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CU's Behrens has Huskers on mind

By Tom Kensler
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Behrens: Bragging rights on line for Nebraska native. ()

BOULDER — Omaha native Jake Behrens proudly wears his Colorado gear during visits home. But

the CU sophomore fullback hopes to finally bring some bragging rights with him.

The Buffaloes haven't beaten Nebraska since Behrens joined the CU program. He redshirted after arriving in Boulder in 2005.

"There's always a little trash-talking between my friends back home," Behrens said. "I have friends who go to school at Nebraska. I played in high school against guys who play for Nebraska. If we lose to them, it's a bad feeling with all the Nebraska fans back there. I want that to change this year."

Colorado (5-6, 3-4 Big 12) and Nebraska (5-6, 2-5) will tangle at Folsom Field in the annual day-after-Thanksgiving

Colorado Football

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battle.

A 6-foot, 230-pounder, Behrens is the only Nebraskan on the CU roster. In fact, Behrens became the first recruit from a Nebraska high school to play for the Buffs since offensive lineman Dean Davis (1984-88). The last Nebraska prep recruit to sign with CU was John Parrella

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(1988), a defensive lineman from Grand Island who did not qualify academically.

"It's not too bad," Behrens said of the razzing he receives in his home state. "It's mostly friendly. Most people back there are nice and hope I do well."

Except during the weekend when the Huskers play Colorado, that is.

"When you grow up in Nebraska, there's nothing else in the state except Nebraska football," Behrens said. "They're pretty dissatisfied with the way the season has gone. Everybody there is pretty much a Husker fan."

He was, too.

"Especially when I was young, like every kid, I wanted to play for Nebraska," he said. "But going into high school, I really wanted to keep my options open. I wanted to weigh some things and maybe get out of the state of Nebraska and see another place."

Behrens rushed for 1,203 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior at Millard North High School but was not recruited by Nebraska. A straight-A student in high school, Behrens picked Colorado after also receiving interest from Stanford.

After not receiving any playing time last season as a redshirt freshman, Behrens has made two starts (against Kansas State and Kansas) in 2007. He gained 23 yards on his first career carry -

CU's first play from scrimmage against Kansas State - and also caught a 1-yard TD pass in that game.

Missing some time with an ankle sprain, Behrens has rushed for 33 yards on five carries. Fullbacks mostly are used as blockers in Colorado's offense.

"Jake is a hard worker," Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said. "He's good with the ball in his hands. There's a guy who's just young. There are just a lot of little things (he needs to work on)."

Colorado coaches never have to worry about whether Behrens will put forth maximum effort.

"God and football are neck and neck in the state of Nebraska, there's no question about that," CU offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich said. "I'm sure Jake has that running through his veins."

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