

# Rocky Mountain News

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## Local college football notes

September 18, 2007

**CU**

### Fix it fast, effectively

Offensive line coach/run-game coordinator **Jeff Grimes** said there are "no quick fixes" for what's ailing a CU ground game that has produced 32 and minus-27 yards in its past two games.

Instead, "You've just got to try and get better, push guys to get better and create competition," he said. "The first guys will step up, or other guys will."

Grimes, the Buffaloes' third line coach in three seasons, inherited a unit lacking in overall numbers. He had only six linemen available during spring drills, although the 2006 recruiting class included eight offensive-line recruits.

Pinpointing that as a reason for the current run-game woes "would be an excuse," he said. "As a coach, you play with what you've got. We've got enough guys here that we should have the opportunity to get it done. . . . The run game is a team thing, but, obviously, we're the ones who start everything."

Grimes has spoken with his players and "presented them with the scenarios as they are right now. . . . I'm trying to push some young guys into action. If they're going to do it, they've got to step up and get hold of it."

Most likely to break into Grimes' rotation are freshmen **Ryan Miller**, who has been working at right tackle, and **Kai Maiava**, who can play any of the three inside spots. Through three games, the same five linemen have taken every snap.

### Keep on keeping on

Since his arrival, coach **Dan Hawkins** has preached being "never too high, never too low" to his players. He also has told reporters there won't be any noticeable difference in how the Buffs resume weekly work after wins or losses.

That has held true after consecutive losses.

"We'll just keep working on it. . . . When a student is ready, the teacher will appear," Hawkins said.

He praised his players' "mentality, resolve, integrity. . . . Everything you want in a football team is great. We'll just keep playing our music and wait for some of the guys to join in the chorus."

### He said it

"He's a guy who snaps 100 right, then fouls one up. . . . We just have to be consistent."

Jeff Grimes, on junior center Daniel Sanders, who made three errant snaps in the shotgun formation Saturday.

### Ready to rumble

Defensive-line play has been good in most areas, but it could improve with this week's addition of **Chris Perri**.

Suspended for three games because of two off-field incidents, Perri said he has been told by position coach **Romeo Bandison** to be ready to play outside on run downs, then move inside in passing situations.

Perri, a 6-foot-4, 275-pound junior-college transfer (Laney), said Bandison "wants me to create some havoc for him" with his inside pass rush. Bandison and other defensive coaches have described Perri as "high intensity" and "a motor guy."

Perri and linebacker **Michael Sipili**, who also returns this week, have practiced during their suspensions and are expected to be ready for the game, Hawkins said.

## CSU

### Strange cats

It has been 34 years since Colorado State has played the Houston Cougars. Though sometimes it might not seem like it, that was long before Sonny Lubick arrived in Fort Collins, and the venerable coach and his staff are grateful they had an extra week to prepare for the unfamiliar opponent.

After a bye last week, the Rams reconvened for practice Monday and began diverting their full attention toward Saturday's game against the Cougars (2:30 p.m. MDT, CSTV).

Lubick said the team devoted about 20 minutes during each of last week's three practices to Houston.

"This week, we'll spend a majority of our time on them," he said. "Hopefully, we're a step ahead and, hopefully, we're not doing the wrong things. But (the bye) helps."

He said it

"It probably will be a concern we don't talk about. I was down there a couple times doing some recruiting, and I said, 'Man, this is hot.' So no matter what you do about it, we can only fool them until they get off the plane, and then they're going to figure it out."

Lubick, on the hot and humid conditions the team can expect in Houston.

### Reassessment

The bye gave Lubick and his staff a chance to reflect on some of the details that led to the Rams' 0-2 start. Improving the performance of the special teams, particularly the punt unit, emerged as a priority.