

area college football

Buffs' rotation runs reverse back to QB Cody

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Colorado sophomore quarterback Cody Hawkins likely will not have to wait until the second half to get into Saturday's 6 p.m. home finale against No. 11 Oklahoma State.

When asked Monday on the Big 12 teleconference about the quarterback situation for this week, CU coach Dan Hawkins replied: "I don't know. We'll probably lean back more and more in favor of Cody.

"But we'll still get Tyler (Hansen) in the action. He brings some stuff to the table."

Cody Hawkins did not expect to play in Saturday's 28-24 victory over lowa State but took over for Hansen after halftime. Playing the entire second half, Cody passed for a career-best four touchdowns, completing 20-of-29 passes for 226 yards with no interceptions or sacks.

Hansen, CU's most athletic quarterback, ran well in the first half, netting 48 yards on nine carries. But he struggled through the air, completing just 4-for-12 for 48 yards, with one interception. Colorado trailed 10-0 at halftime.

Here come the Cowboys.

Colorado and Oklahoma State have not met since 2005, so this will be Hawkins' first game against the Cowboys. OSU (8-2, 4-2) dropped three places in The Associated Press poll, to No. 11, after losing 56-20 at Texas Tech.

"Okie State, they're a great team," Hawkins said. "They've got some of the greatest players in the country. Unfortunately, they're just like the rest of us, where they've had to play just a barnburner schedule."

Kicking woes.

With the two missed field goals by CU freshman Jameson Davis against Iowa State, the Buffs stand 4-for-14 on the season.

Hawkins was asked on the teleconference what coaches can do to instill confidence in Davis and sophomore Aric Goodman.

"We do a lot of live stuff with them; we do a lot of mental stuff with them," Hawkins said. "We continue to put them in pressure situations. At some point, the bubble will burst and they'll get back in a groove."

CSU safety Kubiak out.

Klint Kubiak's two-year streak of bad luck took yet another turn for the worse when the Colorado State safety was ruled out for the remaining two games of the season with an unspecified knee injury.

Kubiak sprained his ankle in the Mountain West opener Oct. 4 against UNLV. He didn't return to practice full time until two weeks ago and didn't play until Saturday's game at Air Force.

In 2007, he took a medical redshirt when a stomach ailment forced him out early in the season.

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On the first play Saturday, he limped off the field with the knee injury.

"I feel so badly for him because of all the work he'd put in and what a tremendous year he was having when he was playing," CSU coach Steve Fairchild said. Kubiak had 28 tackles. His interception in the end zone against Houston sealed a victory for CSU.

Two-for-one tickets.

CSU announced a two-for-one ticket promotion for Saturday's noon home finale against New Mexico. Specially marked cans of Mountain Dew can be redeemed for the promotion. CSU's 16 seniors will be honored in pregame introductions.

Falcons' injury report.

On Air Force's roster, only sophomore outside linebacker Patrick Hennessey is listed as likely to miss Saturday's 1:30 p.m. Mountain West Conference home game against BYU.

Hennessey suffered a strained shoulder in Saturday's 38-17 victory against Colorado State.

Senior fullback Todd Newell suffered an ankle injury against CSU, but coach Troy Calhoun expects Newell will be able to play.

Tom Kensler, Irv Moss and Natalie Meisler, The Denver Post

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college football

CU leans toward Hawkins at QB

By Tom Kensler The Denver Post

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CU quarterback Cody Hawkins. (The Denver Post)

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"But we'll still get Tyler (Hansen) in the action. He brings some stuff to the table."

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Hansen, CU's most

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athletic quarterback, ran well in the first half, netting 48 yards on nine scrambles. But he struggled through the air, completing just four-for-12 for 48 yards, with one interception. Colorado trailed 10-0 at halftime.

Dan Hawkins was asked why he switched to his son in the second half.

"The fact that we got shut out in the first half, that's probably the biggest reason," Dan Hawkins said. "We moved the ball a little bit. And in Tyler's defense, we missed a couple of field goals which would have helped him and our team.

"We've just kind of been a liquid group a little bit this year - staying on the move and continuing to

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find some answers. And we did."

Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said facing two quarterbacks requires more preparation.

You have to work on a few more things," Gundy said. "Defensively, you break down what the other team does, just like every other team across the country. You have a feel for who's in the game and what their tendencies are."

STILL HIGH ON THE FUTURE

Colorado (5-5, 2-4 Big 12) will have to pull off an upset to become bowl eligible. The Buffs need one more victory, and Oklahoma State and Nebraska (Nov. 28 at Lincoln) remain.

Dan Hawkins was asked on the teleconference if he had learned anything about his team during a victory over Iowa State that was not decided until a goal-line stand by the Colorado defense stopped the Cyclones as time expired.

"We know (the Buffaloes) are a scrappy bunch, they are," Hawkins said. "They've been doing a great job. You get nicked up and you're young and you go through a tough schedule - it's hard on you. They've done a nice job of battling back every week."

Speaking of next season, Hawkins added: "We get a little help (in recruiting), a little time, get some bones healed up, some ligaments healed up, and get some guys experience, we'll be fine."

HERE COME THE COWBOYS

Colorado and Oklahoma State have not played since 2005, so this will be Hawkins' first meeting against the Cowboys. OSU (8-2, 4-2) dropped three places in The Associated Press media poll this week after losing 56-20 at Texas Tech.

"Okie State, they're a great team. They really are," Hawkins said. "They've got some of the greatest players in the country. Unfortunately, they're just like the rest of us, where they've had to play just a barn-burner schedule.

"I continue to vote them high (in the USA Today coaches poll). But when you've got to line up against Texas Tech and Texas it's hard. But they're an outstanding team all the way around."

KICKING WOES

With the two missed field goals by CU freshman Jameson Davis against lowa State, the Buffs now stand 4-for-14 on field goals this season.

Hawkins was asked on the teleconference what coaches can do to instill confidence in Davis and sophomore Aric Goodman.

"We do a lot of live stuff with them, we do a lot of mental stuff with them," Hawkins said. "We continue to put them in pressure situations. At some point, the bubble will burst and they'll get back in a groove.

"We've been doing this a while. We believe in our formula. You just have to hang in there, and one day it will bear fruit."

COWBOYS ON THE RISE

The last time these two teams met three years ago, Colorado hammered Oklahoma State 34-0 in Stillwater. Oklahoma State finished 4-7 that season, Gundy's first as head coach of his alma mater.

OSU improved to 7-6 in both 2006 and last year, both seasons concluding with bowl victories.

"We're better overall as a group," Gundy said

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Monday when asked on the teleconference about the progress made by his program. "We're more mature. We've acquired more team speed over the years. Our players understand our philosophy on both sides of the ball.

"And we've been winning. You win two bowl games back-to-back and have success this year, it helps with the overall camaraderie of the team and it helps in practice, it helps keep guys in a good frame of mind."

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Rocky Mountain News

CU report: Hawkins back at QB vs. OSU?

By B.G. Brooks, Rocky Mountain News (Contact)

Published November 10, 2008 at 7:53 p.m.



Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins threw four touchdown passes in the Buffs' 28-24 victory against lowa State on Saturday.

Sophomore **Cody Hawkins**' second-half performance against Iowa State likely will reposition him as the Buffaloes' starting quarterback Saturday against Oklahoma State.

Coach **Dan Hawkins** said during Monday's Big 12 teleconference that he and offensive coordinator

Mark Helfrich could "lean back more in favor of Cody but still get Tyler (Hansen) in the game" against the No. 11 Cowboys.

Under Hansen, a freshman whose redshirt was pulled Oct. 18 against Kansas State, the Buffs failed to generate any first-half points Saturday against the Cyclones.

Cody Hawkins replaced Hansen and completed 20-of-29 passes for 226 yards and four touchdowns in CU's 28-24 win.

Hansen made his second career start and, had the offense been effective, was scheduled to play the entire lowa State game.

The Buffs finished with a season-high 422 yards after the quarterback change, and Hawkins became the sixth player in school history to surpass 4,000 career passing yards (4,165).

His 179.95 quarterback rating also was a personal single-game best.

Oklahoma State coach **Mike Gundy** said the prospect of preparing for two CU quarterbacks would make the Cowboys "work on a few more things defensively and break down what they do, what their tendencies are."

Protection improves

Helfrich said CU's pass protection against Iowa State "was our best stretch all year. That helped (Cody) do what he did. Plus, he did a nice job of staying alive mentally throughout the work

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Rocky Mountain News

week."

Hansen was sacked once; Cody Hawkins wasn't sacked.

Helfrich also said tailback **Demetrius Sumler** was effective in picking up pressure, as well as being alert "in the check-down game and making some (receiving) yards that were there."

Sumler, the only running back to catch a pass, made five receptions for 40 yards.

Kicked around

Special-teams coach **Kent Riddle** said placekicker **Jameson Davis** will undergo further medical evaluation to determine his availability for this week and the remainder of the season.

Davis replaced **Aric Goodman** two games ago, making his first attempt at Texas A&M but missing a pair of midrange field goals against lowa State.

Goodman, who has missed his past seven attempts, and Davis are a combined 1-for-10 on field-goal attempts since West Virginia (Sept. 18).

Davis has knee problems in his left (plant) leg that reoccur when he attempts field goals but usually not when he kicks off.

He is scheduled for offseason arthroscopic surgery.

Riddle said he has "never seen anything like" CU's current kicking woes, and Dan Hawkins added, "At some point, the bubble will burst and they'll get back into it. . . . I guess I'm not going to church enough."

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Hawkins back in favor as Buffs QB

By Justin Williams Longmont Times-Call

Just when Colorado thought it had an answer at quarterback, Cody Hawkins shakes things up again.

Following Hawkins' second-half heroics Saturday — in which he led the Buffaloes to a 28-24 win over Iowa State — CU coach Dan Hawkins said Monday that the team will rely more on Cody's arm again when No. 11 Oklahoma State visits Boulder on Saturday.

"I don't know," coach Hawkins said when asked about the revolving door situation between his son and Tyler Hansen at quarterback. "We'll probably lean back more in the favor of Cody, but we'll still get Tyler involved in the action."

Cody Hawkins said after Saturday's game that he didn't think he'd even take one snap against the Cyclones. He and Hansen had been sharing the quarterbacking duties since Hansen discarded his redshirt against Kansas State four weeks ago.

But Hansen played the entire first half against Iowa State, and there was reason to believe that the true freshman had been given the QB reins outright.

But the Buffs trailed 10-0 at halftime, which prompted the Buffs to make another change.

"Well, number one, the fact that we got shut out in the first half, that's probably the biggest reason," Dan Hawkins said. "We moved the ball a little bit, and in Tyler's defense, we missed a couple of field goals which would have helped him and our team.

"We've just kind of been a liquid group this year, staying on the move, continuing to find some answers — and we did."

Cody threw for 226 yards and four touchdowns on 20-of-29 passes — all in the second half — in the win.

"Obviously, Cody got hot and guys were making plays for him," Dan Hawkins said.

Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said not knowing who will be under center makes it difficult when it comes to preparation.

"You have to work on a few more things," Gundy said. "You have to have a feel for who's in the game and what their tendencies are."

RESPECT: Following No. 2 Texas Tech's 56-20 drubbing of his Cowboys last Saturday, Gundy said it's important not to look past the Buffs (5-5, 2-4 Big 12).

"In college football, we talk about this all the time — that you've got to be ready to go the next week," Gundy said. "Colorado is a team that's playing better and is playing very good on defense."

He said his players shouldn't have a hard time getting up for this game.

"When (the players) watch tape on Colorado, with the exception of the Missouri game, they're going to see a team that has played very well this year," Gundy said. "The tape will prepare the players. They'll see that Colorado's got a good football team."

Coach Hawkins has just as much respect for the Cowboys (7-2, 5-2), who have made a lot of strides since a 34-0 loss to the Buffs in the teams' last meeting in 2005.

"Okie State is a great team; they have some of the greatest players in the country," Hawkins said. "I continue to vote them up there real high. They're probably a top 5 team, but when you to line up against Texas Tech and Texas and play all those teams that we have to play, it's hard, but they're an outstanding team all around."