



McBride hurts shoulder, out for Baylor

By Ryan Thorburn

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Chase McBride, one of the heroes in Colorado's upset of Oklahoma, is out of the lineup indefinitely.

The Buffs' special teams standout sustained a shoulder injury while taking a hit in Wednesday's practice. CU head coach Dan Hawkins said McBride will not be available for Saturday's game at Baylor.

Wide receivers Stephone Robinson and Scotty McKnight were fielding punts at the end of the session and are expected to fill in for McBride, whose 31-yard punt return set up Kevin Eberhart's game-winning field goal against the Sooners.

"That's life, that's football," said Hawkins, who rewarded McBride with a scholarship after his clutch performance against OU.

One of the things that makes McBride great is his ability to catch punts so consistently. Robinson touched the football 35 times last season and fumbled six times.

"He's done a good job. He knows that was an issue last year," Hawkins said of Robinson.

CU is expected to get freshman tailback Brian Lockridge back from injury this week. He will add another option to an already deep backfield that racked up 161 net yards against the Sooners.

Pulling (hair) guard

There is some royal Samoan lineage in Kai Maiava's family. The Wailuku, Hawaii, native is proud of his background and isn't about to cut his hair just because a Sooners defensive lineman gave it a vicious tug after being pancaked by CU's new starting left guard.

"That was the first time that had ever happened to me," Maiava said. "It's my choice and if they decide to pull my hair we'll take the penalty."

OU's Curtis Lofton was called for a 15-yard personal foul for pulling Maiava's hair. The penalty helped set up a CU touchdown in the fourth quarter to cap the drive and cut the deficit to 24-17 in a game the Buffs ended up winning 27-24.

A number of other players on the offensive line, including Devin Head, Wes Palazzi and Daniel Sanders, have let their hair grow down to their shoulder pads as well. None as impressively as Maiava.

"I enjoy representing my culture," Maiava said. "Slowly but surely we're getting that Polynesian vibe going."

Staying motivated?

Is there a chance the Buffs will have a letdown against Baylor after beating the No. 3-ranked team in the country?

"If anything, we know Baylor is going to try extra hard now," Maiava said. "We're preparing like we're playing USC."

Hawkins said practices have been pretty crisp, but not perfect.

"It's been good," the coach said. "But I've been in a lot of earholes trying to get us to that next spot."

Notable

A Denver newspaper reported that Bernard Jackson has been told by Hawkins to focus on graduating instead of trying to get back on the football team.

"I don't know," Hawkins said when asked after Wednesday's practice if there was a chance for Jackson to return to the team at any point this season. "I doubt it."

The coach is a little bit more optimistic about offensive lineman Erick Faatagi getting cleared academically.

"We're hopeful for Erick," Hawkins said.



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Cody Hawkins making progress as starter

Game beginning to slow down for redshirt freshman quarterback

By Kyle Ringo

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins recently likened the experience of sitting on the bench during his freshman season a year ago to sawing off his leg.

No doubt, Hawkins was eager for the 2007 season to arrive, but he now admits he wasn't quite prepared for how much faster life's pace becomes as the starting quarterback for a major college football program.

"When school started, it was so hectic," he said. "It felt like, 'I've got football, football, class, class, class, football, football, class, class."

"Then you go home. Wake up and do it all again."

Things are beginning to slow down for the redshirt freshman, not just in life but on the field. Hawkins said he is settling into the job and feeling more like a leader on the team.

He said competing at game speed with athletes at the Big 12 Conference level takes some getting used to and he is beginning to understand what is required of him for his team to win.

"I think I've always had a lot of confidence in myself that I could do it," Hawkins said. "I just didn't necessarily know how it would feel or what everything was going to be like.

"When you're watching from the stands or even from the sidelines, it is so much different than when you're under center. It's funny because stuff seems like it happens so fast, or, lately, slower."

Through the first five games of his career, Hawkins' statistical line is so-so. Nothing to consult the record books about, but no need to go looking for backup Nick Nelson, either.

Hawkins has led the Buffs to a 3-2 record against a tough schedule, with the highlight being last week's victory over then-No. 3 Oklahoma. He has completed 57 percent of his passes for 1,164 yards with eight touchdowns and eight interceptions.

His passing efficiency rating of 112.50 ranks 11th among Big 12 starting quarterbacks, a smidgen ahead of Iowa State senior Bret Meyer.

When asked to critique himself to this point this week, Hawkins focused on the only numbers that ultimately matter to him.

"Three-and-two, that's my critique," he said. "I always said that was my job, to win football games.

We've won three games so far, but we've also lost two and those two losses, a lot of those were things I could have done to help out."

The quarterback often gets too much credit for a team's success and too much blame for its shortcomings. With Hawkins, both aspects figure to be magnified as he continues his career, because he is the coach's son and his outgoing nature and quotable personality bring him that much more media attention.

CU coaches are pleased with how Hawkins has handled it all to this point. He has been just what they expected and everything they needed a year ago when the passing game struggled so badly.

But there is plenty of room for improvement in every aspect of his game.

"The routine plays 100 percent of the time is something that with every great quarterback, that just happens," offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich said. "That's the point that we certainly want to get to and it's a point he's certainly capable of."

Some things get lost in the euphoria of unexpected wins such as the one the Buffs pulled off last week. Hawkins would be the first to say that while he is proud of the result, he got away with a few bad throws that could have easily changed the outcome.

Three different Oklahoma defenders dropped potential interceptions last week, and none of those passes ricocheted off the hands of receivers like the two interceptions Hawkins did experience.

Just before Hawkins threw a fourth-down touchdown pass to tight end Tyson Devree, he threw an ill-advised pass that should have been caught by Oklahoma linebacker Curtis Lofton. Cornerback Lendy Holmes and safety Nic Harris also dropped chances for interceptions.

His decision-making is the one area in which he can make the most improvement quickly. His father, CU coach Dan Hawkins, said he would like to get to the point where Cody isn't taking a mulligan at least once a week with a throw he chooses to make.

The coach and quarterback/father and son have talked about it. And Cody Hawkins receives similar messages about managing the game and making the plays that are there in quarterback meetings with Helfrich.

"Striving for perfection in that area is something that we need to see," Helfrich said.

There are also reasons to be excited about Hawkins' potential. In the first five games, he has often found ways to make plays that many probably didn't think he could make.

The Oklahoma game also provided examples of those.

With the game on the line, he managed to make plays when other young quarterbacks might have buckled under the pressure, such as completing an improbable fourth-down pass over two defenders to wide receiver Patrick Williams, who made an excellent catch in the fourth quarter.

Hawkins also scooped up a poor snap up off the ground and completed a pass. He scrambled under pressure and completed another pass. He squeezed several passes into tight situations converting on third downs and he always gets up quickly after taking hits.

"I think a game that is this fast with these kinds of athletes in the Big 12, experience definitely helps," Hawkins said. "I'm definitely benefiting from experience."



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THE DENVER POST

cu football

Returner McBride to miss Bears

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 10/04/2007 01:43:00 AM MDT

BOULDER - The reigning Big 12 Conference special-teams player of the week won't get to show off his skills this week.

Colorado punt returner Chase McBride injured his shoulder during Wednesday's practice and has been ruled out of Saturday's game at Baylor.

CU coach Dan Hawkins said after practice he did not know the severity of McBride's injury. McBride will be replaced this week by senior Stephone Robinson, who led the team last season with 15 punt returns.

At 5-feet-7 and 160 pounds, McBride is one of the smallest players in the conference, and the senior said his diminutive size works to his advantage on punt returns.

"You get to hide behind blocks," McBride said.
"You get to make people

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miss you easier."

McBride made several Oklahoma players miss him Saturday during CU's 27-24 victory over the Sooners. He returned four punts for 87 yards, including a 31-yarder that set up Kevin Eberhart's winning field goal.

Hawkins said McBride never dropped a punt during August drills.

"He never even bobbled one," the coach said.

After rushing for 1,800 yards at Broomfield High School, McBride went to Wyoming on scholarship in 2003. But a problem in his right foot that began during high school ultimately required two surgeries and kept him from being medically cleared to play for the Cowboys.

He transferred to CU in 2004 but saw action in just five games in two seasons before

earning starting duties as the punt returner as a senior. earning starting duties as the punt returner as a senior.

"I just tried to work as hard as I could," McBride said. "I knew one day I'd get my chance. I'm glad I was able to capitalize on it."

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Linebacker commits. According to Rivals.com, Colorado has received an oral commitment from Will Pericak, a 6-4, 240-pound senior linebacker at Boulder High School. Pericak picked CU over Colorado State. ... TexasHoops.com reported that first-year Colorado men's basketball coach Jeff Bzdelik received a commitment from Javonte Clanton, a 6-foot, 185-pound point guard at Blinn (Junior) College in Brenham, Texas. Originally from suburban Columbus, Ohio, Clanton played four games at Niagara in 2006.

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Footnotes. Hawkins expects tailback Brian Lockridge to be available against Baylor. Lockridge, a 5-8, 180-pound true freshman, missed the Oklahoma game after suffering a concussion earlier in the week during a practice. .
.. Research by the CU sports information department determined that the win over Oklahoma was the fourth victory by a Buffs team with no time remaining. The most recent had been the "Hail Mary" catch by Michael Westbrook at Michigan in 1994. ... CU has lost two games in a row to Baylor after a string of five straight wins over the Bears.

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DAILY TIMES-CALL

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Toughened Buffs making statement

CU still hoping to turn up dial on physical play

By Patrick Ridgell
The Daily Times-Call

BOULDER — Five games in to 2007, it appears the Colorado Buffaloes meant it when they claimed in August they won't be pushed around anymore.

CU's victory over Oklahoma last week prompted post-game quotations from Sooners players that said the Buffs were tough.

As one Sooner told the Tulsa World, "We haven't seen nobody as physical as Colorado. No excuses, but it caught us off guard, seeing a team that just came out and hit us back in the mouth like we'd been hitting other people."

CU coaches, especially offensive line coach Jeff Grimes, started harping on toughness months ago, and continue to today. But according to the Buffs this week, just hitting back is not going to be enough.

As they prepare for Saturday's game at Baylor (5 p.m., no TV), they said they have to push back and then push some more.

"Every play, you have to be shoving the guy at the end of the play, you have to be finishing him on the ground. You have to be doing something to show you're the tougher guy and you'll finish him, not vice versa," offensive tackle Tyler Polumbus said.

"We're progressing, but we're not there yet," Grimes said. "I think we've gotten better each week. I think they're beginning to understand what that means. I think we have to get to a point where we do it on a consistent basis. It doesn't just show up some times, it shows up all the time.

"What's helped us a lot is Kai (Maiava) is playing a little bit more and he's a very aggressive, nasty guy. He's a guy I can point to and say, 'See what I mean.'"

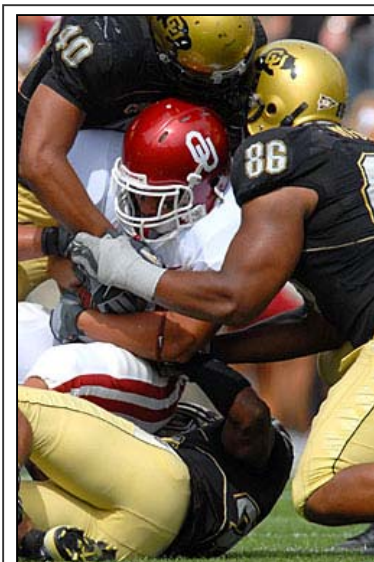
Maiava, who had his hair pulled and chin strap broken Saturday after he pancaked Sooners linebacker Curtis Lofton, said Sunday he doesn't mind angering opponents if it gains CU penalty yards. That's what happened Saturday.

But Maiava's move might have been motivated by an unusual pre-game pep talk senior cornerback Terrence Wheatley gave.

Wheatley told his teammates he had played Oklahoma three times in his CU career, and he called the Sooners bullies.

"They're a team that's going to try to bully, hit you in the mouth, push you late, whatever it is, to see if you're going to back down," Wheatley said. "And if you back down, they go for the knock-out shot, and it's all over. The second you stand up to them and say you're not going anywhere, it's a shock to the system for them because they've never had that.

"And we saw that on film they had never played a team like us, that's not going to really back down and take anything from them. You have to earn it. So I think we're establishing an identity, and it's good to do that against a team like



Hypolite (86) and the rest of the Buffs got physical with Ian Pleasant and third-ranked Oklahoma last Saturday in a 27-24 upset win. **Times-Call/Joshua Buck**

that, which is known to be kind of a bully, physical team in the Big 12.”

But as Grimes said, they’re not there yet.

Senior offensive tackle Edwin Harrison said the level of toughness CU craves isn’t there every day.

“Once you develop that toughness in practice and do it every day, it becomes who you are and what you are,” Harrison said.

“As a group, we want to develop toughness as something that is almost second nature. Knocking a guy, putting him down on his behind, on his back, is just something we do without even thinking about it or remembering to do.

“It’s just something we do naturally, and that’s something we still have to work on.”

McBride injured: Head coach Dan Hawkins said punt returner Chase McBride injured his shoulder in practice Wednesday and is likely out Saturday.

Hawkins said he did not know how long McBride will be out. In McBride’s place, Stephone Robinson will be the top punt returner, Hawkins said. Robinson held the job last year before McBride beat him out.

Hawkins said Robinson’s punt fielding has improved.

“He’s done a much better job,” Hawkins said. “He knows that was an issue last year.”

Extra points: Asked Wednesday if Bernard Jackson will play football again for CU, Hawkins said, “I don’t know. I doubt it.” Hawkins said CU is “hopeful” guard Erick Faatagi will play one day for the Buffs. Jackson and Faatagi have had academic problems. ... Hawkins said running back Brian Lockridge (concussion) will play Saturday. Tight end Tyson DeVree, who scored a touchdown against Oklahoma after suffering a concussion the previous week, said Wednesday he’s “day to day.” ... Hawkins said practice this week has been good, but added he “got in a lot of ear holes” on Wednesday.

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BROOKS: Big 12 North is alive, kicking

October 4, 2007



Let's see . . . Red River Rivalry or Sunflower State Showdown?

In football seasons past, that's no contest, a no-brainer even. A free trip to Limon or London? A carafe of Thunderbird or vintage whatever?

Don't feel bad about canceling those cotton candy/corn dog orders. Given last week's seismic shift in the Big 12 Conference, a nice chunk of the league's intrigue Saturday centers not on Dallas, but on Manhattan, Kan., where undefeated, unproven Kansas plays emerging Kansas State.

And besides unranked KU at No. 24 K-State, there are at least two more Big 12 games that rival the Texas State Fair's annual football entree (No. 11 Oklahoma vs. No. 19 Texas) in terms of determining how the league's standings - I'm pointing North - might evolve.

No. 17 Missouri, a more legitimate 4-0 than its undefeated neighbor, plays host to No. 25 Nebraska in a game viewed in August as being potentially decisive in the North.

It still could be, but K-State, Colorado and perhaps Kansas - if credibility is found in Manhattan - appear to have discovered strong voices in declaring their intentions.

Meanwhile, CU is at Baylor, formerly the South Division's equivalent of a hospice, and is in a position unknown during the Buffaloes' brief **Dan Hawkins** era.

Can the Buffs back up last week's cornerstone win over then-No. 3 Oklahoma with their first road victory under Hawkins?

The North Division, for the last several seasons a place where championship football went to die, suddenly has vital signs. Before CU's 27-24 win over Oklahoma, the Sooners had won 15 consecutive regular-season games against North opponents.

K-State hadn't won on the road against a top 10 team in 46 tries, but with its 41-21 mauling of then-No. 7 Texas last week, the North appears ready to reverse numbers that pointed to a blatant imbalance of power.

The South has won three consecutive conference titles, four of the past five and took 14 of 19 games against the North last season. South teams entered this season having won 42 of their previous 57 games with the North.

Publicly, most league coaches scoff at what was occurring in interdivisional play. Hawkins hasn't been in the Big 12 long enough to experience the sting, but his colleague, Texas' **Mack Brown**, might have been prophetic with this preseason statement:

"I think this (season) is the best chance for somebody to win the league that nobody would expect. I think people are going to quit talking about us and Oklahoma."

Few expected it to happen this weekend, but the conversation already has shifted.

Saban scores bull's-eye

Alabama coach **Nick Saban** might or might not have chosen his words carefully about No. 6 South Florida.



Jay Janner © AP

Kansas State, with running back James Johnson, beat then-No. 7 Texas on Saturday. The No. 24 Wildcats are helping give the Big 12 Conference North Division strong vital signs.

In explaining the emergence of nontraditional schools (see: South Florida), Saban claimed academic differences between conferences are a factor: "There's a significant amount of players who don't qualify at some schools and they end up being pretty good players at some other schools.

"I think there are six guys starting on South Florida's defense who probably could have gone to Florida or Florida State but Florida and Florida State couldn't take them. And if you do a good job of recruiting that way . . . "

Was South Florida coach **Jim Leavitt** hot? Is a politician slippery?

Seething, Leavitt said: "That's amazing, a guy can make a quote like that when he doesn't have any idea. The truth is, we have two nonqualifiers out of 110 on our team or I'll resign tomorrow. And those two will both get their degree.

"Why that bothers me is, it takes a hit at the credibility of our program that we can't do it with just hard work. There always has to be some reason. That is the heart and soul of our program. So he's attacking the heart and soul."

So when can we schedule an Alabama-South Florida game?

Say (Swiss) cheese

Wisconsin's defense, coordinated by former CU assistant **Mike Hankwitz**, ranks 46th in Division I-A in scoring defense (22.4 points a game), 53rd in total defense (360.6 yards a game), 42nd in rushing defense (125.6 yards a game), 76th in pass efficiency defense (59.3 percent completions, for nine touchdowns and three interceptions).

The Badgers are 5-0 and ranked No. 5, but in two of the past three weeks, they have survived shootouts against Michigan State (37-34) and The Citadel (45-31). Said corner **Allen Langford** in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: "Sooner or later, we've got to get this corrected, because we're not going to be able to pull off this type of win every week."

Last and short

- Auburn placekicker **Wes Byrum**, a true freshman, has made 8-of-10 field-goal attempts, including three exceeding 40 yards. His 43-yarder - made twice after Gators coach **Urban Meyer** tried to "ice" him with a timeout - beat then-No. 4 Florida 20-17.
- Reminder to Tennessee coach **Phil Fulmer**: Athletic director **Mike Hamilton**'s stated expectations for your football program are to play for the SEC championship four years in every 10 and win two.
- By *The Seattle Times*' count, Sept. 22 was the highest-scoring day in Pacific-10 Conference history. There were 370 points scored (average of 74 a game), surpassing the 363 scored Oct. 22, 2005.

Last gasps

Oklahoma's stunning loss to Colorado last week marked the fourth time in the past five Sooners defeats the outcome was decided on the final play.

Season Opponent Deciding play Score

2005 at Texas Tech Red Raiders touchdown 23-21

2006 at Oregon Blocked Sooners field-goal attempt 34-33

2006 *Boise State Broncos two-point conversion 43-42 (OT)

2007 at Colorado Buffaloes field goal 27-24* *Fiesta Bowl*; Source: *Oklahoma*

Rocky Mountain News

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Bufs out to stay grounded

Buffaloes watch for letdown at Baylor after breakthrough

By B.G. Brooks, Rocky Mountain News
October 4, 2007

BOULDER - For reasons aside from geography and scheduling, Waco, Texas, represents largely uncharted territory for the University of Colorado football team.

The Buffaloes have been there twice (1999, 2003) since the formation of the Big 12 Conference, but never with the baggage that accompanies them on this weekend's trip.

Not that last week's eye-popping 27-24 win against the nation's third- ranked team qualifies as "baggage" in a derogatory sense, but it must be dealt with just the same.

In athletics, hangovers can occur from overindulgence in failure or success, and it is a heady swig of the latter that separates this CU trip to the outreaches of Texas from the others.

Bufs coach Dan Hawkins believes this team is fully into his "never too high, never too low" approach. But this is a measuring stick he never has handled, following a win over Oklahoma with an afternoon against Baylor.

"I just like to hang right in the middle, and I'm trying to get our guys to that level, too," Hawkins said. "Where they can be resilient and . . . just as tough in the good times as they are in the bad times."

The Buffs experienced plenty of the bad ones last season, including a 34- 31 triple-overtime loss to the Bears at Folsom Field. It was upsetting enough to leave Hawkins holed up in his office all of Saturday night, the first time in almost 25 years of college coaching he resorted to that.

The loss left most of his players sleepless, too.

"Any time you go through a game like that and the outcome is not what you wanted, it's tough," junior safety Ryan Walters said. "You definitely have a little chip on your shoulder when you play them next. You've got to take advantage of the opportunity to make things right."

Doing that will require Walters & Co. coping with Baylor's spread offense, a passing scheme the Buffs expect to get very familiar with during the final half of the season.

All of CU's final six opponents are positioned among the top 30 passing offenses in this week's NCAA Division I-A statistics. The list: No. 1 Texas Tech, No. 6 Missouri, No. 10 Kansas, No. 15 Nebraska, No. 21 Baylor and No. 30 Kansas State.

Baylor averages almost twice as many passes (48) as runs (25) a game.

CU safety D.J. Dykes expects those numbers to hold up Saturday and present "a challenge for us. We'll probably do some things with five or six DBs in the game, make sure our nickel and dime guys are sharp and that the underneath coverage stays sharp like it's been all season. I feel like our guys are really coming along, and as long as we keep doing our jobs, we'll be all right."

For Baylor to be all right, a rash of dropped passes must end. Ten drops last week in a 34-10 loss at Texas A&M aided in the Aggies defense forcing the Bears into 10 three-and-outs on offense, only 52 snaps from scrimmage, a season-low 254 yards and their fewest first downs (seven) in eight seasons.

Conversely, the Baylor defense was on the field in wilting heat for 94 snaps, which coach Guy Morriss called significant.

"We left them out there way too long," he said.

In his fifth year at Baylor and nowhere near .500 (17-33), Morriss doesn't believe last week's win over the Sooners makes Saturday an opportune time for the Buffs to visit.

"I think some people make that argument, but we expect them to roll in here feeling pretty good and to play well," Morriss said. "If we think otherwise, we're in for a long afternoon."

Texas Christian at Wyoming

- **The game:** Noon Saturday, War Memorial Stadium (30,514 capacity), Laramie.
- **The records:** Wyoming is 3-1, first game in Mountain West Conference; Texas Christian is 3-2, 1-1.
- **The series:** Texas Christian leads 2-1.
- **Who's favored:** Wyoming by 3.
- **TV/radio:** the mtn.; KEPN-AM (1600) in Denver.
- **Scouting report:** The Cowboys' quest for a conference crown begins today in their 300th game in history at War Memorial Stadium. They face a TCU squad that has rebounded for consecutive wins against Southern Methodist and Colorado State after a loss at Air Force on Sept. 13. This could be a low-scoring game between teams featuring uneven offenses and rugged defenses. The Cowboys rank first in the MWC in rushing defense, allowing 72 yards a game, and total defense (248.8). TCU is second in total defense (331.8), first in scoring defense (14.6 points allowed per game) and has recorded a league-best 11 interceptions.

Northern Colorado at Idaho State

- **The game:** 2 p.m. Saturday, Holt Arena (12,000 capacity), Pocatello, Idaho.
- **The records:** Northern Colorado is 0-5, 0-1 in the Big Sky Conference; Idaho State is 1-3, 0-2.
- **The series:** Idaho State leads 18-5.
- **TV/radio:** Altitude; KFKA-AM (1310) in Greeley, KRKS-AM (990) in Denver.
- **Scouting report:** With games this week against struggling Idaho State and next week against winless Weber State, the Bears have an opportunity to collect their first Big Sky win and snap their school-record 13-game losing streak. Northern Colorado's offense has shown encouraging signs the past two games, gaining more than 225 passing yards and more than 325 total yards in each contest.

Colorado Mines at New Mexico Highlands

- **The game:** Noon Saturday, Perkins Stadium (5,000 capacity), Las Vegas, N.M.
- **The records:** Mines is 2-3, 1-1 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; New Mexico Highlands is 3-2, 2-1.
- **Scouting report:** The Orediggers offense finally got on track last week, scoring 41 points in a win against Oklahoma Panhandle State to surpass their point total from their first four games combined. Mines will need to keep the points coming against New Mexico Highlands, which boasts the top passing offense in the league behind quarterback Alex Aispuro.

Mesa State at Dixie State

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Local college football notes

By B.G. Brooks and Paul Willis (CU), Randy Holtz (CSU), Jim Benton (Air Force), Pat Rooney (Northern Colorado) and wire services (Wyoming).
October 4, 2007

CU

Three steps to success

Sophomore punter **Matt DiLallo** is stationed in the middle of the pack among his Big 12 Conference peers.

Averaging 41.9 yards a punt, he's No. 6, but CU special-teams coach **Kent Riddle** believes DiLallo only will get better as the season progresses.

Already, 11 of his punts have been downed inside the opposition's 20-yard line, compared with 14 all of last season. And through five games, he has had three punts of 50 yards or longer; he had eight in 2006.

Among Riddle's priorities for DiLallo this week has been cleanly catching the center snap. DiLallo momentarily bobbled a couple last week against Oklahoma, an indication for a need for more concentration, Riddle said.

"He's just got to take things one at a time," Riddle said. "Catch, step and punt - that's what he's got to remember."

Road recipe

The Buffaloes are winless (0-6) on the road under second-year coach **Dan Hawkins**. Their most recent road win was Oct. 29, 2005, at Kansas State (23-20).

Hawkins, whose career road record before coming to Boulder was 40-14 (22-8 at Boise State, 18-6 at Willamette University), insists there's no secret to winning away from home.

"Sometimes there's a little too much made of it," he said, noting younger players usually cope better each trip with crowds and different environments.

Stepping up, out

With successive 100-yard rushing games (123 against Miami, Ohio; 110 against Oklahoma), senior tailback **Hugh Charles** has shown he can be the hard-nosed, every-down running back the Buffs staff envisioned.

Charles, who also caught five passes for 48 yards against the Sooners, had a season-high 24 carries in last week's game. Quarterback **Cody Hawkins** said Charles built confidence with each touch.

" . . . He got his confidence going in the system where he is really starting to hit that stride," Hawkins said. "Hopefully, he can keep it going the rest of the year. . . . I've seen his confidence improve every game and it's awesome because we know Hugh has unlimited potential."

Etc.

- Cody Hawkins has climbed from 90th to 84th in passing efficiency (112.5 rating) and is 51st in total offense (229.4 yards) in