



COLORADO BUFFALOES



By: Joel Broida

CU quarterback Connor Wood's passing productivity dropped off at Oregon State.



Brooks: Much Work Awaits Buffs Before Ducks Visit

Release: September 28, 2013

By: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

Related Links

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Much of Mike MacIntyre's resume features time spent coaching defensive backs, and in his short time as Colorado's head coach he's been a frequent drop-in for secondary position meetings and for DB drills on the field.

MacIntyre knows quality secondary play and recognizes fundamentally sound DB work. And with a few exceptions, what he saw from CU's secondary in Saturday's 44-17 slap-around by Oregon State did not qualify as a quality or fundamentally sound day at the office.

[Highlights at OSU](#)
[KOA Recap vs OSU](#)
[Buy Tickets](#)
[Gameday](#)
[Game Story](#)
[Statistics](#)
[Notes](#)
[Quotes](#)
[Final Game Book](#)

The secondary wasn't the primary culprit in CU's first Pac-12 Conference loss under MacIntyre, but it's as good a place as any to begin the repair job, as well as MacIntyre's assessment of what went amok.

Granted, the Buffaloes in the back end weren't facing a random slinger in Sean Mannion or a slacker in receiver Brandin Cooks. Mannion set school records with his fifth consecutive 350-plus yard passing game (he finished with 414) and by throwing six touchdown passes. Two of them went to Cooks, who had nine receptions for 168 yards.

MacIntyre knew Mannion and Cooks were capable of those kinds of numbers, but he also believed his secondary had improved enough to make delivering stats like that a bit more difficult. Mannion was intercepted once – corner Greg Henderson got his second pick of the first three games – but MacIntyre trotted off the field at halftime convinced that the Buffs should have had two more picks.

One should have been by safety Jered Bell on the Beavers' first series. Bell let a Mannion pass zip through his hands on third down, and on the next play Trevor Romaine gave OSU a 3-0 lead with a 36-yard field goal.

Henderson got his interception on the next OSU series, leading to a Will Oliver field goal that tied the score (3-3). CU's next should-have-been-a-pick occurred two possessions later when a high-arching Mannion pass was pulled down by Cooks between Buffs corner Kenneth Crawley and safety Parker Orms for a 52-yard gain.

Cooks, said Henderson, "goes for the ball. That's everything – going for the ball . . . we have to catch the ball. If we catch the ball that stops drives and takes points off the board."

Four plays later, Mannion hit tight end Caleb Smith with the first of his six TD passes. The Buffs fell behind 10-3 and spent the rest of the afternoon in Reser Stadium trying to recover but never did.

And MacIntyre said, “We’ve got to work on making that play. We’ve got to do a better job as coaches and make them ‘high-point’ the ball.”

There are plenty of additional areas that require his coaches’ attention before No. 2 Oregon comes calling on Saturday (4 p.m., Folsom Field, Pac-12 Network). While Mannion was re-writing OSU’s record book, CU’s quarterback play was regressing in comparison with the first two games, when Connor Wood had averaged 370.5 passing yards.

On Saturday, Wood passed for 146, completing 14 of 34 with two interceptions and two touchdowns. MacIntyre deferred any critique of Wood’s performance until he and his staff breakdown tape. “We’ll look at the film and find out” why Wood was largely ineffective, he said.

Wood and receiver Paul Richardson connected only once for two yards in the first half, and Richardson’s afternoon concluded with five catches (one TD) for 70 yards – far below his nation-leading 208.5 yard average. “We got it to him in the second half,” MacIntyre said. “We’ve just got to keep working on it.”

Mannion was sacked twice, and the guy who got one of them and caused a fumble said the Buffs’ pass rush must improve: “He was able to sit back there and throw the ball downfield and look for his guys all day,” end Chidera Uzo-Diribe said. “We didn’t get enough pressure.”

Another area to work on: special teams’ ball protection. On consecutive kickoffs, returner Marques Mosley lost a fumble and Brady Daigh, a middle linebacker, failed to control a squib kick that OSU recovered.

MacIntyre said both turnovers “weren’t coaching mistakes; those were kids not doing what they’re supposed to do . . . they’re things we’re working on all the time. We’ll just have to keep working at it. With turnovers you just never give yourself a chance, especially on back-to-back kickoff returns. That’s a huge momentum thing.”

An offensive bright spot was the debut of running back Michael Adkins II, who carried 14 times for 98 yards. Running backs coach Klayton Adams said Adkins had impressed from August through the opener but the coaching staff was waiting “for the right time” to play him.

On long runs of 19 and 33 yards, Adkins showed speed in both getting to the hole and on the perimeter. “He’s fast, he gets to sidelines, he runs hard,” MacIntyre said. Asked if using Adkins Saturday represented a changing of the guard at tailback, MacIntyre answered, “Of course . . . I don’t know if he’s the starter but he’s going to play.”

Rather than leaving Corvallis convinced that Oregon State won with better talent, MacIntyre left believing that CU self-destructed. He declined to share with the media what he told his team post-game. He did say the only gauge he got on what winning in the Pac-12 requires is this: “Don’t turn the ball over.”

He also let it be known to his players that late hits and subsequent penalties such as the one drawn by guard Daniel Munyer won’t be tolerated. “That kind of stuff is ridiculous,” MacIntyre said. Munyer’s penalty helped snuff a first-half CU possession, after which OSU drove for a pivotal TD to make the score 17-3 at halftime. Munyer was pulled and didn’t return.

For all of their miscues after finally getting back on the field for the first time since Sept. 7, MacIntyre did say the Buffs never rolled over: “We were down 17-3 at the half and hadn’t moved the ball at all. I thought if we came out in the second half and stopped them and scored . . . but they made a good drive, we fumbled (the kickoff) and basically it was out of hand. But the one thing I will say, our kids kept battling, fighting and pushing.”

“It’s not a setback,” added Henderson. “We still have to learn from each and every game, each and every play that we’re in there. You have to keep moving forward. We’ve got Oregon coming up.”

And the Buffs have an idea, a very bad one, of what that means. Since entering the Pac-12 three seasons ago, they’ve lost two games to the Ducks by a combined score of 115-16.

Contact: BG.Brooks@Colorado.EDU

Colorado Buffaloes Football

Show Menu



By: CUBuffs.com

Freshman Michael Adkins II (19) rushed for a team-high 98 yards Saturday.

Brooks: Mannion, OSU Shred Buffs In Pac-12 Opener

Release: September 28, 2013

By: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

CORVALLIS, Ore. – If it was questionable whether a three-week layoff had an ill effect on Colorado's offense here Saturday, there was no question about Oregon State quarterback Sean Mannion's effect on the Buffaloes defense. Or how much damage was done by two lost fumbles and a pair of interceptions.

In the end, it all proved devastating in a 44-17 loss that sabotaged CU's 2013 Pac-12 Conference opener under Mike MacIntyre and his team's attempt to open 3-0 for the first time since the 2008 season.

Neither MacIntyre nor his quarterback, Connor Wood, would blame not having played since Sept. 7 for the Buffs' ineffective offensive performance or their inefficiency in other areas.

"Mainly to me it was turnovers and not taking care of the ball," MacIntyre said of the loss. Asked if any of those problems were attributable to the layoff, he answered, "I don't think so."

"That's just making excuses and we're not a team that does that," offered Wood when asked the same question. "There's not one single thing to blame offensively . . . not this position or that position. There were times when I had some happy feet in the pocket."

Wood also said an afternoon that quickly slipped away from the Buffs in the second half can't be viewed "as a failure. You look at it as a learning experience. That's what the great players do; it can't be, oh we lost we're not any good. We have to keep our heads up."

CU (2-1, 0-1) entered Reser Stadium averaging 39.5 points in its first two games, but any momentum from those wins didn't survive. The Buffs, who host No. 2 Oregon next Saturday (4 p.m., Pac-12 Network), didn't score a touchdown until Wood hit Tyler McCulloch with a 24-yard pass early in the fourth quarter.

Wood had averaged 370.5 passing yards a game, but at halftime Saturday he had only 22. And in the second and third quarters, the Beavers (4-1, 2-0) outgained the Buffs 367-33 – hardly evidence of an in-sync offense. Wood finished 14-of-34 for 146 yards, two TDs and two interceptions.

Much of OSU's yardage came courtesy of Mannion, who went over 350 yards passing for the fifth consecutive game – a school record. He also broke the OSU record with six TD passes – two each to Brandin Cooks and Caleb Smith. Mannion finished 27-of-52 for 414 and the six scores.

Related Links

- [KOA Recap vs OSU](#)
- [Highlights at OSU](#)
- [Buy Tickets](#)
- [Gameday](#)
- [Work To Do Before Oregon](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [Notes](#)
- [Quotes](#)
- [Final Game Book](#)

Cooks and CU's Paul Richardson were among the NCAA receiving leaders, but this gray and sometimes blustery afternoon belonged to Cooks. He finished with nine catches for 168 yards and the two scores, while Richardson managed only five catches for 70 yards and one score – a 28-yard reception with 13 seconds to play.

At 208.5 yards a game, Richardson had been the FBS leader. Cooks was at 159.8 and had caught seven TD passes.

The Beavers amassed 540 yards in total offense to the Buffs' 300. CU rushed for 154 yards and could have been near 200 had it not been for 20 yards lost on a pair of quarterback sacks.

"I felt like we could take advantage of their defense and run the ball," MacIntyre said. "If didn't give up a couple of big sacks, would have had over 200 yards rushing, which is pretty good considering we haven't been rushing very well. And if we would have thrown the ball better . . . there were some plays left on the field."

The Buffs trailed 17-3 at halftime, but it took a late 12-play, 71-yard drive by the Beavers to open that two-touchdown margin. On that march, OSU converted a fourth-and-10 at the CU 33, then scored three plays later on a Mannion-to-Cooks 8-yard pass – Mannion's second scoring pass of the half and Cooks' seventh reception.

Trevor Romaine's PAT put OSU ahead 17-3 with 16 seconds left before intermission.

Before that, the Buffs' defense appeared fairly sound, snuffing a pair of Beavers' drives with an interception by corner Greg Henderson and a sack/forced fumble by end Chidera Uzo-Diribe and fumble recovery by end Juda Parker.

But MacIntyre said his defense did not hold up well and should have had another pair of first-half picks in addition to Henderson's: "We gave up 540 yards and should have had three picks in the first half. We've got to work on making that play. We've got to do a better job of coaches and make them 'high-point' the ball."

The Buffs' offense managed a field goal after Henderson's pick, tying the game at 3-3 on Will Oliver's 19-yarder with 6:19 left in the first quarter. The Beavers had taken their 3-0 lead on Romaine's 36-yard kick a little more 4 minutes earlier.

But following Parker's fumble recovery, which stopped an OSU drive at the CU 19, the Buffs couldn't capitalize. They went three-and-out, with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on Daniel Munyer – he was taken out of the game and didn't return – ruining the series and forcing a punt.

Mannion, who had hit Smith with a 3-yard scoring pass for OSU's first TD, and the Beavers took over at their 29 and began their 71-yard march to end the half and begin pulling away.

Wood finished the first half with only four completions (15 attempts) for 22 yards, with one interception. What would have been his longest completion – a 34-yarder to D.D. Goodson at the OSU 38 – was overturned by instant replay. Richardson made only one first-half catch for 2 yards.

Mannion, meanwhile, finished the half 15-of-33 for 247 yards and the pair of scores, and Cooks' seven receptions were good for 152 yards and a TD.

If the Buffs were going to rally, they needed to stop the Beavers immediately in the second half. It didn't happen; OSU took the second half kickoff and fashioned a drive that nearly matched their final first-half march.

It covered 75 yards, required seven plays and concluded with another Mannion-to-Cooks scoring pass – this one for 22 yards. Romaine's extra point pushed the Beavers comfortably in front 24-3 with 12:03 left in the third quarter.

Then the wheels appeared to be close to coming off for the Buffs. But after Marques Mosley fumbled the kickoff and Romaine recovered at the OSU 46, the Beavers were forced into a three-and-out. It didn't matter.

When CU again failed to generate any offense and punted, Mannion completed a 76-yard drive with his third TD pass of the afternoon – a 42-yard screen taken to the end zone by Terron Ward. Romaine made it 31-3 – and another special teams blunder awaited the Buffs on Romaine's kickoff.

When his squib kick wasn't handled by up man Brady Daigh, OSU's Zack Robinson recovered at the CU 26. Four plays later, Mannion tied the OSU single-game record with his fifth TD pass, this one covering 4 yards to Smith.

Romaine's PAT pushed the Beavers up 38-3, and sadly for the Buffs, their 2013 Pac-12 opener was beginning to take on a familiar and unwanted feeling.

Wood and McCulloch hooked up for their score with 10:51 to play. When Wood hit freshman Devin Ross with a two-point conversion pass, the score was 38-11 – but time and most everything else wasn't on CU's side.

After Wood was intercepted with just under 7 minutes remaining, Mannion broke the OSU record for TD passes in a single game, hitting tight end Connor Hamlett with an 11-yard toss. The rout settled at 44-11 with 6:48 remaining, but Wood and "P-Rich" hooked up in the final 13 seconds for their score.

Wood said MacIntyre told the team "there would be ups and down in the season, it's not going to be perfect. The guys that stay even keeled and learn from their mistakes, their losses, the better we'll be as a team. We're still a good team."

NOTABLE: Saturday's attendance was 44,279. Reser Stadium holds 45,674 CU used freshman tailback Michael Adkins II for the first time on Saturday. He carried five times in the first half for 40 yards, with his 19-yard run the Buffs' longest play for scrimmage in the opening half. He finished with 14 carries for 98 yards CU was penalized five times for 59 yards in the first half. The Buffs were flagged for eight penalties in each of their first two games. They had six for 64 yards on Saturday Buffs punter Darragh O'Neill's first punt was a 16-yard shank, but he finished the half averaging 40 yards on seven tries, with a long kick of 55 yards. For the day, he punted 10 times for a 41.1 average.

Contact: BG.Brooks@Colorado.EDU

Colorado Buffaloes Football

Show Menu



html

Printed from the Charlotte Observer - www.CharlotteObserver.com

Posted: Saturday, Sep. 28, 2013

Mannion, Oregon State hammer rusty Colorado, 44-17

By NICK DASCHEL

PUBLISHED IN: COLLEGE FOOTBALL

CORVALLIS, Ore. If there's room for another Heisman Trophy candidate, Oregon State could have one in quarterback Sean Mannion.

The Beavers' junior quarterback passed for 414 yards and a school-record six touchdowns and Oregon State won its fourth consecutive game Saturday with a 44-17 victory over Colorado.

Mannion, who completed 27 of 52 passes, leads the country with 2,018 passing yards this season.

"He better be in the Heisman talk after this game," OSU receiver Brandin Cooks said. "He's great. He's playing with confidence and playing like the Sean I know. He's having a lot of fun."

Cooks helped enhance Mannion's stock, as the junior caught nine passes for 168 yards and two touchdowns for the Beavers (4-1, 2-0 Pac-12). Cooks also had five carries for 47 yards.

Cooks came into the game leading the country in receptions with 43. Cooks made several dynamic plays against Colorado, including a 52-yard reception where Cooks went up between two defenders and grabbed the ball.

Cooks, who has 52 receptions for 807 yards and nine touchdowns through five games, deferred his own Heisman talk.

"Nah, nah, nah, not me. (Mannion) is doing all the work. I'm just catching the ball like I'm supposed to," Cooks

Related Stories

Related Images



said.

Mannion battled gusty winds and a Colorado (2-1, 0-1 Pac-12) team aiming for its first 3-0 start since 2008. Mannion was workmanlike during the first half, but caught fire during the third quarter, when he threw three touchdown passes that allowed Oregon State to pull away.

"I feel all right about it. We were much better in the second half. I think I missed a lot of throws I can hit," Mannion said. "Obviously, the defense is going to make some good plays, and there's going to be a drop here and there. What bothered me is that there were some throws I think I can hit."

Mannion said he was honored to break the school's single-game touchdown pass record.

"I never focus on stats that much. But to be there with some outstanding players, it's a cool honor," Mannion said.

Colorado played its first game in three weeks. Flooding postponed the Buffaloes' Sept. 14 game against Fresno State, in addition to a bye week, causing Colorado coach Mike McIntyre to say earlier this week that "it seems like three years ago since we last played."

The Buffaloes' offense was out of sync for most of the game. Quarterback Connor Wood connected on just 14 of 34 passes for 146 yards. Paul Richardson, who came into game as the country's leading receiver averaging 208.5 yards a game, was held to five receptions for 70 yards.

Colorado had four turnovers, including two fumbles on kickoff returns.

"Turnovers, that's probably what the difference in the game was. Kickoff turnovers, we've got to make sure we handle that. That kind of flipped the game for us," McIntyre said.

The Beavers' oft-maligned defense played their best game of the season. Ranked No. 92 in total defense, Oregon State limited Colorado to 124 yards through



three quarters, and 300 for the game. The Buffaloes converted only two of 15 third downs.

Oregon State's offense generated 542 total yards.

Caleb Smith also caught two touchdowns passes for the Beavers, who never trailed in the game.

The Beavers led 17-3 at halftime. OSU scored on its opening possession on a 36-yard field goal by Trevor Romaine, then added touchdowns on Mannion passes of 3 yards to Smith and 8 yards to Cooks.

Oregon State put the game away during the third quarter on a combination of its offensive efficiency and Colorado's special teams miscues.

Mannion and Cooks connected on a 22-yard touchdown pass on the Beavers' opening drive of the second half for a 24-3 lead. Oregon State then converted two Colorado fumbles on kickoff returns into touchdowns, on passes of 42 yards to Terron Ward and 10 yards to Caleb Smith, to take a 38-3 lead.

Mannion broke OSU's single-game touchdown passes record on a 11-yard throw to Connor Hamlett with 6:48 left in the fourth quarter.

Colorado scored two touchdowns during the fourth quarter, on Wood passes of 24 yards to Tyler McCullough and 28 yards to Richardson.

Mannion has thrown for at least 350 yards in each of his five games this season, an OSU record, and his 52 career touchdown passes tie him for third all-time with Erik Wilhelm.



[Subscribe to The Charlotte Observer.](#)

Colorado football: Buffs fall flat in loss to Oregon State

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

CORVALLIS, Ore. -- Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre's first encounter with a Pac-12 Conference opponent on the road Saturday looked a lot like those of his predecessor.

Missed tackles, special teams mistakes, ineffective offense and the home team's side of the scoreboard rolling up big numbers in a 44-17 loss.

The question aching to be answered by the Buffs entering Saturday's first road game of the season at Oregon State was how they might respond following a three-week layoff caused by the flooding back home in Boulder. MacIntyre said he didn't believe the layoff was a factor in his team's performance.

"Play better, don't turn the ball over, throw the ball to the right guys," MacIntyre said when asked what it will take for the Buffs to be more competitive in the Pac-12. "... I think we have the talent to play with Oregon State. There's no doubt in my mind."

CU has now lost nine straight conference games dating back to the Pac-12 opener last season at Washington State.

While the conditions at Reser Stadium were familiar -- rain and wind -- the response from the Buffs was all too familiar, as well. The defense did its part for a half against a potent Oregon State passing attack, but the offense looked an awful lot like the 2012 version.

Oregon State erupted in the third quarter for 24 unanswered points and made a laughing out of what had been a closer game. The Beavers finished with 540 yards of total offense and quarterback Sean Mannion threw for six touchdown passes.

OSU outgained CU 367 yards to 33 in the second and third quarters combined. It was a stretch that decided the game. CU didn't find the end zone until 11 minutes were left.

Two special teams blunders by the CU kickoff return unit made it easier than it should have been.

Marques Mosley fumbled a kickoff return that didn't lead to any points but added momentum to the Beavers' efforts. OSU also successfully recovered a short kickoff that allowed it to score back-to-back touchdowns with the CU offense never touching the ball.

"We've got to do a better job of coaching them and keep taking care of the football," MacIntyre said. "It's all about turnovers."

The magic made between quarterback Connor Wood and wide receiver Paul Richardson in the first two games of the season disappeared in this one. Richardson came into the game leading the nation with 208 yards receiving per game. By the end of the third quarter, he had caught just one pass for two yards and mostly was a non-factor.

The contest was billed as a matchup of two of the best receivers in the nation and the Pac-12 with Oregon State's Brandin Cooks ranked second nationally in receiving yards per game.

Cooks definitely left a more favorable impression, making plays in the passing and running game for the Beavers. He finished with nine catches for 168 yards and five carries for 47 yards.

Richardson couldn't get the ball because Wood either couldn't get it to him or didn't have time to. Wood faced consistent pressure from an Oregon State defensive line that had its way against a well-rested Colorado offensive line.

Wood completed only 14 of 34 passes for 146 yards with two interceptions and two touchdowns. Richardson caught five passes for 70 yards and a late touchdown. It was obviously a far cry from the production that had the CU passing game ranked seventh best in the nation entering the day.

"You really can't put your finger on one thing that went wrong, like, 'This was it.'" Wood said. "I think all facets of the game, special teams made mistakes, defense made mistakes. They did really well in the first half and then offense, we made our fair share as well."

Wood said the CU offense was very prepared for what it saw from the Oregon State defense and the Beavers didn't do anything that surprised him.

The bright spot in the CU offense was true freshman running back Michael Adkins II who rushed 14 times for 98 yards and could soon be the team's new starter.

"I don't know if he's the starter, but he's going to play," MacIntyre said. "Wouldn't you play him?"

Oregon State struggled to move the ball early, but quarterback Mannion, the nation's leading passer coming into the game, connected with Cooks for a 52-yard gain in double coverage late in first quarter. Mannion, who finished 27 of 52 for 414 yards, connected with Cooks on a pair of touchdown passes later.

The Buffs now must regroup to host No. 2 Oregon next week.

"You can't look at this as a failure at all," Wood said. "You got to look at it as a learning experience. That how great players, that's how they think."

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

Oregon State 44, Colorado 17

Colorado 3 0 0 14--17

Oregon St. 10 7 21 6--44

First Quarter

OrSt -- FG Romaine 36, 10:03.

Col -- FG Oliver 19, 6:19.

OrSt -- Smith 3 pass from Mannion (Romaine kick), 2:09.

Second Quarter

OrSt -- Cooks 8 pass from Mannion (Romaine kick), :16.

Third Quarter

OrSt -- Cooks 22 pass from Mannion (Romaine kick), 12:03.

OrSt -- Ward 42 pass from Mannion (Romaine kick), 6:48.

OrSt -- Smith 4 pass from Mannion (Romaine kick), 5:13.

Fourth Quarter

Col -- McCulloch 24 pass from C.Wood (Ross pass from C.Wood), 10:51.

OrSt -- Hamlett 11 pass from Mannion (run failed), 6:48.

Col -- Richardson 28 pass from C.Wood (pass failed), :13.

A -- 44,279.

Col OrSt

First downs 14 29

Rushes-yards 35-154 34-120

Passing 146 420

Comp-Att-Int 14-34-2 28-54-1

Return Yards 36 35

Punts-Avg. 10-41.1 7-44.1

Fumbles-Lost 2-2 2-1

Penalties-Yards 6-64 6-40

Time of Possession 25:10 34:50

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING -- Colorado, Adkins 14-98, T.Jones 4-22, Powell 10-21, C.Wood 5-8, Richardson 1-7, Team 1-(minus 2). Oregon St., Ward 19-55, Cooks 5-47, Brown 5-29, Bolden 1-10, Team 1-(minus 2), Mannion 3-(minus 19).

PASSING -- Colorado, C.Wood 14-34-2-146. Oregon St., Mannion 27-52-1-414, Ward 1-1-0-6, Vaz 0-1-0-0.

RECEIVING -- Colorado, Richardson 5-70, McCulloch 2-29, Adkins 2-5, Fernandez 1-13, T.Jones 1-10, Goodson 1-9, Spruce 1-9, Powell 1-1. Oregon St., Cooks 9-168, Ward 7-103, Mullaney 3-55, Hamlett 3-44, Smith 3-30, Cummings 1-8, Brown 1-6, Mannion 1-6.

Howell: Blowout loss a reality check for CU Buffs

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

During a Sept. 13 press conference to announce the postponement of Colorado's game against Fresno State, Buffaloes head coach Mike MacIntyre put his optimism on display.

A reporter asked MacIntyre how difficult it would be to reschedule the game, considering the only common open date was Dec. 7 -- and Fresno State could be playing in the Mountain West title game that day.

MacIntyre quickly pointed out to the reporter that the Pac-12 title game is also scheduled for Dec. 7 and that the Buffs could be busy, too.

After Saturday, consider the Buffs dateless for the first Saturday in December (unless, of course, the CU administration can find another opponent to visit Boulder that day). CU certainly won't be playing in the Pac-12 title game. That became clear after Oregon State ripped the Buffs, 44-17, at Reser Stadium in Corvallis, Ore.

While MacIntyre has always been upbeat and optimistic about this season, he has known all along that rebuilding a football team that went 1-11 a year ago would not be an easy job.

It's a challenge he took on last December when he left San Jose State to come to Boulder, but he knows full well that it's rare to see a college football team go from loser to winner in such a short amount of time.

MacIntyre, after all, had to watch his team at San Jose State get worse before it got better. In 2010, he took over a San Jose State team that went 2-10 the year before. The Spartans went 1-12 in their first year under MacIntyre, often getting blown out.

MacIntyre actually started 1-15 at SJSU before going 15-6 in his last 21 games there.

So, we probably shouldn't be surprised by what happened on Saturday. After two years of being the Pac-12's punching bag, the Buffaloes opened up Pac-12 play by settling into that role once again in MacIntyre's first conference game.

Many of the same problems that plagued CU over the past two years -- stupid penalties, ugly turnovers, ineptitude on offense and a Swiss cheese defense -- showed up again Saturday.

All the good vibes that came from CU's 2-0 start were replaced with a heavy dose of reality on Saturday. Yes, the Buffs are good enough to beat a bad Mountain West team and slip past a solid FCS team -- two things they failed to do last year -- but they aren't ready to compete against the better teams in the Pac-12.

Oregon State was 9-4 a year ago, and the Beavers are well on their way to approaching that win total again this year. With a three-year starter at quarterback, one of the country's best

receivers and a veteran coach with a lot of wins under his belt, the Beavers were well equipped to turn this into a rout.

They aren't the only team on CU's schedule with that ability, either.

Next week, No. 2 Oregon comes to Boulder. A trip to Arizona State (which got the most votes among teams outside the Top 25 this week) comes after that. Visits to No. 14 UCLA and No. 16 Washington are on the calendar for November.

Several variables suggested Saturday's game would be a tough one, including the three-week layoff, the inclement weather at Reser Stadium and the first road trip of the season.

Because of those variables, it might be unfair to completely judge the Buffs based on Saturday's performance. But none of those variables could hide the fact that CU was overmatched by another Pac-12 opponent.

Perhaps one day MacIntyre and the Buffs can seriously entertain thoughts of playing in the Pac-12 championship game. But not this year. For now, the Buffs simply need to worry about closing the chasm between themselves and the Pac-12's best.

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

Colorado football: Mike MacIntyre points to special teams failures

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

CORVALLIS, Ore. -- There was already little doubt that Colorado was on its way to its first loss of the Mike MacIntyre era in the second half at Oregon State on Saturday when the Buffs made special teams mistakes that ensured defeat.

Oregon State scored on its first possession after halftime to take a 24-3 advantage. On the kickoff, CU sophomore Marques Mosley fumbled the ball back to the Beavers.

Mosley was bailed out by his teammates on defense who forced a punt, but it was just the first of a handful of ugly special teams plays that helped turn the momentum decidedly in Oregon State's favor.

Oregon State scored on its next possession to extend the lead to 31-3 and then caught the CU kickoff return team off guard with a squib kick that the Buffs mishandled and the Beavers recovered. OSU scored again moments later and the game was out of hand at 38-3.

"That kind of flipped the game for sure," MacIntyre said.

MacIntyre said the Buffs practice handling every kind of kickoff repeatedly.

"Those weren't coaching mistakes," he said. "Those were kids not doing what they're supposed to do, holding on to the ball correctly and recovering it correctly. Those are things we work on all the time. So we'll just have to keep working at it."

CU has made crucial special teams mistakes in each of its first three games this season. It managed to overcome big returns allowed against Colorado State and Central Arkansas, but the errors Saturday led to a blowout.

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

Colorado football: Addison Gillam's strong start continues

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

CORVALLIS, Ore. -- True freshman CU linebacker Addison Gillam came into the game leading the Pac-12 in tackles per game and was the only player in the conference averaging more than 10 per game.

Gillam didn't do anything to hurt that ranking with 13 total tackles against the Beavers. On one first-half series, he notched a tackle for loss on first down, chased down a screen play from behind on second down and made the tackle on third down forcing a punt.

Notable

Wide receiver D.D. Goodson switched to jersey No. 3 for the remainder of the season because he plays on same special teams units as safety Jered Bell, who wears No. 21, Goodson's former number. ... The Buffs traveled with 70 players, more than half were underclassmen and 59 were on scholarship.

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

CU Buffs coach Mike MacIntyre upset because of multiple mistakes

Kyle Ringo , Buffzone.com The Denver Post
Posted:

DenverPost.com

CORVALLIS, Ore. —There already was little doubt that Colorado was on its way to its first loss of the Mike MacIntyre era in the second half at Oregon State on Saturday when the Buffs made special-teams mistakes that ensured defeat.

Oregon State scored on its first possession after halftime to take a 24-3 advantage. On the kickoff, CU sophomore Marques Mosley fumbled the ball back to the Beavers.

Mosley was bailed out when his teammates on defense forced a punt, but it was just the first of a handful of ugly special-teams plays that helped turn the momentum decidedly in Oregon State's favor.

Oregon State scored on its next possession to extend the lead to 31-3 and then caught the CU kickoff return team off guard with a squib kick that the Buffs mishandled and the Beavers recovered. OSU scored again moments later, and the game was out of hand at 38-3.

"That kind of flipped the game for sure," MacIntyre said.

MacIntyre said the Buffs practice handling every kind of kickoff repeatedly.

"Those weren't coaching mistakes," he said. "Those were kids not doing what they're supposed to do, holding on to the ball correctly and recovering it correctly. Those are things we work on all the time. So we'll just have to keep working at it."

CU has made crucial special-teams mistakes in each of its first three games this season. It managed to overcome big returns allowed against Colorado State and Central Arkansas, but the errors Saturday led to a blowout.

Munyer benched. MacIntyre was unhappy with several bad penalties committed by offensive lineman that sabotaged drives. None upset him more than an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on guard Daniel Munyer late in the second quarter with Oregon State leading 10-3.

On second-and-3 from their 26, the Buffs ran for a yard, but Munyer was flagged after the play.

MacIntyre immediately removed Munyer from the game and replaced him with Alex Kelley. Munyer did not return.

"We had too many penalties in the first half," Mac Intyre said. "One of them was a late hit that kind of flipped the game there on us, and he didn't play any more the rest of the game. Can't be doing that kind of stuff. It's ridiculous."

Richardson surpasses 2012. CU wide receiver Paul Richardson now has 487 yards receiving through three games — more than CU's leading receiver managed all of last season (Nelson Spruce, 446 yards). Richardson is also one catch short of becoming the 12th player in Buffs' history to catch 100 passes in his career.

Getting off the field. The CU defense allowed Oregon State three big conversions on third and fourth downs with double-digit yardage totals needed for first downs.

However, the Buffs have been much improved this year at getting off the field on third downs. According to the CU sports information department, the Buffs came into the game averaging seven three-and-outs a game. That ranked fourth in the nation before this week's games. The Buffs produced six three-and-outs against the Beavers, giving them 20 this season. They had 29 last season.

CU Buffs freshman Michael Adkins gains 98 yards in first college game

By John Henderson The Denver Post The Denver Post
Posted:

DenverPost.com

CORVALLIS, Ore. — It appears there may be a changing of the guard at Colorado tailback.

In the wet gloom of Saturday's 44-17 loss to Oregon State, Colorado unveiled true freshman Michael Adkins II.

In his season debut, Adkins tore off his redshirt on Colorado's second series of the game and rushed for 98 yards on 14 carries. It was the second most in a Colorado freshman's debut behind Marcus Houston's 100 against Colorado State 13 years ago.

"He's good and fast," first-year coach Mike MacIntyre said. "He can run the ball. He's a good running back, and he'll play a lot for us."

The window opened for Adkins when the flood canceled the Sept. 14 Fresno State game and gave Mac Intyre two more weeks to fix an anemic running attack.

Christian Powell, the returning starter, was slowed by a bruised thigh and MacIntyre looked at options.

He worked Adkins onto the first-team's reps in practice.

"I felt comfortable," Adkins said. "With summer camp and the remainder of fall camp, it helped a lot playing at this level."

Adkins was no blue-chip recruit. After rushing for 1,770 yards and 24 touchdowns last year at San Diego's Helix High, the 5-foot-10, 200-pounder chose Colorado over Air Force and San Jose State.

He became a Buff when MacIntyre left San Jose for Boulder.

Powell said he would be 100 percent by Saturday. He started but had 10 carries for only 21 yards. In three games, he has 85 yards on 31 carries for a 2.7 average.

In the second half, Powell had one carry.

"Michael's been running good," MacIntyre said. "He's so fast. You see how he gets on the sideline, how he makes yards when you think he's down."

CU Buffs lose big in Pac-12 opener at Oregon State

By John Henderson The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

CORVALLIS, Ore. — The Colorado Buffaloes wiped the rust off a three-week layoff Saturday, and what did they find? Grasping for positive straws in the drizzle and wind, they were not the 1-11 Buffaloes circa 2012. However, the Buffs of a 2-0 September were nowhere to be found either.

Instead, an ineffective offense all but forgot about the nation's most prolific receiver, a defense wilted against the nation's most prolific passer and the special teams again were anything but special.

It all added up to a 44-17 drubbing at the hands of Oregon State, which gave first-year Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre a cold, wet, "welcome to the Pac-12" slap in his league opener.

"We have the talent to play with Oregon State," MacIntyre said. "There's no doubt in my mind."

That debate is moot for now. Regardless of the talent, no team can win if its star player — in this case, CU's Paul Richardson — catches one pass for 2 yards in the first half. No team can bounce back from fumbling two kickoff returns in the third quarter when the Beavers' Sean Mannion is heating up on his way to a school-record six touchdown passes.

Oregon State (4-1, 2-0 Pac-12) went Oregon Ducks all over the Buffs, outgaining them 540 yards to 300. Mannion threw for 414 yards. CU's Connor Wood was a frosty 14-of-34 for 146 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions.

When the floods hit Boulder, MacIntyre not only worried about his eight displaced players but also the potential rust when his Buffs finally felt an opponent's hit and a crowd's roar. But he didn't blame the wait or the wind.

"Did you watch the kickoff returns?" MacIntyre said. "That's what changed it."

Saturday's game already was slipping away from the Buffs. Mannion opened the second half with a drive culminating in a 22-yard TD pass to Brandin Cooks for a 24-3 lead. Trying to claw back, Marques Mosley returned the ensuing kickoff but Oregon State's Zack Robinson knocked the ball forward and kicker Trevor Romaine recovered for the Beavers.

One more Mannion touchdown pass later, a squib kick bounced off the flailing hands of Brady Daigh and the Beavers recovered again. That set up Mannion's fifth TD pass, a simple 4-yarder to Caleb Smith to make it 38-3.

Game. Set. Light the match.

"We work on catching squib kicks and bloopers," a visibly perturbed MacIntyre said. "We even send our kids out early before the game to handle that."

CU's defense held Mannion in check in the first half, when the Buffs trailed only 17-3. But Richardson, leading the nation with an average of 209 receiving yards per game, fell short of that in the first half by 207. Oregon State shadowed him, but this is the same defense that hadn't shown much of a pulse until the second half the week before at San Diego State.

"We got it to him in the second half," MacIntyre said of Richardson. "We should've thrown it to him more."

By the second half, it was too late. CU's defense couldn't handle Mannion or Cooks, who was one-two nationally with Richardson in receptions per game entering the weekend. That mini-battle turned into a slaughter. Richardson finished with five catches for 70 yards and a touchdown.

Cooks finished with nine catches for 168 yards and two TDs.

"They didn't hold up," MacIntyre said of the Buffs defensively. "We gave up (540) yards. You can't be doing that. We should've had three picks. We're double-covering a kid. We're all over him and we don't make the play. We've got to make the play."

The Buffs had better start making more. Coming to town next Saturday is second-ranked Oregon. At least Wood doesn't appear to be heading down the dark elevator shaft the Buffs occupied last year.

"You can't look at this as a failure at all," Wood said. "You've got to look at it as a learning experience."

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



Beavers Sports

OSU football: Balance on both sides keys Beavers' rout over Colorado



SEPTEMBER 28, 2013 5:26 PM • [BY KEVIN HAMPTON, CORVALLIS GAZETTE-TIMES](#)

Balance was just a little off for the Oregon State football team over the first four weeks of the season.

Sure, the Beavers were winning, but the offense too often won the day while the defense sputtered through long stretches.

There were signs that the defense was developing in games at Utah and San Diego State, but the Beavers were waiting for everything to come together.

Balance arrived on Saturday as the Beavers put together a strong game on both sides of the ball and rolled to a 44-17 Pac-12 win over Colorado before an announced crowd of 44,279 at Reser

Stadium.

Sean Mannion tossed a school-record six touchdown throws and finished with 414 yards passing for the Beavers, who had 540 total yards.

The defense stopped Colorado (2-1, 0-1) cold through three quarters, holding the Buffaloes to 124 total yards before they tacked on 176 yards and two touchdowns in the fourth.

"There were a lot of good plays today and I think probably most notable was the consistency of our defense," coach Mike Riley said. "That's what I really liked today. I thought that up until later in the fourth quarter, sometime in there, they had only given up three points and that was due to an offensive turnover.

"So defensively, it was about as consistent as we've played and it was good for us because they did parts of a lot of things we're going to see all year long, the zone read stuff, the hurry-up stuff, the formation change stuff, the personnel group changes. So I think our team was well-prepared by (defensive coordinator) Mark (Banker) and the defensive coaches and probably played their best game today."

The anticipated showdown between receivers Brandin Cooks and Paul Richardson fizzled. Cooks tore through the Colorado secondary for 168 yards on nine catches, with two touchdowns. Richardson had his second catch with 13:12 left in the game and finished with

five for 70 yards and a 28-yard score with 13 seconds left.

Looking for a big drive to start the second half, the Beavers (4-1, 2-0) came through with a seven-play, 75-yard scoring march. Cooks rushed for 23 yards on a fly sweep, Mannion hit Caleb Smith for 23 yards and then tossed a rocket to Cooks for a 22-yard TD to make it 24-3.

The back-breaker came moments later when Terron Ward took a screen pass, followed a block or two, weaved through a few remaining defenders and scored to complete a 42-yard play.

"I think it was important for us to come out strong in the second half especially after the sloppiness of the first half," Mannion said. "I want to say we've scored on almost every opening drive of the second half, which is something we want to take pride in, being able to come out and execute the adjustments we made at halftime. So real big for our team, especially with the way we were kind of reeling in the first half."

A fumble on the ensuing kickoff led to another quick OSU score as Mannion hit Smith for a 4-yard TD.

The offensive line once again gave Mannion time to find his receivers despite quite a bit of pressure by the Buffaloes, who did come up with two sacks.

"A great example of this is the late TD to Caleb," Riley said. "It was our third choice and Sean had time to look and find him. Our coaching staff has been working with our players and there have been a lot of changes, but they have handled it. They have hung in there great and they are only getting better."

The Beavers led 17-3 at the half, but Mannion said they left points on the field.

"Our defense was playing incredible, giving us a lot of chances, so that's something we clearly need to fix," he said. "But at the same time I was excited about the way we bounced back in the second half. I thought from there on out we were sharp."

After a holding penalty ruined a promising first drive for the Buffaloes, the Beavers took the ball from their 48, eating most of the yardage on a 20-yard pass to Cooks and a 17-yard throw to Richard Mullaney before bogging down in the red zone and settling for a field goal by Trevor Romaine.

The Beavers forced a three-and-out, but Mullaney bobbled a pass and Colorado corner Greg Henderson snatched it away. The Beavers put together a stand inside their 5, with Jabral Johnson sprinting from the other side of the field to drag down Conner Wood on third-and-goal, saving a touchdown.

Another stop for the defense and Mannion wasted little time in going deep to Cooks. Mannion stepped inside some pressure and unleashed a throw that Cooks snagged between two defenders for 52 yards. OSU took a 10-3 lead a few plays later when Smith drifted open in the flat and Mannion hit him for the score on third-and-goal.

Colorado was set back by three big penalties in the first half and had a 34-yard pass play overturned when replay showed the ball was knocked out by Sean Martin.

The Beavers made it 17-3 with a drive that started with 2:34 left in the half. Mannion hit Mullaney twice, the second for 21 yards on fourth-and-10 at the CU 33. Two plays later, Mannion hit Cooks in the back of the end zone.



OregonLive.com
Everything Oregon

Oregon State 44, Colorado 17: Fly sweep comes alive again as Beavers handle Buffaloes

Loading Photo Gallery

Lindsay Schnell | Ischnell@oregonian.com By **Lindsay Schnell | Ischnell@oregonian.com**

Follow on Twitter

on September 28, 2013 at 8:30 PM, updated September 28, 2013 at 9:48 PM

CORVALLIS — Mike Riley fell in love with Brandin Cooks because he reminded him of James Rodgers. The Oregon State fan base fell in love with Rodgers because he could turn almost any fly sweep into positive yardage. Saturday in Reser Stadium, Cooks looked a whole lot like Rodgers.

With Colorado in town, and the Beavers in desperate need of a ground attack, it was Cooks, the 5-foot-9, 182-pound All-American receiving candidate who took five handoffs from quarterback Sean Mannion and flew to the edge for a total of 47 yards.

Funny how it all works out, isn't it?

Cooks' speed on the fly sweep, coupled with his how-did-he-catch-that? ability, allowed the junior to tally 221 total yards on Saturday, as the Beavers (4-1, 2-0 Pac-12) breezed to a 44-17 win over the Buffs (2-1, 0-1) in front of 44,279.

"Obviously the fly sweep, ever since James, it's been a huge part of our offense," said Mannion, who completed 27-of-52 passes for 414 yards and a school record six touchdown passes.

But after Rodgers graduated, the Beavers started using the fly sweep less and less, because teams figured out how to defend it. It is responsible for one of the biggest wins in the last decade, and Riley acknowledged on Saturday that it still "has to be part of what we do."

"The play that sticks out in everyone's mind, of course, is James running it in against Oregon in the (2007) Civil War to beat the Ducks," Mannion said. "They show that highlight so much, it's become part of our identity."

Also part of the Beavers' identity this year: A knack for taking games down to the wire. That wasn't the case with this one though, as the Beavers' broke an early 3-3 tie to take a 17-3 lead at halftime, before piling on an additional 21 points in the third quarter.

"You know," Riley said, "I think I'd rather win like this."

Cooks' was tremendous in the passing game, grabbing nine balls for 168 yards, but Mannion said it was his work in the fly sweep that opened up the whole field. At the beginning of the third quarter, with OSU at first-and-10 on its own 25, Cooks took a fly sweep up the left side 23 yards—OSU's longest run of 2013—which set up a handoff to Terron Ward for two yards. Five plays later, Cooks caught a 22-yard touchdown pass to go up 23-2.

"After we hit a long one, our run game really opened up," said Mannion, pointing to the Beavers' 120 rushing yards. "It's a good way to out-flank the defense when they're loading the box, so it was good to see it come alive."

The Mannion-to-Cooks connection—whether it's in the passing game or running game—has been the biggest factor in OSU winning four in a row, but Cooks doesn't want any of the credit. He'd rather talk about Mannion, the junior who has now passed for an impressive 2,018 yards in just five games.

"He better be in the Heisman talk after this game," Cooks said.

It's probably a little early for that chatter, but as long as it's been brought up, what about Cooks, who leads the country with 807 receiving yards through five games?

No thanks, he says. Mannion is doing all the hard work, and he just happens to catch some perfectly placed passes. But Mannion would be quick to point out that many of those are highlight-worthy.

In the first half, at first-and-10 on the 31, Mannion uncorked a 52-yarder to Cooks, who jumped between a Colorado cornerback and safety, hung in the air and managed to grab the ball.

"With him, there's always a chance he'll come down with it," Mannion said.

Later in the second quarter, at first-and-10 on the 32, Mannion tossed a 24-yard pass that easily could have been picked off by Colorado's Jered Bell but somehow, Cooks snagged it.

"Concentration, timing and talent," Riley said. "Those are the reasons (he makes those catches). He bailed us out, got us some momentum, gave us a chance. Otherwise, we're not doing anything."

All of this doesn't even consider Ward, the back-up running back who has been filling in while starter Storm Woods recovers from a concussion he sustained on Sept. 14 at Utah. The junior rushed 19 times for 55 yards, which might seem underwhelming, but his seven catches for 103 yards—many of them short passes that he turned into long gains—were not.

"Obviously screen (passes) are a big part of our team," Mannion said. "With those, you kind of dump it off and you're so far behind the play you can't do much by watch, and you see (Terron) weaving in and out and suddenly, he's in the end zone. It's exciting to watch."

And then there is speedy little Victor Bolden, the 5-foot-9, 165-pound true freshman who Riley loved because he reminded him of, you guessed it, Cooks. Bolden has struggled this season on getting all the way to the edge in the fly sweep, often turning early and running smack into a defender. But his one carry Saturday went for 10 yards, a glimpse, perhaps, at what that play will look like in the future.

Riley says the play won't ever be as good as it was with Rodgers, because teams understand how to better slow it down. But it sounds like Cooks might not agree with that.

"Victor Bolden, ooooooh," Cooks said. "He's going to be special with that fly sweep."

© 2013 OregonLive.com. All rights reserved.