

Rocky Mountain News

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First act has happy ending for Buffs

Hawkins sees rally in fourth as great sign for Buffaloes

By B.G. Brooks, Rocky Mountain News
September 2, 2007

BOULDER - In college football's grand scheme, teams always search for wins more significant than those earned on Sept. 1.

Yet for a variety of reasons, the significance of winning the Rocky Mountain Showdown for Colorado and Colorado State on Saturday was nearly off the charts for months before they played.

Win, and turn the page on seasons gone wrong in 2006. Win, and validate the long and brutal offseason hours put in to right things and avoid a repeat.

Lose, and run the risk of adding another chapter to a book of sorrow. Lose, and perhaps begin to question whether those long and brutal hours in the offseason were worth it.

Since resuming their series in the early 1980s, CU and CSU have tried to soil the other's seasons with a front-end win that sometimes reverberates into November.

Last season proved to be an inaccurate barometer: CSU's 14-10 win in Denver turned out to be just another of the Buffaloes' 10 losses in a 2-10 season, while the Rams' heady 4-1 start was forgotten in a seven-game losing streak to close a 4-8 season.

With both teams focused on starting fresh, an opening day loss in 2007 was to be avoided like third-and-30. The 31-28 overtime victory Saturday, earned by overcoming an 11-point third-quarter deficit, sends CU into a workweek for resurgent Arizona State and what lies beyond with a confidence rarely experienced last season.

"In that stretch there where they scored twice, we go down by 11, the stadium's silent . . . it's one of those times where you're going, 'Are we going to answer?' " Buffs coach Dan Hawkins said Sunday.

"To me, that was the most encouraging thing, to be down 11 (and) the defense, for all the struggles they had, started putting all those little pieces together and then the offense, being backed up, had to convert three third-and- longs (in an 86-yard drive)."

Hawkins pointed out to his players that during the ebb and flow of a game, "It's never going to be perfect . . . let's live through the lows, focus after the highs. We can always control our effort, our heart, our tempo, our fight . . . so for those guys to know we were down by 11 before and still won, then let's go."

Hawkins' weekly and seasonal emphasis is on starting fast and finishing strong, so his team's two first-quarter touchdowns and 129 yards in total offense (90 passing) satisfied the need for a fast start.

Finishing strong was accomplished through improved special-teams work, the long scoring drive to pull to 28-25, the defense stuffing CSU workhorse Kyle Bell on critical third- and fourth-down runs, Terrence Wheatley's interception in the end zone in overtime and Kevin Eberhart's tying field goal with 13 seconds to play in regulation, followed by his winning kick in overtime.

"You've heard me talk before about the 'break-through moments,' " Hawkins said. "You never know exactly where they're going to come or how they're going to come, but you hope that's one of those."

"Everybody was poised in the huddle," CU quarterback Cody Hawkins said. "We just took advantage of an opportunity."

Colorado at Arizona State

- **The game:** 8:15 p.m. Saturday, Sun Devil Stadium (71,706), Tempe, Ariz.
- **The records:** CU is 1-0; ASU is 1-0.
- **The series:** ASU leads 1-0.
- **TV/radio:** FSN Rocky Mountain; KOA-AM (850).
- **Who's favored:** Arizona State by 14.
- **Injury update:** Both teams hope a significant contributor at tailback heals before kickoff. CU lost Hugh Charles (strained hamstring), and ASU lost Keegan Herring (neck) to early injuries Saturday.
- **Noteworthy:** The Sun Devils started the Dennis Erickson era with a 45-3 mauling of San Jose State, whose 9-4 record in 2006 included a 20-12 New Mexico Bowl win against New Mexico. . . . Showing a suspect defense in their 31-28 overtime win against Colorado State, the Buffaloes need immediate improvement to contend with tailback Ryan Torain (123 yards rushing, three touchdowns) and quarterback Rudy Carpenter (14-for-20, 197 yards, two touchdowns). . . . ASU, which beat the Buffs 21-3 in Boulder last season, scored on six of its first seven possessions against San Jose State and rolled up 520 yards in total offense. CU averaged 5.5 yards a play against CSU but lost two turnovers and had one pass intercepted. **CU**

Status report

Tailback **Hugh Charles** (strained hamstring) jogged lightly Sunday and is day to day. . . . Freshman defensive back **Lamont Smith** has been cleared for participation by the NCAA but still is expected to redshirt. . . . **Bernard Jackson** has targeted Florida State (Sept. 15) for his return. Coach **Dan Hawkins** admitted Jackson's missed practice time (academics) will hinder his playing immediately, but he said the senior offensive captain "might be a spot guy." . . . Hawkins said there is a possibility middle linebacker **Michael Sipili** will be cleared to play this week. He has a court appearance Thursday.

Etc.

- Defensive coordinator **Ron Collins** said his unit "busted" two assignments, missed six tackles and encountered some technical difficulties. Overall, though, he was encouraged by the defense's late effort.
- **Cody Hawkins** was in on every offensive play from scrimmage, and so were his five starting offensive linemen. "Those guys just toughed it out," Cody Hawkins said, adding that only having six linemen available last spring conditioned them to playing without subs.
- Cody Hawkins said he was "pretty sore" after his debut. "I've got these cool scratches on my back and arms," he said.

CSU

Arnold released

Special-teams coach **Dave Arnold** was released from a Denver hospital Saturday afternoon after collapsing from fatigue following the Rams' loss. CSU officials emphasized Arnold did not experience heart problems, and the 62-year-old assistant likely will be back on the practice field early this week.

Air Force

Lineup being reviewed

After viewing tape of the 34-3 victory against South Carolina State, Air Force coach **Troy Calhoun** hinted there might be some changes in the depth chart as the Falcons prepare for their Mountain West Conference opener, against Utah.

"Sometimes you have to change the batting order up a little bit," he said. "We've just got to play much better. There are a bunch of things we have to get ironed out."

Finding the handle

Senior tailback **Kip McCarthy** showed his ability to protect the ball when he and quarterback **Shaun Carney** botched a handoff on a third-and-one play in the second quarter.

McCarthy carried the ball behind his back for a couple of steps before securing it, and he picked up four yards and the first down.

"It was third and short and I was excited about carrying the ball," he said. "I'll have to watch the film to see if I was too wide or if Shaun put it on my hip. I had the ball behind my back like I was going to do a behind- the-back pass. It was one hand and definitely an interesting play in the game."

Calhoun wasn't happy with McCarthy's ball security but did praise him for not fumbling on that second-quarter play.

"I think you have to go back to **Magic Johnson** to see that kind of ballhandling," Calhoun said. "I've seen in on a court but have yet to see it on a gridiron."

Numbers game

115 touches (104 rushes, nine receptions, two punt returns) without a fumble for **Chad Hall**.

He said it

"It certainly was not a Mona Lisa. Yet at the same time, it's probably not us. We don't have a lot of great oil painters around here, but we can get a lot of things cleaned up."

Calhoun, on the Falcons' 34-3 opening victory against South Carolina State.

B.G. Brooks (CU); Randy Holtz (CSU); Jim Benton (Air Force)

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KRIEGER: Modest Buffaloes likable after win

September 2, 2007



The University of Colorado lists cornerback Terrence Wheatley at 5-foot-10, but the personable CU senior calls himself "5-9 on a good day."

CU lists redshirt freshman quarterback Cody Hawkins at 5-11, but he, too, looks even smaller on the field, particularly next to his 6-8 left tackle, Tyler Polumbus, of Englewood.

These two little big men were the headliners Saturday as the CU football program began climbing out of its own grave.

While their big plays are understandably the focus of beleaguered CU fans after a 2-10 campaign a year ago, these young men, 22 and 19 years old, respectively, also represented everything CU will need to win back the hearts and minds the program has lost.

When the 31-28 overtime thriller against Colorado State was over and the Rams were standing around the former Mile High Stadium parking lot dazed and disbelieving, Cody Hawkins rushed up to as many of them as he could.

"You guys are awesome," he told each of them. "Best of luck the rest of the year."

Wheatley, who made the Champ Bailey-like play of the game, intercepting Caleb Hanie's overtime pass in the end zone to set up CU's winning field goal, walked across the field with tears in his eyes.

"Part of it's the same as everybody else on the team," he explained afterward. "Just such a release after the season we had last year. I mean, all the emotion. If you listened to some of the speeches that were given before the game, we were almost as emotional before the game."

"You have all that pent-up aggression, all that hurt, that anger and frustration that you keep the whole year, and you finally get a chance to let it out on the field. And we did that. I mean, it wasn't pretty, but I think we showed people that we have heart."

"It wasn't a regular football game. It was almost like a street fight, and whoever wants it more wins. And we just had more heart (Saturday)."

There is a welcome willingness to open up on this CU team that suggests its wariness of the outside world is ebbing. When was the last time anyone at CU routinely poked fun at himself?

Of the third-quarter flea-flicker he threw for an interception, the young Hawkins explained, "It was supposed to be a third-and-short play, but we got a little antsy and tried to go throw it and Mr. Buzz Cut didn't make such a great throw, but we tried."

Of the repeated use of direct snaps to the tailback after the quarterback went in motion and split wide: "Myself as a wide receiver? You guys saw me split out there. It was not pretty."

Of a brilliant first quarter in which he completed all five of his passes for 90 yards and two touchdowns: "I think anybody in here could go out and throw to my receivers with my line, especially when coach (Mark) Helfrich is drawing stuff up like he is. He basically tells me I've got two guys and one of them is always open."

As psychology, telling spectators they could have made those touchdown throws is charming and clever at the same time. Nothing is more endearing than modesty, and it's particularly refreshing coming from a program that historically has had

some trouble distinguishing between pride and arrogance.

In fact, the young Hawkins seems to have a somewhat better handle on this than his father, Dan, the head coach, who continues to remind audiences that he's in the competitive arena and they're not.

Broncos coach Mike Shanahan used to take a similar tack. At some point, he discovered suggesting he was superior to his listeners produced more resentment than admiration. As he matured, Shanahan decided to let his performance speak for itself.

Once he is winning more often at CU, as his record at Boise State suggests he will, perhaps the elder Hawkins will reach the same conclusion.

In recent years, Colorado State's reputation has been aided by the simple fact that it is not CU. CSU wants its kids to learn to deal with the world as it is. Its wide-open practices and locker room are minor examples of this. CU's tightly controlled environment suggests the opposite - that CU makes the rules and it is the world's job to conform.

Many other college football programs operate the same way, but for a number of reasons, including local competition for the sporting dollar, CU cannot expect the same level of blind allegiance many of these programs enjoy. It must compete for a following like everybody else.

Saturday's game told us more about the approach than the ability of these teams. We'll know more in a month or two about their ability relative to the rest of the country.

But we know already that if young men like Terrence Wheatley and Cody Hawkins are front and center for the CU program, it will earn a new image fast.

"I give great credit to CU, and especially Cody Hawkins," CSU coach Sonny Lubick said when Saturday's showdown was over.

CU's stars played well. They handled playing well even better.

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MORE KRIEGER COLUMNS »

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QB Hawkins sore but happy after win

By Kyle Ringo

Monday, September 3, 2007

The morning after playing his first college football game Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins rolled out of bed at 8:30 a.m. happy to have had some extra time to sleep.

Hawkins had what he described as "cool" scratches on his back and arms and said he felt pretty sore after making his first start Saturday and leading his team to victory over Colorado State.

Hawkins said he felt fine overall and he credited his five offensive linemen, all of whom played every snap in the contest. He was sacked once but was hit hard on several occasions.

"I'm doing great," he said. "My boys took care of me yesterday."

With Hawkins at the helm of the offense, the Buffs were able to overcome an 11-point, second-half deficit and win in overtime. He led a third-quarter drive that included three third-down conversions and a two-point conversion to bring the Buffs within three points.

Hawkins threw for 201 yards, one yard more than the best day from any CU quarterback last year when the Buffs finished 116th in the nation in passing offense.

The Buffs got together and reviewed film of their performance Sunday afternoon before an hour-long walk-through and conditioning session. Hawkins said he had already put his first start behind him and is looking forward to his first road game at Arizona State on Saturday night.

"We didn't do a whole lot of grading," he said. "Right now the only grade I know I got was a 'W'".

Extra motivation

Veteran members of the CU secondary said they will play with a little extra edge this week at ASU with their former coach, Craig Bray, now serving as the Sun Devils' defensive coordinator.

During his two seasons in Boulder as the secondary coach on Gary Barnett's coaching staff, Bray clashed with his players at times. Some players didn't appreciate how forthcoming Bray was with members of the media when evaluating them.

"Me and coach Bray didn't always see eye-to-eye," safety Ryan Walters said. "He's a smart guy and knows his stuff, so I have respect for him in that aspect, but I'm definitely going to be playing with a little chip on my shoulder this weekend."

Cornerback Terrence Wheatley, who made an interception in the end zone in overtime against CSU, said it will be interesting to see Bray before or after the ASU game.

Asked if he shared Walters' sentiment in planning to play with a chip on his shoulder, Wheatley said, "Just a tad." He said it wouldn't be the best idea to comment further.

Heat concerns

Arizona State began its season Saturday with a win over San Jose State at home, where the game-time temperature was 101 degrees. The Buffs and Sun Devils meet at 8:15 (MST), which should help, but CU will still have to overcome the heat this week.

"You just have to live through it. Hydrate and live through it," coach Dan Hawkins said. "When we went to Georgia, it was hot down there. Sticky, too.

"I think it's something like anything else. You plan for it and do the best you can, but I think you can over do it too."

Hawk on Michigan loss

Dan Hawkins said it was no surprise to hear about fifth-ranked Michigan losing to Appalachian State on Saturday. Hawkins said it might just be his upbringing, his blue-collar nature, but he has learned over time to expect the unexpected and never underestimate anybody.

"It's kind of like last year when we lost to Montana State. Everybody is thinking, 'Shocker.' " Hawkins said. "Why is everyone shocked at that. I mean, I didn't want to lose to them, but I'm not shocked. You know, that stuff happens."

Notable

ASU coach Dennis Erickson told members of the Phoenix-area media Sunday that backup running back Keegan Herring is questionable this week after suffering a neck sprain. ... True freshman defensive back Lamont Smith was believed to have been cleared by the NCAA Clearinghouse Sunday. Smith had been sitting out practices waiting for word from the organization. He first reported to practice fields in shorts and a jersey Sunday but was told to go to the locker room and get into pads. Hawkins said there was no final word on Smith's status. Hawkins said he is still waiting to hear whether guard Erick Faatagi is academically eligible. ... Hawkins said running back Hugh Charles remains day-to-day and could play Saturday. Charles suffered a strained hamstring early in the win over CSU. ... CSU assistant coach Dave Arnold returned to work Sunday morning after being treated at a Denver hospital for heat fatigue and dehydration.



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First look: Arizona State

Game 2

Matchup: Colorado (1-0) at Arizona State (1-0).

Game time: Saturday, 8:15 p.m. at Sun Devil Stadium (71,706) Tempe, Ariz.

On the air: Fox Sports Net; KOA (850 AM). Web site: thesundevils.cstv.com

Last time

Arizona State ran for 182 yards and quarterback Rudy Carpenter completed 21 of 37 passes for 248 yards and two touchdowns, leading the Sun Devils to a 21-3 win last season at Folsom Field. The Buffs missed their best chance at a touchdown when quarterback Bernard Jackson fumbled at the goal line in the second half. CU generated just 219 yards of total offense, with 109 coming from tailback Hugh Charles.

The series

This is only the second meeting in the series. The Sun Devils won the first contest last season 21-3 in Boulder.

The coach

Dennis Erickson is 1-0 in his first season at ASU and has a career record of 149-65-1 at the college level.

The lowdown

ASU defensive coordinator Craig Bray served as the CU secondary coach in 2004 and 2005, and Matt Lubick, son of Colorado State coach Sonny Lubick, is the ASU safeties coach and recruiting coordinator. ... Backup running back Keegan Herring could miss the CU game after suffering a neck injury in the opener against San Jose State. ... ASU ran for 259 yards on 53 carries in its first game, using six different ball carriers. ... Two ASU offensive linemen — Mike Pollack and Brandon Rodd — are on the Lombardi Award preseason watch list. ... The Sun Devils allowed only 115 yards of total offense to San Jose State. ... Linebacker Robert James started his season with 10 tackles and a fumble recovery.

Who to know

QB Rudy Carpenter: One of the best quarterbacks in the nation with 19 consecutive starts under his belt. He has completed 61 percent of his passes and thrown for 4,993 yards and 42 touchdowns in his career.

WR Ryan Torain: A candidate for the Doak Walker award. He has three consecutive 100-yard games to his credit, including rushing for 123 yards and three touchdowns in the season opener. S Josh Barrett: One of the premier safeties in college football and one of the best athlete's on the ASU roster. Barrett started the season with just one tackle against San Jose State.

Late Saturday **ASU 45, San Jose St. 3 San Jose St. 3 0 0 0— 3**

Arizona St. 10 21 7 7—45

First Quarter

ASU — Torain 1 run (Weber kick), 10:44.

SJS — FG Strubeck 28, 3:47.

ASU — FG Weber 44, 1:04.

Second Quarter

ASU — Torain 13 run (Weber kick), 11:29.

ASU — M.Jones 27 pass from Carpenter (Weber kick), 8:58.

ASU — Torain 3 run (Weber kick), :27.

Third Quarter

ASU — Taylor 11 pass from Carpenter (Weber kick), 10:21.

Fourth Quarter

ASU — Pettes 5 pass from Sullivan (Weber kick), 8:47.

A — 0.

SJS ASU

First downs 7 33

Rushes-yards 26-40 53-250

Passing 75 270

Comp-Att-Int 11-23-2 23-32-0

Return Yards 17 70

Punts-Avg. 8-45.5 2-38.5

Fumbles-Lost 1-0 2-1

Penalties-Yards 3-30 5-40

Time of Possession 22:50 37:10

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — San Jose St., Tafralis 6-19, Island 2-13, D.Collins 4-10, Callier 6-9, Y.Davis 1-1, LaSecla 2-1, Avila 2-(minus 2), S.Flynn 3-(minus 11). Arizona St., Torain 17-123, Herring 16-76, P.Jones 13-38, Team 1-8, Sullivan 2-4, Carpenter 2-1, Ptacek 2-0.

PASSING — San Jose St., Tafralis 5-13-2-39, S.Flynn 4-6-0-19, LaSecla 2-4-0-17. Arizona St., Carpenter 14-20-0-197, Sullivan 9-12-0-73.

RECEIVING — San Jose St., Richmond 5-32, Callier 2-19, K.Flynn 1-10, Jurovich 1-9, Marah 1-3, French 1-2. Arizona St., M.Jones 4-63, K.Williams 3-63, Gray 3-29, Taylor 3-21, McGaha 2-33, Kimbrough 2-27, Thompson 2-18, Torain 1-9, Pettes 1-5, Miller 1-3, Herring 1-(minus 1).



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Buff defense gets mixed reviews

Coaches praise fourth-quarter effort against CSU

By Kyle Ringo

Monday, September 3, 2007

After reviewing film of their season-opening win Sunday, Colorado football coaches gave a mixed review of the defense.

Coaches said the Buffs started slowly Saturday in a 31-28 overtime victory over Colorado State but got progressively better as the game wore on. The statistics back them up.

After surrendering 311 yards and 28 points through the first three quarters, the Buffs gave up only 75 yards and zero points in the fourth quarter and overtime.

Buckling down in crunch time was particularly impressive, considering the CU defense was on the field for 37 minutes, 1 second in the game. The Buffs won despite trailing by 14 minutes in time of possession.

"I thought that was tremendous for our defense at that point," defensive coordinator Ron Collins said. "To come out and finish that game off like that.

"I thought our guys started playing faster, playing hard. We did a great job on the running game at that point. We definitely put ourselves in position to win that game yesterday."

Linebacker Jordon Dizon was the exception. He played well wire-to-wire and finished with 20 total tackles. Tackle totals are unofficial until coaches complete film reviews.

It was a career best for Dizon, who finished last season with a similar effort against Nebraska. He recorded 19 tackles against the Cornhuskers.

"The guy plays hard and fast," Collins said. "His motor is just at a different level than everybody else's right now.

"Part of it is that the defense is designed for him to make a lot of tackles, but he had several effort plays yesterday where I would say he went above and beyond."

Collins said the Buffs had only two missed assignments Saturday, a drastic improvement over the season opener in 2006, but he said the Buffs weren't always technically sound.

The Buffs played without suspended middle linebacker Michael Sipili, but Collins said R.J. Brown and Jeff Smart did well in their first extensive action from scrimmage. Collins said the mistakes both players made are easily correctable.

Collins wasn't pleased with the defense allowing CSU to convert 11 of 19 times on third downs, but he also said there might be too much attention paid to specific statistics, such as the Rams completing 40 of 50 passes against the Buffs in the past two meetings.

The Buffs allowed only 2.8 yards per carry to the Rams in the running game Saturday and with CSU running back Kyle Bell back in the fold this year, Collins said the Buffs struggled to defend the play-action passing game. He said that will be an area of emphasis in coming practices.

Coach Dan Hawkins said the Buffs were a little rough around the edges, but defenders also made key plays to earn the victory. One such play came in overtime when cornerback Terrence Wheatley intercepted a pass in the end zone.

"We had a lot of minor issues early on, particularly when we didn't stop them in the first half," Hawkins said. "Then in the second half we got a few things going and did a much better job. ...It's just a case of ironing out a couple wrinkles."



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VICTORY!

By Colorado Daily Staff Reports
Monday, September 3, 2007 8:47 PM MDT

It was a weekend of celebration for Buffs sports fans, as the football team, soccer team and volleyball team all saw success in their respective sports.

By now, you probably already know that the CU football team beat rival CSU in the annual Qwest Rocky Mountain Showdown on Saturday. You might also know that the CU volleyball team won three matches over the long weekend, including an upset of then No. 11 - ranked California.

Not to be outdone, the CU soccer team went down to Denver and beat host DU 2-0 on Friday in the DU Invitational. They followed the win up with a 1-1 tie against Fairfield.

How can so much success come in so short a period? The Colorado Daily looks at each sport's accomplishments.

FOOTBALL

Cody Hawkins is now 60-0. Since his days as a Pop Warner quarterback until his latest victory over CSU, "Mr. Buzzcut," has not lost a game in which he was the quarterback. Against CSU, Hawkins set the tone early by driving the field on the Buffs first drive and connecting with fellow redshirt freshman, wide receiver Scotty McKnight, on a 24-yard touchdown pass.

CSU and workhorse running back Kyle Bell were not going away though, and at halftime it was 17-14 CU.

CSU got the ball at the half and drove the field for a touchdown of their own, with quarterback Caleb Hanie connecting with tight end Kory Sperry for a 37-yard touchdown pass, one of three on the day for Sperry.

With the score 21-17 in favor of CSU, things got interesting. CSU decided to squib kick the ball and as their luck would have it, the Rams kick bounced off of the Buffs R.J. Brown and the Rams recovered. They would take advantage of the opportunity, and kick a field goal to put them up 28-17.

CU got the ball and drove, but kicker Kevin Eberhart missed a 41-yard field goal try. The defense held the Rams, and it must have been at this point that the Buffs realized that the game was slipping away. They responded by driving for a Demetrius Sumler rushing touchdown, and then coach Hawkins gave in to his 'Play to win the game' mentality.

The Buffs opted to go for two, and Cody Hawkins hit Riar Geer with a pass good for the two point conversion making it 28-25.

Eventually the Buffs would get the ball back, and would drive the field until they faced a fourth and four with 22 seconds remaining. Hawkins threw a fade to receiver Patrick Williams, and lucky for CU, a pass interference was called and the Buffs' Eberhart kicked a 22 yard field goal to send the game into overtime.

Tyrone 'T-Wheat' Wheatley intercepted a Hanie pass in the endzone and all the Buffs had to do was get Eberhart within range. He connected on a 35 yard field goal to secure the win for CU.

It was a solid debut for Cody Hawkins, who finished 18 for 31 with 201 yards and two touchdowns. His only interception came on an ill-fated Flea Flicker attempt. Senior linebacker Jordon Dizon recorded a career high 20 tackles and redshirt freshman Scotty McKnight caught 8 passes for 106 yards and a touchdown. Senior running back Hugh Charles went down in the first quarter with a strained hamstring, but another redshirt

freshman, Demtrius Sumler, carried the load and ran 16 times for 85 yards.

VOLLEYBALL

The CU spikers opened their season by traveling to New Orleans and losing to both Tulane and Furman. They made up for those stumbles by sweeping away the competition at the Colorado Invitational.

Held at the Coors Event Center, CU began their impressive weekend by beating UNC-Wilmington in three games on Friday, 30-17, 30-18 and 30-12. Sophomore Mallori Gibson had 16 kills and junior Kelsey Loop had nine kills. Loop is starting at the outside hitter position left vacant by the injury and redshirt of star Amber Sutherland.

The Buffs then beat Central Florida in three straight games on Saturday 30-26, 30-22 and 30-23 thanks to the play of a few reserves from last year's squad.

Kaitlyn Burkett, a new starter this season, had 48 assists and added three kills, two aces, four digs and two blocks.

The gem of the weekend, however, came on Sunday when the Buffs upset then No. 11 California by sweeping the Golden Bears, 30-28, 30-25 and 30-28. The losses were the first three games the Bears had lost this season.

Junior Alex Buth was named the MVP of the Colorado Invitational, and was joined on the all-tournament team by teammates Lauren Schaefer and Kaitlyn Burkett.

In the game against Cal, Schaefer hit a team high .467 with eight kills and two blocks.

SOCCER

CU coach Bill Hempen said that DU would present a challenge, and the Pioneers did just that on Friday in Denver at the DU Invitational. The Buffs Nikki Marshall looks like a sophomore slump will not be a problem as Marshall scored her first two goals of the season to lead CU to a 2-0 win.

The first goal came with 7:11 remaining in the first half. Junior midfielder Alex Cousins net a ball through to Marshall who dribbled past the DU defense and knocked the ball past the goalie.

Marshall scored again in the 65th minute when freshman Mel Hicks sent a cross from the right corner to Marshall. She then needed only one touch to find the back of the net and give the Buffs a 2-0 lead they would not relinquish.

CU almost scored again at the 70th minute when Alex Cousins took a free kick, but the DU goalie Mackenzie Snyder got a hand on it and knocked it over the crossbar.

CU goalkeeper Kirstin Radlinski earned her eighth career shutout with the win.

On Saturday, CU tied Fairfield University 1-1. The Buffs scored when freshman Michaela DeJesus scored her first collegiate goal with an assist from Nikki Marshall in the 51st minute.

The game went into a Golden-Goal Overtime, but neither team managed to score.

Nikki Marshall and Michelle Wenino were the only CU players named to the all-tournament team.

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Longmont, Colorado
Monday, September 03,
2007

DAILY TIMES-CALL

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CU defense aims to get better against ASU

*By Patrick Ridgell
The Daily Times-Call*

BOULDER — And, now, for the bad news.

The 1-0 Colorado Buffaloes, fresh off an exciting overtime defeat of Colorado State, must travel to Arizona State for a Saturday night game against a team that appears to be avoiding the bumpy transition to a new coaching staff that vexed CU a year ago.

Under first-yr coach Dennis Erickson, Arizona State rolled to 33 first downs and 520 yards Saturday night in a 45-3 defeat of over-matched San Jose State. Making his 19th straight start, quarterback Rudy Carpenter went 14-for-20 for 197 yards and two scores. And the heat Saturday night in Tempe is expected to be around 100 degrees again.

Defensively, the Buffs allowed yet another quarterback to have a good day against them Saturday when Caleb Hanie hit 20 of 27 passes for 229 yards and three touchdowns. The Buffs' defense was able to do its part in overtime, though, when Terrence Wheatley grabbed Hanie's only interception.

Defensive coordinator Ron Collins said his group played slow until about midway through the third quarter, when it suddenly awoke. Playing fast will be a point of emphasis this week, and figuring out how to get the defense to start fast was confounding him Sunday night.

"That's a good question," Collins said. "That's something we have to visit again tonight and see where we're at and try to create some things in practice to help with that."

Collins and several defenders stressed last week they knew their assignments and understood the game plan, so there'd be fewer mistakes than in early 2006 games. Collins said there were only two blown assignments Saturday against the Rams, and six missed tackles. He also said the defense allowed only 80 yards after the middle of the third quarter.

"We definitely put ourselves in a position to win that game yesterday," he said.

Actually, according to different Buffs, the defenders put themselves in positions to do a lot of things. But for some reason, they didn't make plays.

"It was the right calls, and the right plays, we just didn't make the plays," linebacker Jordon Dizon said. "Half the time we were right there, right next to the guy."

Said Wheatley: "We definitely knew what we were doing, even though they completed some passes down the middle. A lot of that was just physical. I'd rather have it be a physical problem then going out there and not knowing anything.

"We just have to make the play now. It's college football. Everybody is good at what they do. Now it's just a matter of making plays."



Colorado linebacker Jordon Dizon runs a drill during practice in Boulder last month. Dizon and the Buffs were able to pull out a win Saturday against Colorado State, but know they've got to tighten up their defense this week when they travel to Arizona State. **Times-Call file/Joshua Buck**

Collins said CSU's play-action passes troubled CU. Arizona State's Ryan Torain rushed 17 times for 123 yards and three scores Saturday. He'll occupy CU's attention.

"Arizona State is an excellent football team, so I think we have to play a much better football game going into that game," Collins said.

Extra points: CU head coach Dan Hawkins said it's possible suspended linebacker Michael Sipili could play Saturday at Arizona State. Sipili has a preliminary hearing scheduled for Thursday in Boulder County Court. He's facing charges of felony second-degree assault and criminal mischief due to a June incident in which he fought and injured a Boulder man. ... Hawkins said Bernard Jackson "still has some things in the works" and that his stated goal of playing Sept. 15 against Florida State isn't a certainty. Jackson did not practice Sunday. ... Running back Hugh Charles (hamstring) jogged lightly Sunday. Hawkins said his status is day-to-day. ... Freshman Lamont Smith has finally been cleared by the NCAA Clearinghouse to practice.. ... Scotty McKnight's 106 receiving yards were the most ever for a CU receiver in his debut. ...The Denver Broncos re-signed former CU center Mark Fenton to their practice squad on Sunday.

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First look

The matchup CU at Arizona State

Kickoff: 8:28 p.m., Saturday, at Frank Kush Field/Sun Devil Stadium, Tempe, Ariz.

TV/Radio: FSR/KOA-Radio

Notes: CU failed to capitalize on the four turnovers it forced last year in the programs' first meeting, an Arizona State 21-3 win in Boulder. ... Dennis Erickson succeeded Dirk Koetter following 2006. Koetter and CU coach Dan Hawkins are good friends. ... CU offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich worked for Koetter from 2001 to 2005 as Arizona State's quarterback coach, and the final three seasons as its passing game coordinator.