

By: Joel Broida

Greg Henderson sprints down the CU sideline during his 53-yard fumble return for a touchdown.

Brooks: Buffs Enter MacIntyre Era With 41-27 Victory

Release: September 01, 2013

By: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

DENVER – The Colorado Buffaloes rumbled into the Mike MacIntyre era Sunday afternoon with a gutsy 41-27 victory against rival Colorado State in the Rocky Mountain Showdown.

MacIntyre became only the third CU coach since 1931 to win his debut, and he did it behind a host of big-play Buffaloes – quarterback Connor Wood, receiver Paul Richardson, kicker Will Oliver and cornerback Greg Henderson, who had a momentum-turning fourth-quarter fumble return.

“First of all, I’m just excited for our seniors to start the season off like this with a great rivalry game,” said MacIntyre, who came to CU after a three-season rebuilding job at San Jose State. “I thought the crowd was phenomenal. I’m not sure about the size of it, but the loudness of it . . . It was a back-and-forth game, what a great game.

“That’s what I told our guys when we messed up another kickoff coverage. I went down there and said, ‘Wow, this is a great game, guys. They just made a great play and now it’s time for us to go make a great play. Enjoy the moment.’ And they just kept fighting and playing through it. I was really, really impressed with what they did and their resilience. It was the first time I’ve been on the field with them and they definitely could have let their heads down. But they fought tremendously.”

For the Buffs, coming off a 1-11 season and a coaching change, it was not a garden-variety opener. “It was very important for us . . . a big game for the state of Colorado,” senior linebacker Derrick Webb said. “We understand what it means to our program and Buff fans all over the nation. It was a must for us.”

In his first game in CU’s pistol offense, Wood completed 33-of-46 passes for 400 yards and three touchdowns. Two of the TD passes – 82 and 75 yards – went to Richardson, playing in his first game after sitting out last season with a knee injury. Oliver kicked field goals of 22, 41, 44 and 52 yards – the last tying a career-long kick.

And with the CU defense needing a big play in Sports Authority Field at Mile High, Henderson delivered a monstrous one. With the Buffs cradling a 26-24 lead early in the fourth quarter, he scooped up a CSU fumble and raced 53 yards to score.

Related Links

- [KOA Recap vs CSU](#)
- [Richardson Postgame vs CSU](#)
- [Gillam Postgame vs CSU](#)
- [FB vs CSU Highlights](#)
- [Fight Song from Field](#)
- [Henderson Postgame vs CSU](#)
- [Oliver Postgame vs CSU](#)
- [Wood Postgame vs CSU](#)
- [MacIntyre Postgame vs CSU](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)
- [Buy Tickets](#)
- [Gameday](#)
- [B.G. Brooks](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [Notes](#)
- [Quotes](#)
- [Final Game Book](#)

The Rams never recovered.

The Buffs couldn't have had a more effective start – scoring on their second play from scrimmage – and led 20-10 at the half. They got on the scoreboard via the 82-yard Wood-Richardson pass, and “P-Rich” couldn't have been any more by himself behind the Rams secondary unless he had been quarantined.

Wood finished the half 20-of-27 for 217 yards and two touchdowns – all career highs for the junior from Houston.

Richardson's reception was the 10th longest overall in school history and the second-longest in an opener. After his PAT following the Wood-Richardson connection pushed CU ahead 7-0, Oliver kicked a 22-yard field goal in the final minute of the first quarter and the Buffs were up 10-0 and had reason to feel good about their start.

CSU's first points came courtesy of a 39-yard Jared Roberts field goal three plays into the second quarter, cutting CU's advantage to 10-3 with 14:17 left before intermission.

It took nearly 11 minutes for either team to score again, but in the final 3:56 of the half CU got 10 points and CSU seven. Wood drove the Buffs 63 yards in seven plays, hitting slot receiver D.D. Goodson in the back left corner of the end zone with an 18-yard pass for the touchdown.

Oliver's PAT sent CU up 17-3, but CSU answered immediately with a seven-play, 74-yard march capped by Kapri Bibbs' first career TD – a 7-yard run around left end. Roberts' extra point brought the Rams to within 17-10 and the Buffs had 1:13 remaining to respond.

And they used every tick of it.

Starting at his own 25, Wood used six plays to cover 51 – four passes for 34 yards – and position Oliver for a 41-yard field goal on the first half's final play. The Buffs trotted to their locker room holding a 10-point lead (20-10) but probably not feeling overly comfortable with it.

And they shouldn't have.

CU accepted the second-half kickoff but after three downs was forced to give the ball back to CSU. Darragh O'Neill's punt traveled 46 yards, but sophomore Joe Hansley's return covered 74 – and after Roberts extra point the Rams suddenly were down only by three points (20-17).

With momentum swinging to CSU, CU needed an answer – and the Buffs drove as far as the Rams' 24-yard line before a holding call snuffed the march. O'Neill punted again to Hansley, but this time he signaled for a fair catch at his 9-yard line.

The Buffs forced a punt and marched to the Rams 18-yard line, where a third-down Wood-to-Goodson pass to the one was nullified by an offensive pass interference call on CU junior Tyler McCulloch. The Buffs couldn't convert a third-and-19, but on fourth down Oliver connected on a 44-yard field and CU increased its lead to 23-17.

It didn't last, and the Buffs had to deal with another momentum swing.

CSU got another long return – this one 84 yards by junior Thomas Coffman on Oliver's kickoff – and set up at the CU 16-yard line. It took three plays to score, with Bibbs running 2 yards for the TD to tie the score at 23-23 and Roberts' PAT giving the Rams their first lead of the afternoon, 24-23, with 2:51 left in the third quarter.

The quarter ended with CSU up by a point and CU trying to reclaim its early momentum. Luckily, the Buffs had Oliver, with Henderson on deck. When CU's ensuing drive stalled at the CSU 35-yard line, Oliver tied a career-long kick with a 52-yarder, giving the Buffs a 26-24 lead with 13:07 remaining.

If CSU was stunned, something bigger was coming.

Grayson moved the Rams to mid-field and on second down hit Bibbs across the middle for a short gain – but he couldn't escape Chidera Uzo-Diribe's strip. The football bounded free, Henderson grabbed it and raced 53 yards down the left sideline for the score CU so desperately needed.

“It's a new year, we have a new coach,” Henderson said. “We worked so hard in the spring and summer and fall camp, we weren't going to let all that go to waste and lose this game. We came out and fought hard, fought to the end.”

Oliver kicked the extra point and the Buffs went up 33-24 with 11:12 to play. But in this game, a nine-point lead hardly constituted a comfort zone, and with 3:47 to play the Rams pulled to 33-27 on a 30-yard Roberts field goal.

CU's mission was clear: Keep possession for the final 3:47 or the best part of it. And when Roberts' kickoff cleared the end zone, Wood and the Buffs took over at their own 25-yard line. The only thing better than killing all 3:47 would be another score.

On the first play Wood and Richardson delivered again – this time connecting for a 75-yard score. For good measure, Wood hit Goodson for the two-point conversion and the Buffs had their largest lead of the game – 41-27.

The Rams had 3:36 to make those 14 points up, but Webb and the Buffs "D" made sure it wasn't happening.

"It's just one game," MacIntyre said. "It was great, but we have to keep doing it."

The Buffs play Central Arkansas on Saturday at Folsom Field (6 p.m.) in their home opener.

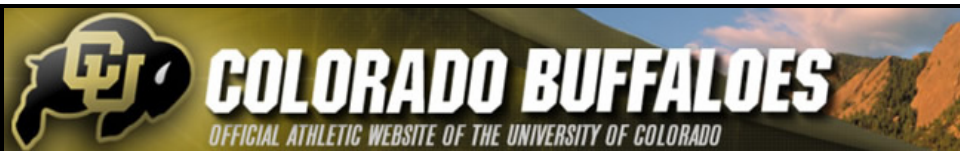
NOTABLE: CU now leads the series by a robust 62-21-2 margin and has won nine of the 14 games played since 2000, including five of the last seven . . . Sunday's number of tickets distributed was 59,601. The breakdown: 32,779 sold by CU; 23,393 by CSU; and 3,430 distributed by the Broncos ticket office. No actual attendance was announced . . . The Buffs were in white jerseys, gold pants and gold helmets, with the gold pants being worn for the first time since Nov. 1, 2008 at Texas A&M . . . CU freshman receiver Jeff Thomas and sophomore defensive lineman Samson Kafovalu served a one-game suspension Sunday . . . Senior safety Terrel Smith has elected to have shoulder surgery and will miss the 2013 season. He has a redshirt season available and plans to return for 2014.

Contact: BG.Brooks@Colorado.EDU

Colorado Buffaloes Football

Show Menu





By: Joel Broida

D.D. Goodson sprints down the sideline for 31 yards to help set up CU's second quarter touchdown.

Brooks: MacIntyre Asks For Commitment, Buffs Deliver

Release: September 01, 2013

By: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

DENVER – Mike MacIntyre arrived in Boulder last December preaching commitment. If his Colorado football players tired of hearing it through their off-season conditioning work, through the summer and into preseason camp, the weariness never showed.

Instead, the Buffs bought in. More commitment was asked of them, and finally on Thursday night in the Dal Ward Athletic Center auditorium, MacIntyre asked each player to put their personal commitment for Sunday's opener against Colorado State in writing.

It didn't stop there.

When they were done writing, MacIntyre had each player stand and read their commitment to the team. Then, one-by-one after reading, they filed to the front of the auditorium and dropped their sheets of paper in a black metal tool box.

MacIntyre's plan: Have one of his six captains carry the box into Sports Authority Field at Mile High and keep it on the sidelines. For road games, that week's commitments will go into the box and onto the Buffs' charter.

"It's a great idea," said senior center Gus Handler, who was among the seniors addressing the team before the game then speaking again at halftime. Handler's commitment for Sunday centered on communicating with his O-line mates.

"Even before the season we kind of committed to certain stuff, but when you put it down on paper you're more likely to achieve it," he said. "And saying what you've committed to in front of the whole team, hey, then it's out there."

Many commitments were position-, assignment-, or technique-specific. Many players further down the depth chart committed to simply being good teammates.

Senior left tackle Jack Harris, one of CU's captains, committed to not allowing a sack. And how's this for honoring that: Quarterback Connor Wood spent no time on his back en route to completing 33-of-46 passes for 400 yards and three touchdowns in the Buffs' 41-27 win.

"Those guys up front did a great job," Wood said. "They worked their butts off for me and that's

Related Links

- [MacIntyre Postgame vs CSU](#)
- [Richardson Postgame vs CSU](#)
- [Henderson Postgame vs CSU](#)
- [Oliver Postgame vs CSU](#)
- [Gillam Postgame vs CSU](#)
- [Wood Postgame vs CSU](#)
- [FB vs CSU Highlights](#)
- [KOA Recap vs CSU](#)
- [Buy Tickets](#)
- [Gameday](#)
- [Game Story](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [Notes](#)
- [Quotes](#)
- [Final Game Book](#)

awesome.”

Wood’s written commitment for the opener: “Be keyed in to their blitzes and the coverages they bring. We’ve been studying them for two weeks or so, but be ready. It’s the first game of the season and they may have put in some different things. Just be ready for the blitzes and coverages.”

He was more than ready, showing new-found poise and the ability to keep plays alive when necessary. On an 82-yard scoring pass to Paul Richardson, he scrambled to his right, stepped up while scanning the field and spied “P-Rich” as alone as he might ever find himself.

“I was really, really impressed with Connor today,” MacIntyre said. “I knew he had the ability to do it, he just had to go do it. I’m very, very proud. He’s got to regroup and do it again Saturday (against Central Arkansas). We’ll find out if he can put it back-to-back, which I think he can. I think we’ll have a really good quarterback, but today he was excellent.”

Richardson, playing in his first game back after missing last season following knee surgery, caught 10 of Wood’s passes for 208 yards, including TD catches of 82 and 75 yards. But “P-Rich’s” commitment wasn’t about making big plays. “I committed myself to being a good decoy and making plays without the ball in my hand – which is being a good decoy and blocking,” he said. “I felt like I did my role as a decoy, but I could have blocked a lot better. But I’m so proud of my receiver corps. It was a great win.”

It also was great to be back, Richardson said: “It feels great. What better game to come back to than your in-state rival? You couldn’t write a better story, you couldn’t write a better story.”

Junior cornerback Greg Henderson committed to “being very disciplined with my eyes and don’t let anything go over the top of me. I feel like I did my job . . . I lived up to my commitment.” And then some; Henderson delivered a game-changing 53-yard fumble return for a fourth-quarter touchdown when CSU had crept back into the game.

Senior linebacker Derrick Webb, another of the Buffs captains, pledged to his teammates that he would “leave everything on the field.” Consider it done. He and his defense stepped up and stood out when needed, stuffing the Rams on two late possessions and securing the first win of CU’s MacIntyre era.

The Buffs could have shrunk after a pair of special teams coverage mishaps – one a 74-yard punt return for a TD by CSU’s Joe Hansley, the other an 84-yard kickoff return by Thomas Coffman that set up the Rams for a three-play scoring drive that produced their only lead of the afternoon (24-23).

“I felt like everybody on the sideline was saying the same thing – keep your head up and let’s go, let’s fight, pick it up,” Webb recalled. “It’s over with, let’s get the next play. Everyone was on the same page. We knew it was going to be a fight to the end. We were prepared for adversity going into the game. It sucks that they got those two returns on us; we were upset about it. But no one went in the tank.”

Instead, they stayed committed, as did their teammates on the sidelines. On Thursday night, many of those players who knew they might not leave the sideline committed themselves to staying mentally involved and offering support.

All of the Buffs throughout camp have worn wristbands reading “CARE,” and MacIntyre reminded them again in their Thursday night team meeting. “You all help each other control our destiny, no matter how big or small a role it is.”

When it was almost over Sunday, after his defense had strangled any CSU hope with a fourth-down stop, a jubilant MacIntyre pumped his fist on the sidelines and celebrated. What was he thinking? Only the obvious, he said: “We won . . . just we won. I was so happy for those kids.”

Contact: BG.Brooks@Colorado.EDU

Colorado Buffaloes Football

Show Menu



Richardson leads Colorado over Rams

Updated Sep 2, 2013 2:24 AM ET

FoxSports.com

DENVER (AP)

Paul Richardson and Connor Wood would meet each day on the practice field last season, just to work on their timing in case they ever needed it.

Back then, Wood wasn't playing much and didn't know if he ever would be the starter. Richardson was coming off a torn ACL and wasn't sure if he would ever return to his electric form.

"He had the time and I had the time," Richardson said, shrugging.

And now, their timing is perfect.

Wood threw three touchdown passes — two to Richardson — and Colorado beat Colorado State 41-27 on Sunday in Mike MacIntyre's coaching debut for the Buffaloes.

Woods and Richardson were in sync all day. For that, Richardson credited all those impromptu workout sessions.

"We took advantage of that opportunity," Richardson said. "We've been working through winter, through spring, through the summer, in fall camp. Today, it came full circle."

Indeed.

Wood often searched for and found Richardson, who was back on the field after missing last season as he recovered from the torn left ACL. Richardson finished with 10 catches for 208 yards. He had an 82-yard TD catch on Colorado's first pass play and sealed the contest with a 75-yard grab late in the fourth.

The Buffs have had four 200-yard receiving games in school history, two by Richardson. He had a school-record 284 yards receiving against California in 2011.



MIKE MAKES THE CALLS

Should Texas A&M's Deshaun Everett have been ejected for this hit? Our rules guru Mike Pereira says this new targeting rule could be a problem.

Asked what it was like throwing to Richardson, Wood, who threw for 400 yards, just grinned and responded: "Christmas in September."

Colorado State coach Jim McElwain waited until game time to announce Garrett Grayson as the starting quarterback. He finished with 201 yards passing as the Rams sputtered on offense in their opener.

"Obviously, it bothered us," Grayson said. "We kind of wanted to go out there and set the tone."

The special teams certainly picked up the slack for the Rams as Joe Hansley highlighted a strong showing by scoring on a 74-yard punt return. Kapri Bibbs added two TDs, including one set up by Thomas Coffman's 84-yard kickoff return.

"As a team we've got some stuff to work on," said Hansley, who also had eight catches for 91 yards. "It's just some execution issues."

After finishing a program-worst 1-11 last season, Colorado fired Jon Embree and brought in MacIntyre to turn things around, just as he did at San Jose State. With the victory, he joined Rick Neuheisel as the only Buffs coaches since the 1930s to open on a high note.

MacIntyre took the win in stride.

"It's just one game," he said. "They did great and we have to keep doing it."

"If you come and stay and practice you know what we do — we practice really hard, we don't have picnics. So I appreciate what our kids do."



CFB

ASK MIKE

Our football refereeing guru is on Twitter and takes your questions during live events. See his latest tweets and his latest analysis.

With Colorado leading 26-24 early in the fourth and Colorado State driving, defensive lineman Chidera Uzo-Diribe stripped the ball from Bibbs. Greg Henderson quickly scooped it up and raced down the sideline for a 53-yard score.

The Buffaloes defense held the Rams to a field goal, before Richardson broke free for a TD to seal the win.

"Coach joked a couple of weeks ago, that when the going gets tough, some don't want the play to come their way. My soul was burning for the ball to come my way," Richardson said. "I wanted to be the guy who helped us pull away from that team."

"I was sore. I was tired. But I ran hard through the goal line and embraced all of my teammates."

Sidelined all of last year, Richardson didn't take long to get back into the action, slipping behind the defense undetected and hauling in an 82-yard pass from Wood. So energized was Richardson after the score that he danced his way back to the bench.

Wood was only heating up as he ran an efficient and methodical offense. The junior from Houston played sparingly last season and threw for 265 total yards. He nearly matched that by halftime.

"Connor played with great confidence," Richardson said.

McElwain couldn't agree more.

"I thought their quarterback played one heck of a game," he said. "He was accurate, got the ball out of his hand.

"We didn't get it done. That's on us."

The Sun Herald

[Next Story >](#)

MSU quarterback Russell doubtful for Alcorn State

CSU offense sputters in 41-27 loss to CU

Published: September 1, 2013 Updated 19 hours ago



Colorado wide receiver Paul Richardson (6) drops a pass as Colorado State defensive back Bernard Blake (23) defends during the second quarter of an NCAA college football game Sunday, Sept. 1, 2013, in Denver.

JACK DEMPSEY — AP Photo

By DENNIS GEORGATOS — Associated Press

DENVER — After winning a prolonged competition for the job, Garrett Grayson's season debut as Colorado State's quarterback fell flat.

The Rams got a couple of big plays on special teams but their offense sputtered much of the day, failing to keep up in a 41-27 loss to Colorado on Sunday night in the opener for both teams.

"I'm a little upset," said Grayson, who earned the job over sophomore Conner Smith and freshman Nick Stevens. "I think things would be different if I would've gone out there and executed differently. I'm going to take the blame for it. I'm willing to do that for the team."

Grayson completed 22 of 39 for 201 yards. He missed on some throws, was victimized by several drops and saw a completed pass go awry in the fourth quarter when Colorado's Greg Henderson scooped up a fumble and scored on a 53-yard return.

"We've just got to make plays," Grayson said. "That really is all there is to it. We had guys open. I was missing them. We were dropping balls. But there's a lot of passes I threw that weren't the best of balls so I've just got to be more accurate and make plays."

His Colorado counterpart, Connor Wood, threw three touchdown passes — two to speedster Paul Richardson — to help Colorado pull away late in Mike MacIntyre's coaching debut for the Buffaloes.

"We got beat by a team today that was opportunistic," Colorado State coach Jim McElwain said. "They created big plays. Offensively, we didn't do a very good job of keeping our defense off the field and sustaining drives. But I believe in this football team and I think we've got a lot of good things to look forward to."

Wood threw for 400 yards and often connected with Richardson, who was back on the field after missing last season because of a torn left ACL. Richardson finished with 10 catches for 208 yards. He had an 82-yard TD catch on Colorado's first pass play and helped seal it with a 75-yard grab late in the fourth.

Joe Hansley highlighted a strong showing on special teams for the Rams by scoring on a 74-yard punt return. Kapri Bibbs added two TDs, including one set up by Thomas Coffman's 84-yard kickoff return.

"Obviously, containing and busting a couple coverages on (Richardson), you can't do that," McElwain said. "It's not a good deal, let some guy that runs that fast just run down the sideline on you. The fumble actually they were opportunistic. They had a good strip and took it down in and sealed it."

After finishing a program-worst 1-11 last season, Colorado fired Jon Embree and brought in MacIntyre to turn things around, just as he did at San Jose State. With the victory, he joined Rick Neuheisel as the only Buffs coaches since the 1930s to open on a high note.

Not that it was easy.

With Colorado leading 26-24 early in the fourth and Colorado State driving, defensive lineman Chidera Uzo-Diribe stripped the ball from Bibbs. Henderson quickly scooped it up and raced down the sideline for a score.

The Buffs defense held the Rams to a field goal, before Richardson broke free for a TD to seal the win.

Later, Coffman returned a kickoff 84 yards to set up Bibbs' second TD to give Colorado State its first lead, 24-23.

That didn't last long as Will Oliver hit a 52-yard field goal, tying a career long. It was one of four he had on the afternoon.

Wood was just heating up as he ran an efficient and methodical offense, directing scoring drives on 4 of 7 first half possessions. Wood also found a wide open D.D. Goodson for an 18-yard score and set up two field goals by Will Oliver.

[Back to Top](#)
[< Previous Story](#)

Football: CU Buffs open Mike MacIntyre era with win over CSU Rams

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

DENVER -- Paul Richardson basked in the glow of lights from television cameras. Parker Orms held the Centennial Cup high above his head and walked proudly to the locker room. Connor Wood shared an emotional moment presenting the game ball to his parents.

It's been a long time since it felt as good to be a part of the Colorado football program as it did Sunday when the Buffs beat Colorado State 41-27 in the Rocky Mountain Showdown.

Coach Mike MacIntyre, who obviously didn't experience any of the hurt of recent years, seemed to feel the elation as much as anyone. He teared up briefly in an emotional postgame interview on the field just moments after he celebrated stopping the Rams on fourth down as if he had spent a decade working toward the moment.

The victory ended Colorado's eight-game losing streak dating back to last season and MacIntyre became only the second CU head coach to win his debut in the past 81 years.

Maybe most sweet of all, the Buffs overcame major special teams mistakes and moments of doubt that would surely have derailed them last season to claim a win they've salivated over for a year.

"They just kept fighting and playing through it," MacIntyre said. "I was really, really impressed with what they did and their resilience. That's the first time I've been on the field with them and they definitely could have let their head down there and not fought and they fought tremendously."

Settle in for an interesting college football season Colorado fans. These are not the same old Buffaloes.

It was the most entertaining edition of the showdown in years and Wood and Richardson led the way combining for 208 yards through the air and two long touchdown passes covering 82 and 75 yards respectively.

Wood finished the game with exactly 400 yards passing and three touchdowns in his true debut as the Buffs starter. He started one game last year as an injury replacement. He completed 33 of 46 passes and became just the third CU player to throw for more than 400 yards in his debut as a starter.

"To do what we did was good for us because we talked a lot in the offseason but now we backed it up with a win," Wood said.

Richardson produced 10 catches for 208 yards. He now has two of the four 200-yard receiving games in Colorado's history to his credit. It was a nice way to return after missing a season with a knee injury.

It didn't take long for the Buffs to put points on the board in their new offense. On CU's second offensive play from scrimmage, Wood showed poise he didn't have last season, buying time with his feet and found Richardson wide open deep behind the CSU defense for an 82-yard touchdown pass. It was the 10th longest touchdown pass in CU history and a play Wood described as "Christmas in September."

"I was happy he threw it," Richardson said. "When I peeked back, and I wasn't supposed to peek, I saw that he had to step forward. When I saw him step forward, I thought he was going to run. He picked his head up and made a real mature move and looked down field and made a play."

There were other bright spots for the Buffs, including an offensive line that didn't get much time together in fall camp, wide receivers D.D. Goodson and Nelson Spruce and a defense that played better in the season opener than it did at any time last year with many of the same players. That defense was led by true freshman middle linebacker Addison Gillam making 14 total tackles and playing with an uncommon maturity.

The defense actually made the key play of the game. More on that in a minute.

It wasn't all smiles for the Buffs.

Special teams coach Toby Neinas spent his 42nd birthday watching his punt return and kickoff return units each give up a long return that helped the Rams claim the lead in the second half.

The Buffs took the lead back on a 52-yard field goal by Will Oliver and then defensive end and senior captain Chidera Uzo-Diribe stripped the ball from CSU running back Kapri Bibbs and cornerback Greg Henderson scooped it up and sprinted 53 yards for a touchdown that gave CU breathing room.

"We knew that their running backs like to carry the ball loose, so coming into this game I felt like I was going to have some opportunities," Uzo-Diribe said. "He dunked it to the running back, he didn't see from behind, so I just went for it."

"We practice stabbing the ball, scooping it high and tight, running and scoring. That was our drills right there."

Richardson capped the scoring later when he once again blew by the CSU defense and hauled in a 75-yard pass from Wood.

The Buffs will host Central Arkansas in the home opener on Saturday (6 p.m.) already with as many wins as they had all of last season.

Contact staff writer

Kyle Ringo at

ringok@dailycamera.com

or twitter.com/kyleringo

Colorado 41, Colorado St. 27

Colorado 10 10 3 18--41

Colorado St. 0 10 14 3--27

First Quarter

Col -- Richardson 82 pass from C.Wood (Oliver kick), 12:41.

Col -- FG Oliver 22, :32.

Second Quarter

CSU -- FG Roberts 39, 14:17.

Col -- Goodson 18 pass from C.Wood (Oliver kick), 3:56.

CSU -- Bibbs 7 run (Roberts kick), 1:13.

Col -- FG Oliver 41, :00.

Third Quarter

CSU -- Hansley 74 punt return (Roberts kick), 12:51.

Col -- FG Oliver 44, 4:10.

CSU -- Bibbs 2 run (Roberts kick), 2:51.

Fourth Quarter

Col -- FG Oliver 52, 13:07.

Col -- Henderson 53 fumble return (Oliver kick), 11:12.

CSU -- FG Roberts 30, 3:47.

Col -- Richardson 75 pass from C.Wood (Goodson pass from C.Wood), 3:36.

A -- 59,601.

Col CSU

First downs 24 16

Rushes-yards 35-113 28-94

Passing 400 201

Comp-Att-Int 33-46-0 22-39-0

Return Yards 34 92

Punts-Avg. 8-42.5 7-49.7

Fumbles-Lost 0-0 2-2

Penalties-Yards 8-68 4-50

Time of Possession 33:30 26:30

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING -- Colorado, Powell 15-42, Goodson 1-31, T.Jones 13-27, C.Wood 4-8, Abron 2-5. Colorado St., Bibbs 15-70, Alexander 2-18, Nwoke 6-6, Grayson 5-0.

PASSING -- Colorado, C.Wood 33-46-0-400. Colorado St., Grayson 22-39-0-201.

RECEIVING -- Colorado, Richardson 10-208, Spruce 8-99, Goodson 5-44, T.Jones 4-14, McCulloch 2-12, Slavin 2-12, Fernandez 2-11. Colorado St., Hansley 8-91, Higgins 6-57, Vaden 3-16, Cartwright 2-22, Alexander 2-11, Coffman 1-4.

Howell blog: CU Buffs vs. CSU by the numbers

By Brian Howell, Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

A few tidbits from Colorado's 41-27 win against Colorado State on Sunday:

2 - Punts by Darragh O'Neill that pinned CSU inside its 20-yard line. In eight kicks, O'Neill averaged 42.5 yards, which isn't bad considering he punted in CSU territory three times.

2.47 - Average yards per carry for CU running backs. Christian Powell (15 for 42), Tony Jones (13 for 27) and Donta Abron (2 for 5) managed just 74 yards on 30 rushing attempts.

4 - Field goals made by Will Oliver. It's the 16th four-field goal game in CU history, with Oliver now having two of them. Oliver joins Jeremy Aldrich (four), Mason Crosby (three) and Tom Field (two) as the only CU kickers with multiple four-FG games.

6 - Quarterbacks in CU history to have a 400-yard passing game. Koy Detmer had five during his career, Joel Klatt had two and Tyler Hansen, Mike Moschetti, Kordell Stewart and, now, Connor Wood, have had one each.

33 - Completed passes by Wood. Only two QBs in CU history have had more completions in a single game: Joel Klatt had 38 against Kansas in 2003 and Cody Hawkins had 34 against Florida State in 2007.

34 - Punt return yards for Nelson Spruce, on four returns (an 8.5 average). The Buffs had 89 punt return yards the entire season in 2012, with an average of 5.6 yards per return.

Howell: These CU Buffs look different

Brian Howell, Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

DENVER -- Connor Wood lined up behind center Gus Handler, took the snap, knelt down and flipped the ball to the official.

With that, the Colorado Buffaloes began a celebration that was a long time coming. That was the first time in nearly two years that CU had a chance to line up in what is commonly called the "Victory formation."

Then the Buffs did something else they hadn't done in nearly two years. They walked to the southend zone and, along with thousands of fellow students, sang the CU fight song after a win in their home state.

"It feels good to see your student body out there cheering for you and then going over and seeing your family," senior safety Parker Orms said.

For a team that went 1-11 a year ago, Sunday's convincing 41-27 win against Colorado State was a welcomed sight.

It wasn't just the final result -- and the subsequent celebrations -- that made this one different, though. From start to finish, everything about Sunday's win signaled that this is a much different team than the one that took the field in 2012.

"I give the credit to our coaching staff," quarterback Connor Wood said. "To see what they can do with a 1-11 football team from last year and in eight months transform it to a team that you saw today -- it wasn't all perfect and we have a lot of stuff to clean up, but I tell you, we were organized."

Organization is a word the Buffs have used a lot since head coach Mike MacIntyre was hired in December. Players have talked numerous times about the great detail that goes into practices and the organized manner in which things are done now.

Former coach Jon Embree did his best to turn the CU program around, but, as everyone knows, it didn't go well. The Buffs were 4-21 under Embree. They also folded a lot of times and looked disoriented on game days more often than not.

Sunday was just the first game of the MacIntyre era, so it's way too early to declare that what we saw against CSU is what we'll see every week. But, it certainly was a great start and a sign that things have changed.

"The coaches prepared us really well for this game and it showed out there," Orms said.

Wood, who had a deer-in-the-headlights look every time he got on the field last year, played with the poise of a veteran quarterback. He completed 33 of his 46 passes for 400 yards and three touchdowns and never got rattled.

He wasn't the only one. The offensive line kept the Rams away from Wood and did a solid job in opening up holes for the running backs. The defense, which was torched repeatedly in 2012, rose to the occasion several times to shut down the Rams.

CU also didn't buckle when it very well could have. Two big plays on special teams allowed CSU to turn a 10-point CU cushion into a one-point CSU lead in the third quarter.

That happened the Buffs a couple of times last year, too -- against the Rams and Sacramento State -- and they folded and lost both games.

This time, the Buffs responded with 10 straight points to retake the lead for good.

"We knew adversity was going to hit and it definitely hit and we didn't flinch," Wood said.

For the past eight or nine months, the Buffs have worked on repairing their psyche. The coaches have told them they believe in them. The players have bought in. To actually go out on the field and do what they've been told they can do, however, validates everything they've done during that time.

"I think it does," Wood said. "It's always good to talk stuff, but to actually prove it on the field is a completely other thing."

At the same time, Wood and his teammates know this is just one game. They have 11 more coming up, and many of them will be tougher than this one.

For at least one night, however, the Buffs got to be the team they spent the offseason trying to become.

Contact staff writer

Brian Howell

at howellb@dailycamera.com

or twitter.com/BrianHowell33.

True freshman LB led Buffaloes with 14 tackles against Rams

By Sarah Kuta Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

DENVER -- Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre had a slightly unconventional concern with starting true freshman Addison Gillam against Colorado State.

"I was a little worried he might pee down his leg, you know, the first game," MacIntyre said. "But he didn't. I told him to go to the restroom a couple times before he went out."

With a team-high 14 tackles, one sack and one pass break-up, Gillam proved in his first-ever Division-I football appearance that MacIntyre's worries were unfounded.

With his Rocky Mountain Showdown start on Sunday, 19-year-old Gillam became just the second true freshman in Buffs' history to start a season opener at inside linebacker. The first was 2004 Big 12 Freshman Defensive Player of the Year Jordan Dizon, who coincidentally, also wore No. 44 for the Buffs.

Gillam laughed off his coach's comment, but admitted he did feel some pre-game jitters. The freshman said he felt "relieved" to have his first game, a 41-27 win over in-state rival Colorado State, behind him.

"Before the game I was extremely nervous going out (for) my first game," he said. "Once we got out there and everything I just finally realized it's just football."

In his first game Gillam helped breathe some new life into a Colorado defense that gave up an average of 488.5 yards per game last season. Against the Rams, the Buffs defense gave up 295 yards of total offense.

His one sack came early in the first quarter after a bobbled snap to Rams quarterback Garrett Grayson. As Grayson scrambled to save the play, Gillam was there to push him out of bounds for a 17-yard loss.

But Gillam's biggest play of the game came in the fourth quarter when CSU went for it on fourth-and-2. Grayson connected with Rams wide receiver Joe Hansley, but Gillam was there to make the stop.

The somewhat shy 6-foot-3, 225-pound Gillam, who says he looks up to former Pro Bowl safety John Lynch, said humbly that he was just following orders.

"I just did what coach (MacIntyre) said and it worked," Gillam said, grinning.

Gillam followed MacIntyre from San Jose State and has topped the depth chart at inside linebacker since the spring. Though he has NFL aspirations, Gillam said his "fallback" plan is to become a physical therapist.

Defensive coordinator Kent Baer said he was impressed with the entire defense's maturity. In Gillam, who he called "unbelievable," Baer said he sees unlimited potential.

His teammate, senior captain linebacker Derrick Webb, agreed.

"He played awesome," Webb said. "I don't feel like he had any nerves, problems or whatever. He went out and played his game, played loose and I think he showed everybody what type of player he was."

Gillam went largely unnoticed as a senior at Foothill High School in Northern California. He was recruited by only three schools, one of which was San Jose State.

Fears about Gillam's bladder aside, MacIntyre said he's always known Gillam had potential.

"He's a player and I've always known he was a player since his junior year in high school," MacIntyre said, "He's up in the hills of California and nobody looked at him but us and I'm glad he's here."

Contact staff writer Sarah Kuta

at 303-473-1106, kutas@dailycamera.com

or twitter.com/sarahkuta.

CU quarterback has plenty of weapons this season

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

DENVER -- Everything the Colorado offense lacked in a dismal 2012 season -- speed, creativity, poise at quarterback -- returned when the Buffs opened the season Sunday with a triumph over Colorado State in the Rocky Mountain Showdown.

The Buffs' performance against the Rams in just the first game of the season is an indication that big plays are once again not only possible, but probable. That is especially true in the passing game.

Quarterback Connor Wood threw for 400 yards, completing 33 of 46 passes with three touchdown passes. He is the third CU quarterback to throw for 400 yards or more in a season opener joining Kordell Stewart and Joel Klatt.

"I thought their quarterback played one heck of a game," CSU coach Jim McElwain said. "I really do."

Much of that production came in tandem with wide receiver Paul Richardson who was sorely missed a year ago when he sat out the season with a torn knee ligament. Richardson caught 10 passes for 208 yards and gets the headlines today with two long scoring plays, but the best part about the Buffs passing game is he isn't the only weapon.

Fellow wide receivers D.D. Goodson and Nelson Spruce combined for 13 catches for 143 yards and a touchdown and four other players also caught passes.

Wood has plenty of options and hasn't started to get several true freshmen involved yet. The Buffs also are still only scratching the surface when it comes to the playbook. For months Colorado quarterbacks and receivers have described their new offense as quarterback friendly and fun. It looked like it Sunday.

Wood gave all the credit to his coaches and teammates afterward, especially offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Brian Lindgren.

"He has furthered my game tremendously and gave me confidence," Wood said.

Wood attempted more passes in the season opener than he did in seven games last season, including one start.

"It's great to see those stats and that W that we've been working for for so long, but it's only one game," Wood said.

Contact staff writer

Kyle Ringo at

ringok@dailycamera.com

Football: Perfect day boosts Oliver's confidence

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

DENVER -- After attempting just eight field goals in 2012, Will Oliver joked on Sunday night that he's already "halfway done" in 2013.

Colorado's junior kicker went 4-for-4 on fields and 3-for-3 on extra point attempts in the Buffaloes' 41-27 win against Colorado State at Sports Authority Field.

"It felt really good," Oliver said. "Just to know that what you're working for has at least started to pay off."

Throughout training camp, Oliver had been very pleased with his accuracy and distance on kicks. Getting so many opportunities in the opener will only help his mindset.

"It builds my confidence that he trusts me," Oliver said. "I'm always of the mindset that as you go, when they put you on the field, they believe you can make the kick."

Oliver was especially pleased that new head coach Mike MacIntyre allowed him to attempt a 52-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter. In three years as the San Jose State head coach, MacIntyre's kickers attempted 71 field goals, but only three from beyond 46 yards (going 0-for-3). Oliver's successful kick from 52 tied his career high and is now the longest kick ever for a MacIntyre-coached team.

"I think they were pleased with how camp went," Oliver said. "It's good to see it pay off and it's good to be able to be productive on those opportunities so (MacIntyre) can build that confidence."

Oliver is now 10-for-12 since the start of last year on field goals and he extended his streak to 33 consecutive makes on extra points.

New traditions

MacIntyre has started two new traditions for the Buffs. When the Buffs took the field Sunday, one player carried a toolbox -- to signify the commitment the players have made to each other -- and one player carried a sledgehammer.

The tool box contained "commitment cards" on which players wrote something significant they would do during the game. The sledgehammer goes to the player who had the biggest or most important legal hit of the previous game.

Captains carried the tool box and sledgehammer Sunday, but players will vote on who gets the honors in future games.

Smith out for season

Senior safety Terrel Smith will not play this season after electing to undergo surgery on his right

shoulder. He injured his shoulder during the 2012 season, he said, but it really started to bother him throughout training camp in August. He will have surgery on Thursday.

"Usually I can suck things up, but I couldn't shake this one," he said. "I was thinking about my future and my team, most importantly, because I knew if I had gone out there, I wouldn't have been 100 percent."

Smith has not used his redshirt year and plans to do that this season and return in 2014.

Targeting

For the first time, the NCAA's new targeting rule impacted the Buffs. With 31 seconds to play in the first half, CSU's Cory James was flagged for targeting on a hit of CU quarterback Connor Wood.

By rule, that's a 15-yard penalty and an automatic ejection from the game. Officials reviewed the play, however, and determined that James would not be ejected. The 15-yard penalty stood, though, and that helped the Buffs to a 41-yard field goal to end the half.

CU debuts

Six true freshmen made their collegiate debuts for the Buffs on Sunday. Middle linebacker Addison Gillam got the start, while Chidobe Awuzie was the Buffs' starting nickel back. Defensive lineman Jimmie Gilbert rotated in on defense, and Kenneth Olugbode, Ryan Severson and Tedric Thompson all played on special teams.

Redshirt freshmen Sean Irwin, Alex Kelley and De'Jon Wilson, along with sophomore Jordan Murphy and junior Wes Christensen also made their CU debuts.

Notable

Attendance for Sunday's game was 59,601 -- a slight jump from the 58,607 that attended the game in 2012. It was the third year in a row, however, that attendance for the Rocky Mountain Showdown dipped below 60,000. ... CU's defense went without an interception for the ninth straight game. But, Gillam, Parker Orms and Greg Henderson all came close to picking one off. ... CU receiver Jeff Thomas and defensive lineman Samson Kafovalu both served one-game suspensions for violating team rules. ... CU reported no major injuries from the game.

Contact staff writer Brian Howell

at howellb@dailycamera.com

or twitter.com/BrianHowell33.


**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](#)

CU tops CSU in Rocky Mountain Showdown

 By [alissa.noe](#) in [Sports](#) on Sep 1, 2013 23:38 / [comments](#)

Head coach Mike MacIntyre's first Rocky Mountain Showdown leading the CU football team ended on a high note on Sunday as the Buffaloes ran away with a 41-27 victory over the CSU Rams under junior quarterback Connor Wood.

[Like](#)

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

[Tweet](#)

1

0

MacIntyre considered the game a great success for the team.

"They just kept fighting and playing through it," he said. "I was really impressed with what they did and their resilience. They fought tremendously."

After CSU punted from its own 49-yard line at the 13:26 mark in the first quarter, CU monopolized quickly on offense. 45 seconds and two plays later, the Buffs scored with an 82-yard pass by Wood to junior wide receiver Paul Richardson, bringing the score to 7-0. The play was recorded as the second longest pass in the season opener and the sixth longest overall in Colorado football history.

CSU's offense continued to struggle against the Buff's defense throughout the majority of the first half, only getting within 21 yards of a touchdown during the next two possessions.

The Buffs got the ball back with seven minutes left in the half and used the next 6:24 to move the ball to the Colorado State five-yard line.

The Buffs moved the ball well, rushing and passing as Wood spread the field with plenty of throwing options. They were forced to resort to a field goal on a fourth down at the five-yard line with just over 30 seconds left in the quarter. Junior kicker Will Oliver completed the 22-yard field goal to bring the score to 10-0, Colorado.

Colorado State was only able to fit two more plays in the first quarter, but their quarterback, Garrett Grayson, managed to get them to Colorado's 27-yard line before time expired with a 40-yard pass to Joe Hansley.

The Rams opened up the second quarter close to the end zone, but CU's defense held them off and forced them to a field goal. Jared Roberts completed the 39-yard field goal to get the Rams on the board and bring the score to 10-3.

The Buffs ended a four-possession dry spell for both teams with an 18-yard pass to junior wide receiver D.D. Goodson for a touchdown. CU led 17-3 with just under three minutes left in the half.

CSU wouldn't back down, scoring on their next possession with a seven-yard Kapri Bibbs

 [SEARCH](#)


CUI CALENDAR – LIST YOUR EVENT

Top 5 Events

TUESDAY
SEP
3

- Colorado Brass Quintet
- Joyce Maynard
- Mostly Joe Hawkins
- The Leg Hounds
- Testosterone Tuesday

[Add Your Event](#)

BUFFS ON VID

rush. They closed the gap to 17-10.

CU managed to move the ball to the 24-yard line in the last minute of the half, giving Oliver the chance to try a 41-yard field goal. He made it, bringing the score 20-10.

The Rams worked quickly at the start of the second half with a 74-yard touchdown by Hansley on their first possession. This pivotal play brought the score to 20-17, CU still leading.

CU had the next opportunity to score when Oliver completed a 44-yard field goal with five minutes left in the quarter; 23-17, Buffs.

CSU responded two plays later with a touchdown following an 84-yard punt return, giving CSU its first and only lead of the game, 24-23. The quarter ended two possessions later.

The Buffs regained possession at the start of the fourth, which ended with a career-high 52-yard field goal by Oliver to bring the score to 26-24.

On CSU's next possession, Hansley committed a fatal error by fumbling a pass, which was recovered for a touchdown by junior Greg Henderson, giving CU a 33-24 edge over the Rams.

The Rams attempted to close the gap with a 30-yard field goal by Roberts with just under four minutes left, but they could not overcome CU's lead as it grew larger.

In the first play of the next possession, Wood completed a 75-yard pass to Richardson for another touchdown. Wood and Goodson combined to complete the two-point conversion, bringing the final score to 41-27.

"We were preparing all week and hearing things, and to finally come through with a victory is a great feeling," freshman offensive linebacker Addison Gillam said.

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



NEWS SEP 1, 2013 / comments

\$6 million CU-Boulder instrument to fly on Sept. 6 NASA mission to moon

A \$6 million instrument built by the University of Colorado will fly to the moon this Friday with NASA's Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer, a mission designed to better understand dust patterns within its tenuous atmosphere. The... [read more »](#)

RECENT POSTS

CU Weekly: Episode 1

Buffs volleyball took on Saint Mary's for their opening matches

Buffs soccer breaks new record

CU tops CSU in Rocky Mountain Showdown

\$6 million CU-Boulder instrument to fly on Sept. 6

NASA mission to moon



About **alissa.noe**

Tags: [buffs](#), [CSU](#), [CU](#), [Mountain](#), [rocky](#), [showdown](#)

Share this article



Post a Comment

Name

E-Mail

Website

SUBMIT



CU Buffs rip CSU Rams 41-27 to give new coach Mike MacIntyre debut win

By Tom Kensler The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

Colorado had the happiest of returns Sunday night in winning a wild and crazy Rocky Mountain Showdown 41-27 at Sports Authority Field at Mile High.

After two long kick returns had given Colorado State some momentum, Colorado cornerback Greg Henderson returned a fumble 53 yards for a touchdown to give the Buffaloes (1-0) a nine-point cushion at 33-24 with 11:12 remaining.

Colorado State junior quarterback Garrett Grayson, who won a three-way competition to earn the starting job, hit running back Kapri Bibbs with a swing pass. But Bibbs fumbled after being hit by CU defensive end Chidera Uzo-Diribe, and the ball was scooped up by Henderson, who had clear sailing to the end zone in front of the Colorado bench.

In winning his opening game as Colorado's coach, Mike MacIntyre became the third consecutive first-year coach to win this rivalry game, following CU's Jon Embree (2011) and CSU's Jim McElwain (2012).

Colorado State (0-1) trailed by as many as 14 points late in the second quarter before getting back in the game with two long returns.

CSU's Joe Hansley, a sophomore receiver, pulled the Rams to within 20-17 with a 74-yard punt return for a touchdown early in the third quarter. Then, late in the period, an 84-yard kickoff return by Thomas Coffman set up a 2-yard touchdown run by Bibbs that gave CSU its first lead of the game, 24-23.

CU answered with a 52-yard field goal by Will Oliver with 13:07 left in the game for a 26-24 lead.

After Henderson's fumble return, CSU pulled within 33-27 after a 30-yard field goal by Jared Roberts with 3:47 remaining.

But CU answered on its first play after the kickoff with a 75-yard touchdown pass from Connor Wood to Paul Richardson, those players' second long connection for a touchdown in the game.

Wood finished 33-of-46 for 400 yards and three touchdowns. Ten of those completions, for 208 yards and two touchdowns, went to Richardson.

Hansley's punt return was the first by a CSU player for a touchdown since a 58-yarder by Damon Morton in 2006 against Fresno State. The 84-yard kickoff return by Coffman was CSU's longest since a 91-yarder by John Mosure in 2008 against Colorado.

But Henderson's return proved to be the game's pivotal play. It was the first fumble return for a touchdown by a CU player since Josh Moten in 2011 against Arizona State.

Colorado State fans — and no doubt CSU coaches as well — were stunned just two plays into CU's first possession. On second-and-2, Wood rolled right and then pulled up to throw deep to Richardson, CU's fastest receiver and the one player against whom Colorado State needed to build its defensive game plan around.

A completely busted coverage by CSU's secondary left Richardson almost 40 yards clear of any Rams defender. The CU junior had to wait a bit on the pass but still was able to waltz to the end zone for an 82-yard score to put Colorado up 7-0 after the extra point with 12:41 remaining in the first quarter.

The 82-yard touchdown tied for the 10th longest in CU history and was the second longest by a CU player in a Buffs opener.

Oddmakers listed Colorado State as a 2½-point favorite, and the Rams figured to have an advantage in experience on both sides of the ball.

For much of the game, Colorado won the battle in the trenches from both sides of the ball.

In fact, Colorado State had to use a timeout and try to get its defense to regroup after being pushed down the field during a 17-play CU drive late in the first quarter. CSU dug in and forced the Buffs to kick a field goal, but the 3-pointer by Oliver put Colorado up 10-0.

Colorado State trailed 17-3 after Wood's second touchdown pass, this time an 18-yarder to D.D. Goodson with 3:56 remaining in the first half. The Rams closed to within a touchdown after a seven-play, 74-yard drive capped by seven-play, 74-yard touchdown drive that culminated in the first college touchdown by Bibbs, a 7-yard sweep to the pylon.

Colorado regained the momentum into halftime, however, by moving 51 yards in six plays to set up a 41-yard field goal by Oliver. That made it 20-10 Buffs at the break.

Tom Kensler: tkensler@denverpost.com or twitter.com/tomkensler

Connor Wood's 400 yards, three TDs passing help Mike MacIntyre, CU make huge statement

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

Posted:

DenverPost.com

Mike MacIntyre ran out halfway to the hash mark and put his hands on his knees, staring at the ball placement. His new-look, reborn Colorado Buffaloes had just stopped Colorado State on fourth down late in Sunday's season opener. The first-year CU coach suddenly channeled a champion the Buffs hope he becomes.

His two decisive first pumps would have made Tiger Woods proud.

As it stands today, Buffs Nation is proud of its football coach for the first time since ... since ... well, when was the last time Colorado pulled off an upset? Wins are sprinkled in the streak of seven consecutive losing seasons, but none seemed to change the direction of the program.

Sunday's 41-27 win at Sports Authority Field at Mile High just might do that.

"We're going in the right direction," defensive end Chidera Uzo-Diribe said.

In nearly every phase too.

In front of a paid crowd of 59,601, junior quarterback Connor Wood emerged from a pseudo quarterback competition in fall camp to throw for 400 yards and three touchdowns. Paul Richardson picked up from when he was healthy in 2011 with 10 catches for 208 yards and two long touchdowns. And the defense, the worst in school history a year ago, bottled up Colorado State's offense.

CU's Will Oliver wiped the cobwebs off his leg after last year's offensive disaster to kick four field goals. Colorado outgained CSU 513-295, dominating in every phase except special teams. Two long kick returns gave the Rams a short-lived second-half lead.

"It's just one game," said MacIntyre, finally down to earth after hugging every CU representative in sight down to biology professors. "Now we've got to keep doing it. What I kept telling them — and I always do — is keep playing. Enjoy playing. People are going to make plays on you. They're on scholarship too. But we've got to keep making more plays."

CSU, a slight favorite, pulled the reversal from a year ago. That's when coach Jim McElwain won his debut over second-year Colorado coach Jon Embree. This time out, the Rams have little to show for the progress they appeared to make in the final month a season ago.

"It hurts, guys," said McElwain, somewhat defiant about the rivalry. "I still think we should win the game. And I'm going to tell you, I think we should win the game next year. So go ahead and put it in their locker room now, OK?"

Two major secondary gaffes on the one man they couldn't afford a gaffe against doomed CSU. On the Buffs' second play from scrimmage, Wood hit Richardson for an 82-yard touchdown down

the left sideline over busted coverage. The closest Ram was somewhere near Windsor.

After closing to within 33-27 on Jared Roberts' 30-yard field goal with 5:04 left, Wood found Richardson wide open down the left sideline again for 75 yards on the first play from scrimmage to all but ice the game. Wood said a "conservative" play was called but once he saw the coverage, he knew he could hit Richardson.

"On the first one, the corner thought he had help," McElwain said. "The safety thought he had support. And the guy caught it. I was hoping he'd drop it.

"We didn't get it done, and that's on us."

So was Kapri Bibbs' fumble after a short reception that Uzo-Diribe stripped and cornerback Greg Henderson returned for a 53-yard TD and a 33-24 lead.

"I had the easy part: Scoop and score," Henderson said.

CSU averted what looked like a flashback to the Buffalo stampede days from the 1980s and 1990s. Down 17-3, a 74-yard drive late in the second quarter turned into sophomore Bibbs' first career TD, a 7-yard run that cut CU's lead to 17-10.

Then, down 20-10 at halftime, CSU turned the momentum straight toward Fort Collins. Colorado's kick coverage, which cost it a win against Utah last year, was inept. Punt returner Joe Hansley eschewed a clear fair catch at the 26, then broke a tackle by Henderson and Ryan Severson. Hansley outraced the world for a 74-yard punt return to cut the lead to 20-17. After Oliver's 44-yard field goal made it 23-17, Thomas Coffman returned the ensuing kickoff 84 yards to the 16. Two plays later, Bibbs scored from the 2 for the Rams' only lead.

The first half was the best half of football the Buffaloes had played in two years. Wood looked like the blue-chip prospect he was in high school, Richardson showed no signs of the torn ACL that knocked him out of 2012 and the defense actually tackled what it touched.

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

Big, bigger, biggest

A look at some of the key moments from CU's 41-27 victory over CSU :

Wide receiver Paul Richardson has an 82-yard touchdown reception from Connor Wood on the second play of the Buffs' season for a 7-0 lead.

CSU's Joe Hansley scores on a 74-yard punt return, cutting CU's lead to 20-17.

Thomas Coffman returns a kickoff 84 yards to CU's 16 and the Rams score three plays later for their lone lead of the game, 24-23.

CU cornerback Greg Henderson returns a fumble 53 yards for a TD and a 33-24 lead.

Bufs ice the game with Wood's 75-yard TD pass to Richardson with 3:36 left.

Hochman: CU Buffs coach Mike MacIntyre wears "the look" on game day

By Benjamin Hochman *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

Posted:

DenverPost.com

It was the first weekend in September, so it appeared again, as it always does, the Punxsutawney Phil of glares.

"He had that look, he just always has that look in his eyes, before a game," said Jay MacIntyre, the 18-year-old son of Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre. "He's just ready to go. Determination. There's a different look when it comes to before football games. Eighteen years of living with a coach, you learn about game day."

You can't fake the look. You earn the look.

And, after a whirlwind nine-plus months, it was game day for Coach Mac, his first in charge of the once-woebegone Buffaloes. (OK, let's talk in November, but they looked good Sunday, very good.) It was a 41-27 victory against Colorado State, and it was a tone-setter.

"When you work your rear end off, you sacrifice a lot, you move your family all around, so it's more than just a game, you know?" Mac Intyre said in the hall by the winning locker room. "So I feel that fire inside of me, for the kids, for my family, for the players and coaches. So you better be ready every time, because you only get so many chances. We only get to do this for so long."

He set the tone at a team breakfast at a Broomfield hotel, making a passionate plea to his team to channel the positive energy it has had in recent practices onto Sports Authority Field at Mile High.

"He's a great man, a great mentor, encouraging us the whole way through," senior linebacker Parker Orms said. "When he comes in, he's not talking about the future, he's talking about now, the seniors now, that he wants to win right away. That's huge for me, because it's my last year, and I already feel like he's been here for a long time."

In short order, MacIntyre installed an aerial attack that would make Peyton Manning proud. CU's offense, led by quarterback Connor Wood, overwhelmed the Rams. Colorado gained 513 yards, Wood threw for 400 and the offense seems a perfect fit for wide receiver Paul Richardson, who is returning from major knee injury and missed all of 2012. P-Rich caught 10 passes for 208 yards.

MacIntyre isn't all about offense, however.

His defense made key stops and withstood an emotional push by Colorado State in the third quarter, when it took its only lead. And, worried that one freshman, Addison Gillam, would "pee down his leg," on the big stage, Mac told the kid to go to the bathroom a couple of times before the game. That's good coaching if I've ever seen it.

Before the game, MacIntyre stood on the cusp of the field in the south stands tunnel, hands on his

hips, waiting, waiting, waiting. And then, here came hope. The 48-year-old Usain-Bolted onto Sports Authority Field, right arm extended, index finger in the air.

Here was Coach Mac, a new Coach Mac, on the Buffaloes' sideline, pacing back and forth near the 50-yard line, soaking it all in. Yeah, he was in Denver, and yeah, there were gaping patches of blue seats, seats unused in a rivalry gone stale.

But for all intents and purposes, this was Mac's domain, his people, his responsibility. He put on his headset at 4 p.m. sharp, shook the governor's hands and prepared to coach some ball.

And when it was over, he was jumping up and down in a midfield frenzy, his wet hair bouncing, and he hugged everyone he saw, telling one player: "I told you! I told you!"

I caught up with the coach amid the frenzy and asked him to describe the moment, to capture the journey of the day.

"It's exhilarating for those seniors," he said. "It's so awesome for them."

bhochman@denverpost.com or twitter.com/hochman

Kiszla: Passion, great coaching back in CU-CSU series

By Mark Kiszla *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

Posted:

DenverPost.com

Coaching football is not hard. The art is being able to say the right thing at precisely the right moment. In order for Colorado to beat Colorado State 41-27, all the coaching Mike MacIntyre really had to do is offer the same advice any father gives before backing the car out of the garage on a long road trip:

Did you remember to go potty?

On Sunday afternoon, in the moments before kickoff of his first game as coach of the Buffaloes, when some guys might have strained to find the words of a win-one-for-the-Gipper speech, MacIntyre instead kept it simple, stupid.

The CU coach turned to linebacker Addison Gillam, a freshman given the heavy responsibility of playing the Mike position, and said:

"Go to the restroom."

Simple as that, a star was born and the Rocky Mountain Showdown, left for dead by two football programs on life support, was revived.

The Buffaloes and Rams will only return to relevancy with talent. And let this be our little secret that the Pacific 12 Conference will soon discover: Gillam is a major talent.

"He's a player. And I've always known he was a player, since he was a junior in high school. He was up in the hills of California, and nobody looked at him except us," MacIntyre said.

"I was a little worried he might pee down his leg, you know, first game and all. But he didn't."

Gillam finished with 14 tackles against the Rams. Hey, Coach, is that any good?

This was an amusement park ride of a game that frankly we wondered if the Rams and Buffaloes still had in them. It was back and forth, CU up, CSU down, Rams rockin', Buffs reelin', momentum-swinging, stomach-churning, hold-onto-your-seat fun until the Colorado defense (yes, defense) delivered the thrill to top 'em all in the fourth quarter.

The gasp began in the north end of the stadium, as CU cornerback Greg Henderson ran the football straight at the heart of Colorado State's student section. When he crossed the goal line, it felt like a dagger.

"Oh poop," tweeted Olympic swimmer Amy Van Dyken, a proud CSU alum.

Here's the straight scoop: The passion is back in the Rocky Mountain Showdown. Colorado beat Colorado State, but the real winner was Denver and college football in the state.

The only losers are those crabby spoilsports who whine that this game has no business being

played at Sports Authority Field at Mile High.

Props to the students from CU and CSU who brought the noise. The 59,601 tickets sold were nothing short of amazing for two football programs that had won a combined 25 games in the previous four years.

Math was never my strongest subject in school, but can either Folsom Field or Hughes Stadium hold 59,601 fans?

The game belongs in Denver. Period.

The crowd for this annual showdown will rebound along with the football programs at Colorado and Colorado State, now in the hands of coaches who know what they're doing.

"I'm disappointed, to be honest," Rams coach Jim McElwain said. "I thought we'd win the game."

During his first 30 minutes on the job, MacIntyre achieved something predecessors Dan Hawkins and Jon Embree failed to do during seven, long years of suffering.

The Buffaloes finally appear to be well-coached.

Hawkins could provide a great sound bite, but never seemed to have a handle on how to recruit quality athletes to Boulder. Embree brought NFL expertise, but never seemed to grasp the Buffs weren't going to beat anyone with NFL schemes.

Under the guidance of MacIntyre, quarterback Connor Wood handled the passing game with composure that suggested his up-tempo lessons in practice have stuck. The CU secondary, which a year ago looked about as composed as four guys five minutes late for a flight on Concourse B, generally played solid assignment football. The game's opening score, when Buffs receiver Paul Richardson was almost impossibly wide open, resulted from a formation that lined him up in the backfield with a look that obviously confused the Rams.

But here is what impressed me most about MacIntyre: After the Buffs blew a kick coverage, instead of screaming like a maniac on the sideline, the coach gathered his CU players and exclaimed: "Wow, this is a great game, guys!"

I can't promise you the Buffaloes will finish the season with a winning record.

But I've got a hunch CU has hired a coach who's a keeper.

Mark Kiszla: mkiszla@denverpost.com or twitter.com/markkiszla

Colorado's Paul Richardson comes up big for Buffaloes

By Terry Frei The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

A year ago, Paul Richardson had to witness the horror show that was Colorado's 2012 season unfold with a sense of helplessness. The Buffaloes' speedy wide receiver took a redshirt season after suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament during spring drills in April and undergoing surgery, and while at one point it seemed he might stage a near-miraculous recovery in time to play, common sense prevailed.

Richardson sat. He watched. And he told himself: Wait 'til next year.

On Sunday at Sports Authority Field at Mile High, the junior from Los Angeles made a spectacular return for the Buffaloes, catching 10 passes for 208 yards in Colorado's 41-27 victory over Colorado State in the Rocky Mountain Showdown.

Two of the plays were huge: Left unattended on the Buffaloes' second offensive snap, he hauled in an 82-yard touchdown pass from Connor Wood, and then he finished it off with a 75-yard reception for the final touchdown of the game with 3:36 remaining.

Richardson was so open on the first one, it was as if he temporarily had become an invisible man. "Unattended" doesn't do it justice. CSU's coverage at least had the appearance of two guys saying to each other: "You got him ..." and then watching him go deep. Yes, watching the wide receiver known to be the fastest man on the field go deep. Alone.

"It was broken coverage," Richardson said amid the CU celebration on the field after the game. "(Wood) stayed alive and instead of running it, we made a big play downfield."

Richardson said he didn't even dream about that kind of play.

"I dreamed about this game, and I dreamed that I was double-covered all night," he said. "When I saw that safety drop, I prayed to God that the ball was in the air. I looked back and Connor put it on the money. ... I couldn't believe that I was open, but Connor's a smart kid and he put it out there."

CSU coach Jim McElwain explained, "The safety thought he had support."

And that was just the start. Wood, the junior who started his career at Texas and then transferred to Boulder, looked far more poised than he did in spot duty in 2012. But then again, he had Richardson to throw to this time, and having that kind of weapon tends to bolster a passer's confidence — not to mention add to his effectiveness.

"I'm so happy to be out here with my teammates," Richardson said. "To open up the season against Colorado State was just great. I'm happy that we came out there and competed. Colorado State is a great team, and we came out here and outworked them, and I'm just proud of my team right now."

The Buffs rang up 513 yards of total offense against the Rams, with Wood throwing for an even 400.

Richardson's big night was reminiscent of his school-record 284 yards receiving against California in 2011, and he now has two of the four 200-yard receiving games in Buffaloes' program history.

"I wanted to score a lot of points on offense, and we came out and did just that," Richardson said. "My hat goes off to our O line. My hat goes off to our quarterback. I'm so proud of Connor, man. I'm so proud. ... He's a grown man now. He came out here and made a lot of strides forward, and he's going to lead this offense all season."

Richardson added that in the wake of all the adversity of last season, "we pulled it together. We had to come together, and we did. We have a nice senior leadership, we have great captain leadership and we're pulling forward."

The win over the Rams, he said, "means a lot. We only got one last year. This is just the start for this year. ... It's just motivation for the young guys and the older guys who want to leave after their senior years with a bang. We came out here and started off strong, and now we have to finish."

Terry Frei: tfrei@denverpost.com

Joe Hansley has CSU Rams' first punt return for TD since 2006

By Tom Kensler and John Henderson *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

Posted:

DenverPost.com

Colorado State trailed 20-10 at halftime and needed a spark.

It was 5-foot-10, 180-pound sophomore receiver Joe Hansley to the rescue. Early in the third quarter, Hansley returned a Colorado punt 74 yards for a touchdown to pull the Rams within three points.

"Joe showed up big. I'm proud of him," said CSU junior wideout Thomas Coffman, who later returned a kickoff 84 yards.

Almost immediately after fielding the punt, Hansley spun out of an attempted tackle by CSU junior Greg Henderson and then dodged an arm tackle by Ryan Severson, a freshman.

Hansley then shifted into his sprint mode and raced for the end zone in front of the CSU bench. He recorded the first punt return for a touchdown by a Colorado State player since 2006, when Damon Morton had a 58-yarder against Fresno State.

Hansley also led the team with eight receptions for 91 yards.

"Guys were doing their jobs to help me," said Hansley, a former all-stater at Highlands Ranch High.

Gillam stars. Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre's first recruiting class is already paying dividends. He started one freshman, and middle linebacker Addison Gillam is already a star.

He had a team-high 14 tackles, including two for losses and a sack.

Gillam was one of MacIntyre's commitments to San Jose State for 2012 and was set to grayshirt and enroll that spring. He decided to follow MacIntyre to Colorado and took nine units at Shasta College in Redding, Calif., last fall while not playing football.

Alexander injured. CSU sophomore running back Donnell Alexander rushed for 17 yards on his first carry but didn't make it to the second quarter. Alexander went out with what CSU coach Jim McElwain called a hand injury.

Helping to take up the slack for Alexander's absence was Kapri Bibbs, a junior college transfer from the Chicago area.

Bibbs scored his first college touchdown on a 7-yard sweep in the second quarter and finished with a team-best 70 yards on 15 carries.

Third-down blues. Third downs were a problem for CSU in 2012, and the Rams converted just 2-of-14 in Sunday's game.

Smith opts for surgery. CU senior defensive back Terrel Smith, second on the team in tackles last year with 48, has opted to surgically repair his nagging shoulder. He will redshirt and return in 2014.

Kafovalu, Thomas suspended. Buffs sophomore defensive tackle Samson Kafovalu and freshman receiver Jeff Thomas were suspended from the game for violating team rules.

Making their debut. In addition to Bibbs, among the CSU newcomers to get into the game included freshman wide receiver Rashard Higgins, freshman returner-cornerback Tyree Simmons, freshman defensive end Austin Berk, sophomore defensive tackle LaRyan King, sophomore defensive lineman Terry Jackson, redshirt freshman punter Hayden Hunt, sophomore running back Bibbs and redshirt freshman wideout Jordon Vaden.

CU for openers

How the last 10 Buffs coaches have fared in their first game at Colorado:

2013: Mike MacIntyre — W, 41-27 vs. Colorado State

2011: Jon Embree — L, 34-17 at Hawaii

2006: Dan Hawkins — L, 19-10 vs. Montana State

1999: Gary Barnett — L, 41-14 vs. Colorado State

1995: Rick Neuheisel — W, 43-7 at Wisconsin

1982: Bill McCartney — L, 31-17 vs. California

1979: Chuck Fairbanks — L, 33-19 vs. Oregon

1974: Bill Mallory — L, 42-14 at LSU

1963: Eddie Crowder — L, 14-0 vs. Southern California

1962: Bud Davis — L, 37-21 at Utah

Kiszla: Mike MacIntyre an early big winner for Colorado Buffaloes

By Mark Kiszla The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

In 30 minutes on the job, new Colorado football coach Mike MacIntyre achieved something predecessors Dan Hawkins and Jon Embree failed to do during seven, long years of suffering.

The Buffaloes finally appear to be well-coached.

This is not to suggest CU is bound for the Rose Bowl, or even a spot in the top 25 of the national polls.

At halftime of the Rocky Mountain Showdown the score was: Colorado 20, Colorado State 10.

Hey, it was only 30 minutes of football.

But CU's new coach Mac was the big winner.

Hawkins could provide a great sound bite, but never seemed to have a handle on how to recruit quality athletes to Boulder.

Embree brought NFL expertise, but never seemed to grasp the Buffaloes weren't going to beat anyone with NFL schemes.

Under the guidance of MacIntyre, quarterback Connor Wood handled the passing game with composure and made wise choices that suggested his lessons in practice have stuck. The CU secondary, which a year ago looked about as composed in coverage as four guys who were five minutes late for a flight on Concourse B, played solid assignment football.

I can't promise you the Buffaloes will finish the season with a winning record.

But I've got a hunch CU has hired a coach who's a keeper.

Colorado rallies to beat Colorado State 41-27 in Rocky Mountain Showdown

Written by Matt L. Stephens

Sep. 2, 2013 |

coloradoan.com

DENVER — The University of Colorado scored 17 of the last 20 points to erase a 24-23 third-quarter deficit and beat CSU 41-27 in the Rocky Mountain Showdown on Sunday.

The game's turning point came with 11 minutes, 12 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter. Colorado State University trailed CU, 26-24, when quarterback Garrett Grayson found running back Kapri Bibbs in the middle of the field.

Bibbs caught the pass, but turned and had the ball stripped. CU's Greg Henderson scooped up the fumble and raced 53 yards for the score to knock out the Rams.

Bibbs, a redshirt sophomore playing in his first game for the Rams (0-1), finished with 15 carries for 70 yards and two touchdowns.

"We got beat by a team today that was opportunistic. When you go into a first game, that was something we were kind of worried about. Offensively, we didn't do a very good job of keeping our defense off the field and sustaining drives," CSU coach Jim McElwain said. "We've got a ways to go. I get it. I've got shoulders and I'll take it all, but I believe in this football team."

While CU's offense stalled at times, quarterback Connor Wood had a field day against the Rams, lulling their defense to sleep with short passes before taking advantage of the secondary over the top. He threw for 400 yards and three touchdowns, including two of more than 75 yards to Paul Richardson.

Grayson was 22 of 39 for 201 yards with numerous dropped passes.

CSU did receive a lift from its kick returners. Sophomore Joe Hansley had 91 punt return yards and a touchdown and junior Thomas Coffman sparked a Rams' touchdown drive with an 84-yard kickoff return late in the third quarter.

CU kicker Will Oliver, a junior from Los Angeles, kicked four field goals for CU — including a 52-yarder in the fourth quarter to put the Buffs up for good at 26-24. In addition, he had field goals of 44, 41 and 22 yards.

Follow reporter Matt L. Stephens at twitter.com/mattstephens and facebook.com/stephensreporting.

Analysis: Buffs turn tables on ill-prepared Rams

Written by Kelly Lyell

Sep. 2, 2013 |

coloradoan.com

Next up: CSU at Tulsa, 5 p.m. Saturday, Chapman Stadium, Tulsa, Okla. **TV/radio:** CBS-SN/ESPN (FM 102.3 and 105.5)

DENVER — Paul Richardson, the speedy receiver that coach Jim McElwain said his CSU football team couldn't take its eyes off of, was wide open for two long touchdown catches.

And the Colorado State University offense that had spent the entire off-season working on improving its ball security and success rate on third downs coughed up a fumble that was returned for a game-changing touchdown and managed just two first downs on 14 third-down plays Sunday.

Afterward, it was new University of Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre celebrating a 41-27 victory at midfield with his players, who hoisted the Centennial Cup high over their heads.

McElwain and his CSU team, which credited a 22-17 win over CU the previous year to its preparedness, looked ill-prepared for this contest.

"I'm disappointed, to be honest with you," McElwain said. "I thought we'd win this game."

The way they played Sunday, they won't be winning many games.

They knew what their weaknesses were, spent an entire off-season trying to remedy them, and then were bitten by them anyway.

CU quarterback Connor Wood, making just his second career start, threw for 400 yards and three touchdowns, the first an 82-yarder to a wide-open Richardson for an early 7-0 lead and the last a 75-yarder to Richardson to turn a 33-27 edge into the final 14-point margin of victory.

"We just busted those coverages," CSU safety Trent Matthews said. "Those are critical errors."

Richardson, playing for the first time since 2011, finished with 10 catches for 208 yards.

Just as critical, though, was a fumble by sophomore running back Kapri Bibbs, who had an otherwise stellar debut for the Rams, running for two touchdowns. But after catching a short pass over the middle from quarterback Garrett Grayson, Bibbs had the ball stripped from his hands by CU defender Chidera Uzo-Direbe. Teammate Greg Henderson scooped up the loose ball and raced 53 yards for a touchdown that stretched a two-point Buffs' lead into a 33-24 edge with 11:12 remaining.

Colorado State's Showdown letdown

By Mike Brohard Sports Editor Loveland Reporter-Herald

Posted:

ReporterHerald.com

DENVER -- Jim McElwain stood at the podium and insisted he still believed his team could beat Colorado on Sunday.

The kicker: Not the way Colorado State played in the Rocky Mountain Showdown.

The one guy on the Buffs roster the Rams wanted to contain, Paul Richardson, is the one who got away.

Twice.

And right after the Rams made a few big plays of their own on special teams to take a lead into the fourth quarter, the killer McElwain warned of -- turnovers -- helped turn the tide in Colorado's favor, making first-year coach Mike McIntyre a winner in his debut in black and gold, 41-27, at Sports Authority Field at Mile High.

"We got beat by a team today that was opportunistic," McElwain said. "It's something that when ever you go into a first game, that was something we were worried about."

It only took two offensive plays for Colorado to unleash the Rams' biggest fear, and that was Richardson behind the defense. While he does possess game-breaking speed, he really didn't need it on the play as the Rams' secondary simply lost him. There wasn't another player in the same zip code as Connor Wood stepped up in the pocket and found him for an 82-yard score.

Wood, who struggled in seven appearances for the Buffs last year, looked like a different player in McIntyre's system. He completed 33-of-46 passes for 400 yards and three scores, including an 18-yard strike to D.D. Goodson in the second quarter.

McElwain was impressed, but felt his team could have done more to pressure him. Despite blitzing a good portion of the game, the only sack the Rams registered came when Wood was flagged for intentional grounding.

"We were very disappointed," linebacker Shaquil Barrett said. "We know our capabilities, and the coaches know our capabilities. We feel as though we let the team down a little bit. I wouldn't mind putting all the weight on my shoulder for that, because as though I should get to the quarterback more often than what I did today."

Late in the fourth quarter, Colorado State still had a chance, that was until Richardson took a short pass and zipped down the sideline for a 75-yard score, capping his return from knee surgery with 10 catches for 208 yards and the two scores.

Garrett Grayson earned the start for Colorado State, ending the long-kept secret, but it wasn't the type of offensive day either he or the Rams expected. The team picked up just two of 14 third-down conversions, keeping the defense on the field for far too long. He finished 22-of-39 for 201

yards, but the Rams generated just 295 yards in total offense, but thanks to special-teams play, they still had a chance.

Trailing 20-10 at the break, Rams' sophomore Joe Hansley broke free for a 74-yard touchdown on a punt return, and Thomas Coffman followed that up with an 84-yard kickoff return that set up Kapri Bibbs' second touchdown of the day, vaulting Colorado State in front, 24-23.

Hansley's return, the first scoring punt return for the team since 2006, just added to his outstanding day. He has eight catches for 91 yards in the game, giving him 183 yards of total offense before exiting with a sprained ankle.

"I think we did alright in special teams," Hansley said. "That's definitely a positive. Obviously we're going to have stuff to work on, but I think some of the work in special teams paid off."

Colorado kicker Will Oliver put the Buffs back in the lead with his fourth field goal of the day, and his longest, a 52-yarder with 13:07 to go in the game. Colorado State moved the ball to midfield, but on a second-down play, Bibbs fumbled off of a reception and Colorado's Greg Henderson scooped it up for a 53-yard scoring return to extend the CU lead to 33-24.

It was the final momentum swing, the one that eliminated any chance for the Rams to notch consecutive wins over their rival from Boulder for the first time since 1999-2000.

"That's the game of football," Grayson said. "You go out there every day, that's why it's the best game out there. One minute you can be so high and loving life, and the next minute they punch you in the mouth and you've got to go out there and fire back at them."

The only counter the Rams had was a Jared Roberts field goal from 30 yards with 3:47 to go. Colorado proved it knows how to counter with Richardson getting loose once again.

Still, McElwain stood at the podium after the game undeterred by the disappointment.

"You know what, I think we'll have some resolve, I really do," McElwain said. "It hurts guys. I still think we should win the game, and I'm going to tell you we should win the game next year, so go ahead and put in their locker room now. That's what I believe. I do, and I'm good with that. I know they've got my back, and they know I have their back, and that's something that's real comforting as a coach."

Mike Brohard can be reached at 635-3633, mbrohard@reporter-herald.com and [@mbrohard](https://twitter.com/mbrohard)

Colorado State's nightmare becomes reality in Showdown

By Cris Tiller Sports Writer Loveland Reporter-Herald

Posted:

ReporterHerald.com

DENVER -- There was no question which guy across the line of scrimmage gave Colorado State coach Jim McElwain and his defense the biggest nightmares.

McElwain talked about not letting Colorado stud wide receiver Paul Richardson use his speed to beat the Rams, and even went as far as to say he was faster than any player he coached in his time at Alabama.

So it was to everyone's amazement that Richardson found himself without another soul within 20 yards on Colorado's second play of the Rocky Mountain Showdown on Sunday.

McElwain's nightmare had become reality.

Richardson, benefiting from a busted coverage in the Colorado State secondary, hauled in an 82-yard reception for the game's opening touchdown (the longest given up by a CSU defense since 2003), which put the Rams in an immediate hole.

"Obviously containing and busting a couple coverages on their No. 6, you know, you can't do that," McElwain said after the 41-27 loss. "It's not a good deal to let some guy who runs that fast just run down the sideline."

Colorado State suffered from the same problem all of 2012, giving up huge, game-changing plays through the air. Most of the mistakes came from poor communication in the secondary, an area coaches stressed from spring practices to fall camp.

McElwain and the Rams' defensive backs thought those issues had been hammered out by this point, but you never truly know until the big stage.

"Pretty much we just busted those coverages, I mean, those are critical errors," safety Trent Matthews said. "As a defense, that's what you got to learn from. We left him wide open. That's a mental error on us."

By halftime, Richardson had seven catches for 120 yards and the long TD, but had only two receptions for 13 yards in the third quarter. However, D.D. Goodson had an 18-yard touchdown catch and Nelson Spruce had another 82 receiving yards.

Colorado quarterback Connor Wood never looked particularly uncomfortable in the pocket and was finding open targets at will.

Then, during the turning point of the contest as the Rams trailed by six with 3:39 left, Richardson again found himself dashing past defenders to score on a 75-yard toss from Wood. The final nail in the coffin.

The one guy Colorado State didn't want to beat them proved to be the difference in the game.

"I wasn't that surprised, I was more surprised on us. Those plays, if you minimize those plays, we only lost by 14," Matthews said. "Those two critical errors meant a lot."

Richardson finished his day with 10 catches for 208 yards and two long scores, while Wood threw for 400 yards, three TDs and a 71 completion percentage.

"We didn't get it done," McElwain said. "That's on us."

Cris Tiller can be reached at 669-5050 ext. 511, tillerc@reporter-herald.com or on Twitter @cristiller.

- ## MacIntyre's debut a success as Colorado snaps eight-game losing streak by beating CSU

Colorado State has some work to do, too, as it must travel to Tuscaloosa to take on Alabama on Sept. 21. One bright spot for the Rams was freshman punter **Hayden Hunt**, who averaged 49.7 yards on seven punts. He should be a busy man in three weeks.

Twitter 8

Permalink 2 Comments  Latest Stories in: [Colorado Buffaloes](#), [Colorado State Rams](#), [Mountain West Conference](#), [Pac-12 Conference](#), [Rumor Mill](#), [Top Posts](#)