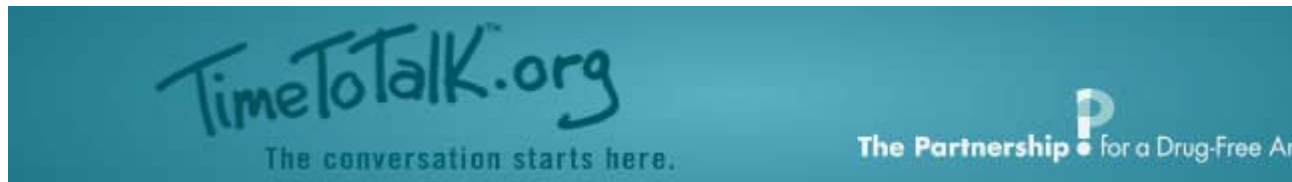


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## Football

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### Colorado nabs rare find in Behrens

Stirling Wade, for the Camera

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The distance from Omaha, Neb. to Boulder is approximately 550 miles. Hardly a trip to the park, but not exactly a journey to the corner of the globe for a high school football player in the world of college recruiting. But the measuring stick for the distance between Nebraska and Colorado might as well be a telescope as far as CU is concerned.

That's why when Jake Behrens committed to CU back in 2005, he immediately became an oddity on the CU roster. Behrens became the first high school prep to choose CU in over 15 years.

So even if Behrens never makes a large impact on the field for the Buffs, he should be considered a precious jewel.

Behrens, a fullback at Millard North High in Omaha, says he chose CU over Stanford with the local Huskers somewhere behind those two.

Behrens starred at a Omaha high school at fullback and defensive end while garnering the title of Gatorade Nebraska Player of the Year his senior season. Despite being ranked the No. 3 player in the state by Rivals.com coming out of Omaha, the Huskers' passing interest was not enough and he



decided to go elsewhere.

"By the time they came in, I wasn't interested. I wasn't going to commit to a team that was trying to come get me at the last second," Behrens said.

Nebraska never offered the Omaha product, and Behrens committed to the Buffs and former head coach Gary Barnett.

"Coach Barnett showed a lot of interest and I knew it was a great program, so that's what I was looking for," Behrens said.

According to the CU sports information department, Behrens is the first player from Nebraska to commit to CU since DT John Parrella in 1988.

The sophomore said that even though coach Barnett and his staff were a big reason he chose to do what so few before him have, that he has no regrets about his decision to trek across enemy lines.

"Initially it's always a shock when a guy recruits you, comes to your house and then gets fired," Behrens said. "The change was tough, but I think it was needed for the program and it's working out great. I love coach Hawkins."

The move for Behrens from Omaha to Boulder turned out to be much easier than the one he made from the sidelines to the playing field. After redshirting his first year on campus and not playing at all a season ago, Behrens is slowly beginning to dip his feet into the Buffs' gameplan.

The redshirt sophomore played sparingly on special teams early in the season, but his participation with the offense has slowly began to increase. Behrens was CU's second-leading rusher against Kansas State on Saturday after he tallied 29 yards on three carries, highlighted by a 23-yard carry on the Buffs' first offensive snap.

The Buffs sit at 4-3 after the loss to the Wildcats on Saturday which, ironically enough, is the same record of his home state Huskers, who just fired their athletic director. It would be easy to see why the Buffs' reserve might have a laugh at the expense of the local school that didn't recruit him, but Behrens isn't falling into that trap.

"I'm not looking (at their struggles that much)," Behrens said. "I don't necessarily chuckle about it, but I'll say it's interesting."

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# Sacks down, but Buff pass 'D' improves

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer  
Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Seven games into the college football season, Colorado coaches still haven't found a replacement for 2006 Big 12 Conference sack leader Abraham Wright.

A year ago at this time, Wright had registered nine sacks by himself. This year's team has 10 total sacks and just one in the past four games.

Despite the lack of sacks, the Buffs' overall pass defense has improved dramatically over last season. CU is allowing opponents to complete just 53 percent of their passes as opposed to the 67 percent allowed a year ago. Opponents are averaging only 208 passing yards per game, down from 230 last season.

Those numbers are why coach Dan Hawkins isn't making a big deal of the low sack totals. Hawkins is always trying to coax improvement in every area from his players and assistant coaches, but he and defensive coordinator Ron Collins aren't ready to commit to more blitzing just yet.

"I think we've done a good job for the most part," Hawkins said Monday on the Big 12 coaches' teleconference. "I think Ron does a good job of mixing it up and we have to continue to do that."

The Buffs just missed several opportunities for sacks last week in a loss at Kansas State because Wildcats quarterback Josh Freeman was able to elude rushers and get rid of the ball or make plays on the run.

CU will face another mobile threat this week in Kansas sophomore Todd Reesing, who ran for 90 yards against the Buffs last season when Kansas coach Mark Mangino surprised everyone by pulling Reesing's redshirt in the second half of the ninth game of the season.

The Jayhawks have allowed 12 sacks in their first six games, but they rank 16th in the nation in passing offense, throwing for 297 yards per game.

## Most televised

Colorado officials learned Monday their Oct. 27 game at Texas Tech will be televised by ABC on a split-national basis and will begin at 10 a.m. (MT). The Buffs will set a school record this year with at least seven national television appearances. The previous record was set by the 1990 national championship team at six. The Texas Tech matchup will mark the sixth national TV game, and the regular-season finale against Nebraska Nov. 23 already is set for ABC. The TV plans for two other games — Nov. 3 vs. Missouri and Nov. 10 at Iowa State — have yet to be determined.

The athletic department budgeted ambitiously for six national broadcasts coming off a 2-10 season a year ago. The extra money earned for an additional nationally televised game will help balance lower-

than-expected ticket sales in the first half of the season.

This week's home game against No. 15 Kansas will begin at 3:45 p.m., and will be televised on ESPN. It will be the second consecutive CU game on ESPN and the third this season. By comparison, the Jayhawks will be making their eighth appearance on ESPN in history, the first during the regular season since 1995.

Colorado's home game against Miami (Ohio) last month and a game at Baylor earlier this month are the only games so far this season not to be televised. The Buffs set a record in 2002 with 12 of 14 contests on regional or national television. The 2007 Buffs could tie that mark if the rest of their regular season games are televised, they play in the Big 12 championship game and participate in a bowl game.

### **Notable**

The Buffs are tied with Baylor in 104th place nationally in turnover margin. The Buffs have committed 18 turnovers and have only 10 take-aways in seven games. ... Kansas is 2-0 already this season in Big 12 games. The Jayhawks have never won more than three Big 12 games in one season under coach Mark Mangino, who is in his seventh season as coach. ... This week's game is the first game of the season played outside of the state of Kansas for the Jayhawks. KU is 5-21 on the road in the Mangino era but might be getting over its road woes. It has won two of its past three road games.



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Not in Kansas anymore

By ELIOT DEMPSEY Colorado Daily Sports Editor  
Tuesday, October 16, 2007 8:39 PM MDT

Colorado head coach Dan Hawkins sat down to address the media on Tuesday for his usual weekly press conference, and gave the impression of a man who was ready to get back to work and move on from a tough 47-20 road loss at Kansas State this past weekend.

"I think for the first time since I got here our guys were playing not to lose for a little bit," said Hawkins. "I think we have gotten out of that but we probably had more-particularly on defense-lack of consistency to a degree. I think that it showed us too that it was the first game where (QB) Cody (Hawkins) really forced a lot."

Hawkins attributed all three interceptions to Cody's poor decision making, whether it was a forced throw or poor read. He also said that most of the mistakes that happened in the KSU game were correctable mistakes, and that this Buffs team is still growing, taking the loss as a learning experience.

Cody agreed with the elder Hawkins, saying "Oh yeah, definitely and I'm learning that more each and every game. Sometimes when you think you have an opportunity to make a big play you try and jump on that rather than reading every play from square one. What is the snap count? What's my drop? What is my first read? Instead of saying 'If I have an opportunity to throw it 50 yards down field I'm going to take it.' I definitely need to work on that and pull back on the reigns a little bit, just not trying to launch it every time I get the chance."

Moving on to face the Jayhawks this weekend, the Buffs will be facing the lone unbeaten team in the Big 12, the No. 2 scoring defense in the country and an offense that features a steady quarterback and a solid running back tandem.

In order to put up points against a defense that has only allowed more than 13 points to Kansas State this season, the Buffs will need another day from Hugh Charles like he gave on Saturday. His 177 yards on 22 were a career high, and he added a touchdown.

"I think he is running a lot more assertive and he is breaking a lot more tackles," said Hawkins. "He is getting more yards after contact and I think that is a reflection of his confidence in himself in being able to run through guys and around guys. He can run around a lot of guys, and it is just his mentality that way. You want a fast guy, which he is, and he is learning to break a lot of tackles and run through tackles, which he is doing."

Another bright spot from the Kansas State game was the first career start for Ryan Miller at right tackle. Hawkins said that early in the year, Miller had played at guard so that he could benefit from the communication that he would receive from being in between junior center Daniel 'Girthy' Sanders and senior tackle Edwin Harrison.

It was a tough test for Miller, as he had to figure out how to move his 6-foot-7, 310 pound frame around using his size 18 shoes as a base against the first 3-4 defense the Buffs have seen this season.

"He did OK, he did OK. I think he got his first look at a pure speed rush, especially when it became readily apparent that we had to throw it every down, or nearly every down. They widened out pretty far and came pretty hard so he really found out what a speed rush is all about," said Hawkins.

NOTES: CU Athletic Director Mike Bohn sat down to speak with reporters about the progress of all the plans the department has. Bohn first wanted to extend congratulations to the Colorado Rockies for reaching the

World Series. He then went on to say that upgrades to the men's and women's basketball locker rooms are coming along, and that the indoor practice facility plans are moving along as well. The plan is for a building that could not only serve as a practice facility for both basketball teams, but would also be available for the volleyball team, even possibly as a 2,000 seat volleyball arena. The estimated cost is said to be \$ 8-10 million. Another initiative is to provide the 5,000 CU graduate students with more tickets and possibly even their own section at football games. Bohn said CU expects around 6,000 parents for Family Weekend. Mason Crosby is expected to be in attendance for the CU-KU game on Saturday at 3:31 at Folsom Field.

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area college football notes

## QB Hawkins got pressed into mistakes vs. K-State

By Tom Kensler and Irv Moss  
The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 10/16/2007 03:22:23 AM MDT

Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said Monday that quarterback Cody Hawkins consistently "pressed" for the first time this season in Saturday night's 47-20 loss at Kansas State.

"He really tried to press and make some plays, instead of going through the progression (of the play call) and not predetermining or not trying to force a ball downfield," Dan Hawkins said in the Big 12's weekly teleconference, referring to his elder son. "Other than a couple of instances this season, I don't think that's been his mode of operation."

"But the guy is a freshman. So those things (are going to happen), just like the rest of our team learning some things."

It was a physical game, Dan Hawkins said. That probably contributed to Cody's struggles. He finished 19-for-41 for 223 yards with one touchdown and three interceptions.

"(Cody) got drilled a few times," the coach said. "(Kansas State) got after him a little bit."

Tech kickoff set. Colorado announced that the Oct. 27 game at Texas Tech will kick off at 10 a. m. and will be televised as part of the ABC split-national package. Saturday's game against visiting Kansas is on ESPN at 3:45 p.m.

Falcon honored again. Air Force receiver and tailback Chad Hall stopped running long enough Monday to pick up the Mountain West Conference's offensive player of the week award for the second consecutive week.

The 5-foot-8, 180-pound senior left little doubt after racing through Colorado State's defense for 256 yards and four touchdowns Saturday.

Hall's school-record performance also was his third 100-yard rushing game this season and fifth at Air Force (5-2, 4-1).

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## Local college football notes

By **B.G. Brooks** (CU), **Randy Holtz** (CSU), **Jim Benton** (Air Force) and wire services (Wyoming).  
October 16, 2007

### CU

#### That weathered look

Kansas' game against Baylor Saturday in Lawrence kicked off at 11:30 a.m. CDT but didn't end until 5:03 p.m. Two weather delays totaling 2 hours, 15 minutes extended the Jayhawks' 58-10 drubbing of the Bears.

Coach **Mark Mangino** said he and his coaches "didn't make a big deal about it. . . . It was something we couldn't control."

During the first delay, which lasted about 90 minutes, players were told to take off their pads. Mangino said some listened to music on iPods, some read, some talked with teammates.

During the second delay, which came almost four hours after the pregame meal, breakfast bars and fruit were distributed among players.

Mangino's biggest concern was his offense "getting out of sync," but that didn't seem to be a problem.

#### Getting over it

The Buffaloes' lopsided loss at Kansas State could be "a blessing in disguise," redshirt freshman quarterback **Cody Hawkins** said.

"You never want to lose like that, but I think this is really where the leaders come out of the woodwork, where the guys who really want to play really start playing."

Hawkins said with undefeated Kansas (6-0) visiting Boulder on Saturday, "we'd like nothing better than to send them home with a loss, and we definitely feel like we have the ability to do that."

"We're the same team that beat Oklahoma, beat Colorado State. We're all the same guys. We just have to start going to work again and be all about the details."

#### Running-game surge

CU's 188 rushing yards against Kansas State was its second-highest total of the season. **Hugh Charles'** 171 yards marked a career high, as well as his fourth consecutive 100-yard rushing game.

Running-game coordinator/offensive line coach **Jeff Grimes** said the improvement was a "team effort" but pinpointed CU's receivers for their roles in blocking Kansas State's safeties.

"They're a 'cover four' team, which means their safeties are primarily run stoppers (who) are just a step behind their linebackers," Grimes said. "Our receivers did a tremendous job coming in and blocking those safeties."



David Zalubowski © AP

Air Force's Chad Hall again has been chosen the Mountain West Conference's Offensive Player of the Week.



Grimes also said Charles, who is averaging 128.2 yards during his past four games, "had his best day ever in breaking tackles, getting physical, running downhill . . . he was just incredibly productive."

## Etc.

- CU's game at Texas Tech on Oct. 27 will be televised by ABC (KMGH-Ch. 7), which begins its telecast at 10 a.m. MDT. With the CU-Nebraska game already set for ABC (Nov. 23, 10 a.m., Folsom Field), the Buffaloes have seven national TV dates - a school record for the regular season.
- CU punt-return specialist **Chase McBride** aggravated his separated left shoulder in the fourth quarter at Kansas State and was replaced by **Stephone Robinson**.
- Cody Hawkins is ranked 81st of 100 Division I-A quarterbacks in passing efficiency (114.8). He has a 55.7 percent completion ratio and has thrown 11 touchdown passes and 12 interceptions, including three Saturday night.
- Linebacker **Jordon Dizon** continues to lead Division I-A in tackles per game (12.71). His 11 stops at Kansas State gave him 375 for his career and moved him to No. 5 on CU's all-time list.

## Numbers game

**27-point loss** at Kansas State (47-20) was the largest margin during coach **Dan Hawkins'** 1 1/2 seasons at CU.

## He said it

"The kids don't care. They've set their sights so high I don't even think it entered their mind."

Mangino, on Kansas winning its sixth game and becoming bowl eligible. The Jayhawks were 6-6 in 2006 but missed the postseason mix.

## CSU

## Kubiak done for season

Junior safety **Klint Kubiak**, who hasn't practiced or played since he was hospitalized in Houston on Sept. 22 because of a bleeding ulcer, will not play again this season, Rams coach **Sonny Lubick** confirmed.

Kubiak, son of Houston Texans coach and former Broncos quarterback **Gary Kubiak**, intends to redshirt this season, giving him two years of eligibility remaining. He played in CSU's first two games this season before taking ill, making him eligible for a redshirt season because he will have played in fewer than 25 percent of his team's games.

Kubiak was CSU's leading tackler as a sophomore last season and had 12 tackles in the Rams' first two games this season. But during warm-ups before CSU's game at Houston, he felt sick and was taken to a hospital.

## Injury update

It appears senior receiver **Johnny Walker** will miss at least three games because of a badly sprained medial collateral ligament in his left knee and a high ankle sprain on the same leg.

Walker suffered the two injuries while blocking for running back **Gartrell Johnson** during Saturday's home loss against Air Force.

Starting strong safety **Mike Pagnotta**, who has missed two games with an ankle sprain, hopes to return to practice this week.