



## '06 game vs. CU gave Reesing his chance

### QB brings undefeated Kansas to Boulder

By Joshua Lindenstein  
Friday, October 19, 2007

A lot of freshman quarterbacks wouldn't be too pleased about having to burn their redshirt in the ninth game of a losing season. Kansas' Todd Reesing figures it might have been the best thing that could have happened for his career.

With one quarterback injured and another not getting the job done, Reesing relieved Adam Barmann in the second half against the Colorado Buffaloes last October and rallied the Jayhawks to a 20-15 victory.

Reesing went 7-for-11 passing for 105 yards and two touchdowns and also rushed seven times for 90 yards. The victory kicked off a three-game winning streak for Kansas that made the team bowl-eligible. And, though he saw limited action the rest of the season, the effort ensured Reesing a chance to compete with Kerry Meier for the starting job last spring.

"Going into spring ball, I might not have been given the chance to compete for the starting job (if he hadn't played against CU)," Reesing said in a phone interview with the Camera this week. "I'm one of those guys who once I'm given my chance that's all I need."

After dueling throughout the spring and the first couple weeks of fall camp, Reesing won the job from Meier, who started eight games last season.

All Reesing has done this season is guide the 13th-ranked Jayhawks to a 6-0 start that included a road victory against in-state rival Kansas State two weeks ago. He's thrown for 1,652 yards, and his 16 touchdown passes are just two shy of tying the single-season school record. He enters Saturday's game against the Buffs at Folsom Field with the 15th-best passer rating in the country.

"It's sunk in, but at the same time it still is kind of surreal," said Reesing, whose Jayhawks could go 7-0 for the first time since 1995 with a win over the Buffs on Saturday. "Every week we go in and there's more on the line.

"Obviously I'm never going to forget that game last year. But (the game against CU) this year has a little bit different implications and a little more (importance) going into it."

Listed at 5-foot-10, 200 pounds, Reesing doesn't have the prototypical quarterback frame that the 6-2, 220 Meier does. But KU offensive coordinator Ed Warriner said Reesing's football smarts and ability to learn quickly make up for any size disadvantage.

Warriner came to KU as offensive coordinator last spring and began shifting the offense from a more traditional scheme, with tight end sets and a commitment to the running game, to more of a spread, no-

huddle system.

"The changes were more what (Reesing) was accustomed to in his high school playing days," Warriner said. "That's not why we changed it but it played into his hands a little bit (during the quarterback competition).

"So far he's proven us right and done exceptionally well."

What made Reesing such a problem for the Buffs last season was his ability to scramble. The Buffs had prepared all week for the less mobile Barmann and were thrown for a bit of a loop when the unknown Reesing entered the game and began making plays with his feet.

"We didn't really practice that all week," CU linebacker Jordon Dizon said. "He came in and picked us apart one-by-one.

"He's a double-edged sword. He's just one of those guys who can hit you both ways. You can cover the pass well and next thing you know he's running down the field for 20 yards."

Reesing made an impression on CU cornerback Terrence Wheatley as well.

"When he ran, he wasn't running like most quarterbacks," Wheatley said. "He ran like a running back almost. He doesn't really want to go down."

CU redshirt freshman safety Kyle Black — a converted quarterback transfer from Air Force — has been running the KU offense for the Buffs' scout team this week in an attempt to impersonate Reesing's style.

Although Reesing's rushed for just 131 net yards (211 gross) this season, keeping him in the pocket and making him one-dimensional is one of the Buffs' main objectives for Saturday's game.

"Not to say he doesn't have a good arm, but we think he's a lot more deadly on the ground than he is passing," Dizon said.



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

**COLORADO vs. Kansas, Saturday, 3:30 p.m.;**  
**TV: ESPN**

## Buff to target talented Talib

By Tom Kensler

The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 10/19/2007 01:02:02 AM MDT



Kansas' Aqib Talib (3) prepares to catch a pass for a touchdown as Central Michigan's Josh Gordy (19) watches during the first half of a football game in Lawrence, Kan., Saturday, Sept. 1, 2007. (AP | Larry W. Smith)

**BOULDER** — One of the biggest surprises of the Big 12 season didn't happen on the playing field. It came in the form of an answer.

Colorado's Dan Hawkins was asked this week to pick the most talented player he has coached against during his two years in the

conference. Hawkins didn't blurt out the name of some blur from Oklahoma or Texas.

Without hesitation, his answer was Kansas two-way player Aqib Talib.

"We think Talib is probably the best we've faced," Hawkins said. "We thought he was pretty good last year, and we think he is better this year, if that's doable."

Talib is a 6-foot-2, 205-pound junior who is tied for the Big 12 lead with three interceptions in his primary role as a cornerback and also has four touchdowns on just seven receptions when used on offense. Spectators at Folsom Field on Saturday - and perhaps even ESPN viewers - might hear coaches and players for Colorado (4-3, 2-1 Big 12) holler out "Talib!" or "No. 3!" as the Buffaloes make sure to identify where the star of the 15th-ranked Jayhawks (6-0, 2-0) is lining up.

"Kansas does a great job of moving him around," CU defensive backs coach Greg Brown said. "He's an outstanding cornerback. And when they slip him in on offense, they're putting him there for a reason."

It would not come as a surprise if Talib declares for the NFL draft next spring, and that's fine with Hawkins. Colorado already has seen enough of Talib. He intercepted two passes against the Buffs last fall to help the Jayhawks rally for a 20-15 victory in Lawrence.

"Aqib's reaction time is really good," CU offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich said. "He

### Advertisement

**Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture**

**OfficeLiquidators.com**  
 Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

**SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY**

**OFFICE LIQUIDATORS**  
*Profit From Our Experience*  
**11111 W 6th Ave**  
**Between Kipling & Simms**  
**303-759-3375**

**SHOWROOM COUPON**  
**\$50 OFF**  
 MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

reads routes well. You can tell he's a smart player. He's a big, physical, fast guy. He has the whole package, which is not good (for CU)."

Buffs quarterback Cody Hawkins must be extra careful when a play call is directed in Talib's area, Helfrich said. As much as any cornerback in the country, Talib makes opponents pay for mistakes.

Talib set a school record when he returned an interception 100 yards for a touchdown against Florida International on Sept. 22.

"If you hang a curve on him, he'll hit a home run," Helfrich said. "You're not going to get away with one against this guy. We've got to be clean on our routes and not late with the throws."

Talib normally plays right cornerback but sometimes moves around based on coverage calls and opponents' offensive tendencies. Helfrich said CU can't afford to eliminate Talib's side of the field or simply throw away from him because that would hinder the offense too much.

"It's going to be tough to fit in a ball when you've got a great corner like that," Cody Hawkins said. "Sometimes you can take chances. But if you take chances against a corner like that, he's going to make you pay."

"Aqib is a guy who is going to play in the NFL. He's the best corner we've seen all year, hands down."

Kansas coach Mark Mangino believes Talib would be one of the nation's top wide receivers if he were to play exclusively at that position. Talib averages 24.9 yards per catch.

"He just makes plays where we put him," Mangino said. "Our team rallies around him. They feed off him."

Talib, from the football hotbed of suburban Dallas-Fort Worth, said he always has enjoyed the spotlight. Making an impact on both sides of the ball fits his ubiquitous nature.

"I like to move around and let people know I'm in the room," Talib said in July during the Big 12 media days.

Footnote. Jordon Dizon has been named one of 10 semifinalists for the Dick Butkus Award, which is given to the nation's best linebacker. The senior leads the nation in tackles with 97 (13.9 per game), and 71 are unassisted. The list will be narrowed to three finalists on Nov. 9, and the winner will be announced by the Downtown Athletic Club of Orlando in December.

Tom Kensler: 303-954-1280 or [tkensler@denverpost.com](mailto:tkensler@denverpost.com)

## The Lowdown

By Tom Kensler, The Denver Post

## COLORADO (4-3, 2-1)

Player to watch: QB Cody Hawkins

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture



**OfficeLiquidators.com**  
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

**OFFICE LIQUIDATORS**  
Profit From Our Experience  
11111 W 6th Ave  
Between Kipling & Simms  
303-759-3375

**SHOWROOM COUPON**  
**\$50 OFF**  
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

The redshirt freshman played like a first-year player in the 47-20 loss at Kansas State, completing less than 50 percent of his passes with three interceptions. Hawkins will want to make amends in leading his team to a big victory at home. But he had better not get too eager and force the ball into traffic.

Key for the Buffaloes: Contain Reesing.

Colorado's offense probably isn't ready to keep up in a shootout. So, as it was in the upset against Oklahoma, victory may depend on the CU defense limiting Kansas' scoring to somewhere in the 20s. The Buffs can't allow QB Todd Reesing, one of Big 12's best scramblers, to get loose out of the pocket.

## NO. 15 KANSAS (6-0, 2-0 BIG 12)

Player to watch: DT James McClinton

The senior doesn't get nearly as much publicity as cornerback Aqib Talib, but Colorado coaches say McClinton is one of the best they have seen. McClinton (6-1, 285 pounds) will try to stop CU's inside running game and also make life miserable for Hawkins. McClinton is capable of doing both. He has two sacks and eight tackles for losses.

Key for the Jayhawks: Force turnovers.

Continue to play defense like a band of thieves. Kansas ranks sixth nationally in turnover margin of plus-9 (18 takeaways against nine giveaways). The 12 interceptions didn't all come against

a pillow-soft nonconference schedule. Kansas picked off three passes in the win at Kansas State and four more last Saturday against Baylor.

### Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture



**OfficeLiquidators.com**  
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

**OFFICE LIQUIDATORS**  
Profit From Our Experience  
11111 W 6th Ave  
Between Kipling & Simms  
303-759-3375

**SHOWROOM COUPON**  
**\$50 OFF**  
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07



[Print page](#)[Close window](#)Longmont, Colorado  
Friday, October 19, 2007

Publish Date: 10/19/2007

## CU has shot to expose Kansas

*By Patrick Ridgell**Longmont Times-Call*

Time to see if the Colorado Buffaloes can answer one of college football's more intriguing questions: Is Kansas living a lie?

The Jayhawks, ranked 15th this week by The Associated Press and 13th in the BCS poll, visit Boulder on Saturday. They've never been among the top 15 in the BCS, and in that poll, they're ahead of USC, Texas, Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee and Michigan. They lead the Big 12 in scoring, scoring defense and total defense. They're one of six unbeaten teams in the nation, and the only one in the Big 12.

On the other hand, they got fat on a non-conference schedule that includes four teams from non-BCS leagues whose combined mark is 8-18. They beat up on woeful Baylor last week and haven't left their home state.

Then again, the one time they left Lawrence, they beat Kansas State, which owns convincing wins over Texas and CU.

Nationally televised and pivotal in the Big 12 North, this game from the outside lacks the hype of CU's date with Oklahoma. That's mostly because five of Kansas' six wins came against less-than-stellar competition. Until the Jayhawks, who have nine winning seasons over the past 38, beat a few quality teams, respect will elude them. Their early schedule cost them at a chance at some.

Saturday is their first chance.

Around the Big 12 ...

CU received this week its eighth commitment when running back Ray Polk pledged, according to Rivals.com and Scout.com. Polk is a four-star prospect who's attending Phoenix's Brophy Prep, the same school that produced CU lineman Blake Behrens. Polk had offers from Michigan, Nebraska, Arizona, Washington, Oklahoma State and many others.

CU's recruitment of California running back Darrell Scott continues. Scott, the nephew of CU receiver Josh Smith, is ranked the nation's top prep running back. P.T. Gates, who is completing coursework at Saddleback College in California, told Rivals.com he intends to enroll at CU this winter. Gates was ranked the nation's top junior college running back when he signed with CU last February.

Polk, Gates, the possibility of Scott, and the anticipated returns of Demetrius Sumler and Brian Lockridge will give the Buffs three things in their backfield that coaches crave: talent, depth and competition.

Buffs linebacker Jordon Dizon took the first step toward becoming the program's third Butkus winner over the past 20 years when he was placed Thursday on the award's list of 10 semifinalists. He's the only linebacker from the Big 12 among the semifinalists.

Three finalists will be named Nov. 9, and the winner in December.

Dizon continues to lead the nation in tackles with 97, according to CU statistics, and he's played 447 snaps, all but 12 of the defense's total in 2007.

The biggest Big 12 news this week came from Nebraska, where athletic director Steve Pederson was fired and Tom Osborne assumed duties as the interim A.D. No interim anything has had as much power as Osborne gets. His main task is to decide the fate of coach Bill Callahan, whose team plays like it is confused.

Callahan felt considerable heat back in 2005, when Missouri and Kansas blew the Huskers out. Reporters asked Callahan if he should be fired. But Nebraska finished the year with wins at CU and over Michigan in the Alamo Bowl, then won the Big 12 North in 2006 to earn its coach a contract extension in September. So, indeed, things can change quickly.

Callahan would have to go 32-1 to match the mark of his predecessor, Frank Solich, who was fired for letting the program drift toward mediocrity. Solich went 58-19 from 1998 to 2003. Callahan is 26-18.

If Osborne, who was never pleased with how Nebraska canned Solich in 2003, fires Callahan, fans will press him to hire within the Nebraska family. That's something Pederson didn't do.

Buffalo coach and former Husker quarterback Turner Gill already has had to downplay his interest in the job.

"My heart and soul is right here at the University of Buffalo," he told newspapers this week.

OK, fine. Just remember, Gill makes \$180,000 a year at Buffalo. Callahan earns \$1.6 million annually.

Don't forget Wyoming coach Joe Glenn. He grew up in Lincoln and has been a frequent visitor around the athletic department for years.

When Baylor assistant Eric Schnupp urinated on a Waco, Texas, bar this week to earn an indefinite suspension, he might have trumped all and staked claim to the season's strangest story. It's been a weird year, so that's impressive.

Schnupp resigned Thursday.

The most fun game in the Big 12 this week should be Texas Tech at Missouri. They own the fifth- and first-ranked passing offenses in the nation. This one might not end until Sunday morning.

The Missouri-Kansas game at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City has sold out. Both schools agree to play the game at the neutral site for two seasons, so each one sacrificed a home game with the other.

It's strange the Nebraska-Texas A&M game wasn't chosen for television. Considering the fuss these programs have generated in recent weeks, it seems perfect for airing. Meanwhile, two blowouts — Oklahoma at Iowa State and Texas at Baylor — will be shown on FSR and Versus.

*Patrick Ridgell's Big 12 notes column runs every Friday during the regular season.*

# Rocky Mountain News

To print this page, select **File** then **Print** from your browser

URL: [http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/ncaa/article/0,2777,DRMN\\_23932\\_5726252,00.html](http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/ncaa/article/0,2777,DRMN_23932_5726252,00.html)

## Looking to regain edge

Dizon: Win against unbeaten Kansas could make season

By B.G. Brooks, Rocky Mountain News  
October 19, 2007

BOULDER - Jordon Dizon must have misplaced the memo. You know the one.

Dan Hawkins, his coach at the University of Colorado, is reluctant to emphasize the significance of one game over another, and he communicates that almost daily, maybe hourly, to the Buffaloes.

Yet Dizon's take on Saturday's game against unbeaten No. 15 Kansas runs just a little counter to the weekly this-one-is-the-biggest-one approach.

Very bluntly, Dizon, a senior linebacker and the leading tackler in NCAA Division I-A, said, "This game could determine our season. It's either 2-2 or 3-1 (in the Big 12 Conference). We don't want to put ourselves in that position of fighting and scratching from the back, which we've been doing for the last couple of years.

"We want to dictate how the season goes. We don't want another team to lose and make us champions. . . . We just want to go out there, do our thing and win out."

Given what they have seen unfold on the Colorado sports scene for the past three weeks, concluding the regular season with five consecutive wins doesn't fall into the impossible category.

But to accomplish that, beginning against the Jayhawks, the Buffs must rediscover the intangibles that swept them past then-No. 4 Oklahoma in their most recent game at Folsom Field (Sept. 29).

No secret here, but CU hasn't been nearly as sharp in a win (43-23) at Baylor and a loss (47-20) at Kansas State, the latter being the worst in Hawkins' 1 1/2 seasons in Boulder.

But players take strong exception to any suggestion of a slow slip in focus since the Sooners were dispatched.

"It might be easy for people to think that way, but our guys have been in the film room, they know their stuff . . . it's just a matter of execution now," senior cornerback Terrence Wheatley said.

"You look at the last couple of games, we're just not making plays. That's what hurt us earlier in the season, against Florida State, Arizona State. You've got to make plays. For some reason, we just stopped doing it."

Primarily critiquing the defense, Wheatley echoed a Hawkins statement made the day after the Kansas State game: "If you're playing not to lose, it makes it so much easier for everybody to take advantage of that. You can't be afraid to be aggressive. . . . You've got to make plays on defense, not prevent (an opponent) from making them."

Need proof of their slippage as playmakers?

In three Big 12 games, the Buffs are No. 12 with one sack. They are No. 12 in penalties (27 for an 80.3 average), No. 12 in third-down conversions (12-for-46) and are tied with Texas Tech at No. 7 in turnover margin (minus-2).

Is this the same defense that stifled the Sooners?

To a man the same, Wheatley said, adding neither personnel nor fundamentals have changed: "This game is not magically



harder all of a sudden. . . . It's the same game; do what you've been doing all year and you'll be fine.

"It's important for us to get back into the flow and get the chemistry we had - just making plays, not worrying about who we're playing, just doing what we do every day in practice."

A CU win would leave the Big 12 with no unbeaten teams and elevate the Buffs into at least a tie for first in the North Division, depending on Kansas State's success at Oklahoma State.

A victory also would push CU one game closer to bowl eligibility (six wins required) with two home games and two road trips remaining.

"It would be nice to go out there (Saturday) and show people there was just a little bump in the road, but we're all right, we're fine," Wheatley said. "We've still got good players who can make plays. . . . Kansas is a good opportunity to show people what we're all about."

Copyright 2007, Rocky Mountain News. All Rights Reserved.