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## Bufs pleased but not yet satisfied

By Chris Dempsey  
The Denver Post

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**BOULDER** — Perhaps the most significant aspect of Colorado's victory over West Virginia wasn't the win itself, but the overwhelming sense of a football program having turned the corner.

"I think they totally believe in what we're doing and why we do it," CU coach Dan Hawkins said after Thursday's 17-14 overtime win in Boulder. "And that is huge."

There are two levels at work. First, there are still players on the team who were recruited by former coach Gary Barnett. In two very major cases — defensive tackle George Hypolite and linebacker Brad Jones — they are team leaders. Their buy-in to a new coaching staff and system has been essential to the second level: the young players, who have hit the ground running.

After two seasons of more growing pains than breakthrough moments, there is no doubt in the coach's mind his program is finally starting to close in on where he wants it to be.

And for those who were there pre-Hawkins, it has been a better place. Jones says the program still gets great players, but . . .

"Now the whole program seems like it's developed more," he said. "I don't want to say a better program, but there's no other way to describe it."

"Everything's much more detail-oriented. Everything's about doing things right. It just seems like you work on so much more and everything's more intricate. It just seems like the program has literally taken a step up."

Jones was a freshman the last time CU started 3-0 — 2004 under Barnett.

"Whatever school gives you a scholarship, you don't expect that the coaches that recruited you there are going to be gone at any point when you're there," Jones said. "It's like a catastrophe. It's the worst thing that could happen. That's how I felt; that's how all the guys felt."

"(Hawkins) came in, and so of course, the first day we met him, there is some resistance, but it was really, really, very, very quickly that people started buying into his program. He knew exactly what we were feeling. He said: 'You guys don't even have to like me. I hope you do, but just buy in to what I'm saying and the program is going to be successful.'"

"And after a while, the things he was saying and the stuff he was doing, we were like, 'Oh, this is different, but this is a lot better.' This is definitely a lot better than it was."

Hawkins is 11-17 in Boulder after four consecutive Western Athletic Conference titles at Boise State.

His assessment is also eye-opening. He says they are rolling in the right direction and are getting "really, really, really close."

"If this group keeps hanging together and doing things right, we're going to have some things to say

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by the end of the season," said Hawkins.

"I do think all of these guys are totally sold on how we lift and how we discipline and how we practice and what we ask of them and why we ask that of them, and I think we're consistent with that."

Colorado's win over a ranked but fading West Virginia team likely will not get the Buffs in the polls, but expect CU to figure prominently in the "others receiving votes" section outside the top 25.

A win Saturday over Florida State, currently No. 24, could put the Buffs in the polls for the first time since November 2005.

But getting that win is another matter. A program on the rise and a successful start to the season calls for a check on how well these mostly young Buffs handle success with so many games to play.

"We hold ourselves to a very, very high standard," quarterback Cody Hawkins said. "And until we meet that standard, we're not going to be happy."

Because, as Hypolite points out, "it doesn't matter if we beat the No. 21 team if we go out and get blown out by Florida State."

*Chris Dempsey: 303-954-1279 or [cdempsey@denverpost.com](mailto:cdempsey@denverpost.com)*

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# Good news keeps on coming for Hawkins

## Colorado coach to become grandfather next spring

By Kyle Ringo

Sunday, September 21, 2008

Dan Hawkins is off to the best start in his three seasons as coach of the Colorado football team with the Buffs at 3-0 and headed south for a meeting with Florida State next week.

Not long ago, Hawkins and his wife, Misti, received news that made this September one to remember for the family beyond the success between the lines.

Next spring Hawkins will become a grandfather at the spry age of 48 when his youngest daughter, Brittany, gives birth. Dan and Misti planned to be grandparents at some point after having four children of their own. They were surprised and overjoyed to know it would be happening soon when Brittany called them after the Buffs beat Colorado State in the season opener three weeks ago.

Brittany is a teacher in Boise, Idaho, and is married to Boise State linebacker Tim Brady, a senior starter this year.

"I'm kind of fired up about it, one, because I miss the little kids," Hawkins said. "It's interesting how their life has kind of paralleled Misti and I.

"We got married before my last year playing. She was the bread winner, and I wasn't. We had Ashley early. So I kind of identify with some of the stuff they're going through."

While Dan Hawkins is becoming a grandfather, Cody Hawkins is going to be an uncle. He's feeling a bit envious his little brother, Drew, will be closer to his future niece or nephew than he will be. Drew Hawkins is a walk-on true freshman on the Boise State football team this season. "When I found out about it, I think the first thing I thought about was that it's almost like my kid just because I'm very close to my sister and we're very close in age," Cody Hawkins said. "I'm going to do everything I can to try and be a good uncle just like I've tried to be a good brother in the past."

### Moyd frustrated

Colorado junior running back Kevin Moyd has been patient throughout his career, trying to work hard and earn playing time on offense, but it just hasn't come and he's noticeably frustrated.

Moyd, who is in his fourth year in the program, hasn't carried the ball or caught a pass yet in the first three games this season and he had just four carries for 16 yards in his career coming into the season.

He said he doesn't know what more he has to do to earn playing time above and beyond his regular contributions on special teams.

"I've been waiting for so long, I'm just going to let them do what they do," Moyd said of coaches. "There is nothing I can do about it. Like it's out of my hands, obviously."

Dan Hawkins mentioned Moyd when talking about his stable of running backs after the Buffs beat West Virginia.

"Kevin Moyd hasn't had a carry yet and the first time he gets the ball, everyone is going to be asking why he hasn't been playing," Hawkins said.

Moyd's chance could come this week when he plays in front of family and friends in his home state of Florida against the Seminoles.

### **Notable**

Safety D.J. Dykes said he had to be taken to the hospital Tuesday when he was suffering from a severe stomach virus. He was held out of the West Virginia game and was replaced in the lineup by redshirt freshman Anthony Perkins. Dykes said he expects to play this week. ...

Defensive back Ben Burney is participating in some workouts with the Buffs after undergoing four surgeries since the end of last season. Burney will undergo a fifth procedure later this month on his left wrist and plans to be back in action for spring football. Burney said he is feeling better than he has in years after the first four operations.



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