conference has consistently put on display each Saturday this season.

"I think the conference is very good from top to bottom," MacIntyre said following Wednesday morning's practice. "I think a lot of other teams in the league are excellent and I think it looks like anybody can beat anybody on a given Saturday right now. Maybe except Oregon. They're kind of pummeling everybody still, which is good for national pub but for the Pac-12, hopefully it'll be competitive as it goes along with them, too."

Oregon State, CU's opponent Saturday in Corvallis, Ore., is a prime example of just how deep the Pac-12 is when it comes to quality teams. At the top of the conference are the four teams that are nationally ranked in both polls (Oregon, Stanford, UCLA, Washington) but the fact that there are so many good teams beyond those four is a testament to how good the conference really is.

"Oregon State was a top 25 team going in (to the season) and now they're 3-1," said MacIntyre. "I think they're very, very good. They're a quality, well-coached team and they're capable of beating anybody."

CU could also be included in the argument that the Pac-12 may be the nation's deepest conference. The Buffs are one of six teams in the league remaining unbeaten thus far into September. The Beavers are just one missed field goal against Eastern Washington away from possibly giving the conference its seventh unbeaten team.

"They're very explosive offensively and so are we," said MacIntyre. "I think it'll be an exciting game, no doubt. The fans will definitely enjoy it."

NOTABLE: MacIntyre believes the game will be a showcase of two of the country's best wide receivers in Oregon State's Brandin Cooks and CU's Paul Richardson. MacIntyre said while both receivers will probably spend a good deal of time observing each other on the sidelines that neither will be focused on out-doing the other: "I'm sure they both want to win the game more than they want to put up individual stats." . . . The Buffs will practice again Thursday morning from 9:30-11:00 before

heading for Corvallis early Friday afternoon. CU will fly by charter into Eugene, Ore., and be headquartered there before busing to Corvallis on Saturday morning . . . Saturday's kickoff is at 1:07 p.m. MDT in Reser Stadium, with the game televised on the Pac-12 Network.

Colorado Buffaloes Football

Show Menu



Colorado football: Buffs will have hands full with Oregon State's offense

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

The numbers that Oregon State quarterback Sean Mannion and his receivers have produced this year are impressive.

Whether Colorado (2-0) can be the first team to slow the Beavers (3-1, 1-0 Pac-12) down remains to be seen, but junior cornerback Greg Henderson is excited for the opportunity. CU visits OSU on Saturday at 1 p.m.

"I always like going up against really good competition," Henderson said. "If you do good, it gets your name out there.

"It's going to be a good challenge this week."

Mannion leads the country in passing yards (1,604) and passing touchdowns (15). Brandin Cooks leads the country in receptions (43), yards (639) and receiving touchdowns (seven).

"He's a good route runner," Henderson said of Cooks, who had 1,151 receiving yards a year ago. "He's quick, as well and he has good speed. We just have to have sound technique with him and you have to be real aggressive with him. If you get all up in him, I feel like it'll affect his timing and it'll affect his play."

Cooks isn't the only weapon Mannion has, though. Richard Mullaney has caught 22 passes for 244 yards and four other players have over 100 yards this season.

So far, Colorado has shown great improvement in its pass defense. Opposing quarterbacks have completed just 58.5 percent of their passes, way down from the 67.8 percent that the Buffs allowed in 2012.

Oregon State offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf has noticed the difference in the Buffs.

"I think they've playing very sound," he said. "They're in good position; they're not turning guys loose. They fly around and they've got a good defensive end in (Chidera Uzo-Diribe). Their secondary has been covering guys well and they've just done a nice job of getting themselves in position to be able to make a tackle."

This, however, should be CU's toughest test yet, and Henderson is looking forward to it.

"Pac-12 is always going to be known for good receivers," he said. "It's going to be a good test for us. I think we're up to the challenge. We've been looking good in practice. We just have to play hard and be confident in our game."

Improved Mannion

Mannion is a big reason the Beavers are doing so well on offense. Prior to this year, he had solid career numbers -- 64.6 completion percentage, 5,774 yards, 31 touchdowns, 31 interceptions -- but he has blown those numbers away. In four games this year, Mannion has completed 71.5 percent of his passes and thrown just one interception.

"He's been throwing a lot of nice throws and even thrown the ball away at times when we've needed to save a sack here and there," Langsdorf said. "He's really focused in on not trying to overdo it, or over-force throws. I think he's just done a better job of making good decisions."

Mannion has been sacked just four times, or once every 46.5 pass attempts.

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Kyle Ringo Blog: Paul Richardson not only Pac-12 leader at CU

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Colorado has only played two games this season while every other Pac-12 Conference team has played at least three, but true freshman linebacker Addison Gillam leads the conference in tackles per game.

Gillam is averaging 10.5 tackles a game through the first two games of his career. He is the only player in the conference averaging double digit tackles per game to this point.

Needless to say, it's a pretty impressive start for a true freshman. Gillam became only the second player in CU history to start the season opener as a true freshman at inside linebacker earlier this month.

Gillam joins wide receiver Paul Richardson among Buffs leading the Pac-12 in statistical category. Richardson leads the conference in all-purpose yards per game and receiving yards per game with 208.5 yards per game in each category.

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

Colorado football: Nothing comes easy against Oregon State's defense

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Statistically, Oregon State has not had a good season on defense to this point. The Beavers rank 92nd nationally in yards allowed (432.0 per game) and 107th in points allowed (35.3 per game).

Despite those numbers, the Buffs aren't taking the Beavers lightly.

"I respect their defense a lot," quarterback Connor Wood said. "They do a great job with their schemes and they make you earn every yard you get."

A year ago, OSU gave up just 20.6 points and 354.0 yards per game, with many of the same players on the field. Knowing that, CU head coach Mike MacIntyre said the Buffs have to prepare for a stout defense.

"Defensively, they play hard, they play recklessly and I think they're a very good defense," he said. "I know their numbers haven't showed it, but they were really good a year ago statistically. I still think they have very, very good players and can be excellent on defense."

CU's comes into the game averaging 39.5 points and 467.0 yards per game.

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Sean Mannion of Oregon State is lighting up foes with his passing

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

Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER — In what will go down as one of the more remarkable hindsight of this 2013 season, Oregon State quarterback Sean Mannion actually had to fight for his job in fall camp.

Yes, four games into a season in which he wasn't named the starter until Aug. 26, Mannion is second nationally in passing yards (401.0 per game) and first in touchdown passes (15).

If Colorado (2-0) is going to prove it truly is new and improved Saturday, it will need to slow down what may be the top pocket passer in college football. The Oregonian reported that a Broncos scout watched the junior take apart Hawaii. The scout wasn't there watching Hawaii.

"We're in a situation where we're not running the ball, at all, very well," Oregon State coach Mike Riley said on the Pac-12 conference call. "Thank goodness he's played like he has."

In college football's explosive September, Mannion's numbers still jump off a computer screen. He is 133-of-186 for 1,604 yards with only one interception. He's 12th in pass efficiency at 159.8.

Oregon State is 3-1, having lost its opener to Eastern Washington.

Colorado's problem is not just Mannion. Junior Brandin Cooks (10.8 per game) and Colorado's Paul Richardson (10.5) are one-two nationally in receptions per game, and Cooks is second to Richardson's 208.5 receiving yards per game with 159.8.

"Brandin had a really, really big-time offseason," Riley said. "He's always been fast, and now he has improved his strength. He's harder to tackle."

Adding to Colorado's troubles: On the other side of the formation is sophomore Richard Mullaney, who has made huge, acrobatic catches on his way to averaging 86 yards a game.

The Beavers' passing game has excelled despite a battered offensive line that has been shuffled like a deck of cards. OSU had four starters back, but since fall camp has lost Gavin Andrews (mono) indefinitely, Grant Enger (knee) for another week, Roman Sapolu (foot) for the year and the versatile Isaac Seumalo (knee) for the opener. That doesn't include backups Justin Addie (concussion) and Garrett Weinreich (knee) or the loss for the season of David Keller (concussions) and Chase Eldredge (knee).

For the second week in a row, the Beavers expect to start returning starters in seniors Michael Philipp and Josh Andrews on the left side of the offensive line, plus sophomore Josh Mitchell at center, redshirt freshman Grant Bays at right guard and Seumalo at right tackle.

Also, returning starting tailback Storm Woods remains out with a concussion.

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Oregon State Beavers rundown: Colorado quarterback Connor Wood drawing comparisons to Utah's Travis Wilson

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Colorado quarterback Connor Wood has thrown for 741 yards through two games this season. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

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on September 26, 2013 at 9:09 AM, updated September 26, 2013 at 11:30 AM

CORVALLIS -- Less than two weeks ago, Utah quarterback Travis Wilson torched Oregon State's defense for 421 all-purpose yards. The 6-foot-6, 240-pounder accounted for 78 percent of the Utes' total offense, nearly leading his team to a come-from-behind win.

Mike Riley likely pondered that display when he watched Colorado film earlier this week. The Buffaloes' Connor Wood, after all, owns some striking similarities to Wilson. He hardly possesses Wilson's mobility, but Wood has the size, arm strength and renewed confidence that have propelled the Utah signal caller's breakout sophomore campaign.

"We liken him to Travis Wilson," Riley said Tuesday. "He's a good player, good thrower. He's been very productive throwing the ball in the two games they've had this year."

Last year, Wood struggled in a largely backup role for a one-win squad. He often entered games when Colorado faced a sizable deficit, and he went 21-of-42 for 265 yards with one touchdown and four interceptions on the season.

But Wood has thrived since new head coach Mike MacIntyre and offensive coordinator Brian Lindgren named him the starter late last month. After the Buffaloes finished their most recent game on Sept. 7, Wood ranked fifth nationally with 741 passing yards. Wood showed remarkable poise during a tight season-opening win at rival Colorado State, completing 33 of 46 passes for 400 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions.

Of course, Wood's transformation isn't just about a new coaching staff, new schemes and improved confidence. He can now lean on ultra-athletic wide receiver Paul Richardson, who missed all of 2012 with a knee injury. The junior is averaging a nation-leading 208.5 receiving yards per game, giving Wood a go-to target who can seemingly stretch a defense at will.

"I've been watching him a lot," Beavers cornerback Steven Nelson said of Richardson. "He's a great athlete,

plays the ball."

On to the links:

Brandin Cooks is using his play to back up his belief that he is the **best receiver in the Pac-12**.

Mike Riley discusses **"stacking experiences" from close wins**.

Wide receiver Kevin Cummings talks about **Cooks' dedication and Jordan Poyer's dance moves**.

Sporting News projects that **Oregon will reach the national championship game, and OSU won't make a bowl appearance**.

Oregon State's men's basketball **landed a verbal commitment Wednesday** from JaQuori McLaughlin, a 15-year-old sophomore point guard at Peninsula High School in Gig Harbor, Wash.

Buffzone.com's Brian Howell writes that **Colorado isn't overlooking the Beavers' defense**.

Colorado knows **OSU's offense presents a tough test for its defense**.

Much has changed for Rommel Mageo, **the Beavers' new starting middle linebacker**, in one year.

The Portland Tribune's **Kerry Eggers picks OSU to beat Colorado by 11 points**.

Secondary coach Rod Perry is "talking every week" **with North Las Vegas High School cornerback Casey Hughes**.

Associated Press writer **Anne M. Peterson calls OSU the "Bounce-back Beavers"**.

The Daily Barometer points out that **Richard Mullaney has been key for OSU's passing attack**.

ESPN.com bloggers **predict this week's Pac-12 games**.

ESPN.com's Kevin Gemmell highlights the **key things to watch for in Pac-12 play this week**.

-- Connor Letourneau

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