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## Grandpa keeping watch

**Anthony Perkins gets more playing time while a fellow safety learns of a famous ancestor.**

**By Tom Kensler**  
*Denver Post Staff Writer*

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BOULDER — In these computer-driven times of immediacy, sports history does not seem as interesting to today's athletes as it was to past generations. So it should come as no surprise that Colorado senior D.J. Dykes only recently learned about the grandfather of redshirt freshman Anthony Perkins, a fellow safety.

"I thought: 'Wow. That's pretty cool,' " Dykes said.

If Dykes would Google the name, his jaw might drop. Don Perkins earned All-America honors as a running back at New Mexico but is best known for six Pro Bowl invitations during an eight-year career with the Dallas Cowboys that began in 1961, when he earned NFL rookie of the year honors. He is also in the Cowboys' Ring of Honor.

Don traveled to Boulder to watch his grandson get his first career start against West Virginia when Dykes sat out with flu-like symptoms. Grandpa also flew to Jacksonville, Fla., to see Anthony play against Florida State.

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"For the most part, he's just watching, enjoying everything," Anthony Perkins said of his grandfather. "He wants to make sure he stays out of the coaches' way."

A 5-foot-10, 195-pounder, Anthony Perkins also knows something about playing running back. He played offense and defense at Northglenn High School, ranking third in the state in rushing (1,628 yards) in 2006 as a senior. An honor student, he attended Community Christian High School but participated in athletics at Northglenn through the co-op program.

There was no doubt where Anthony wanted to play college football. He became the first player to give an oral commitment for CU's 2007 recruiting class, doing so on April 24, 2006, as a defensive back.

"Players are a lot bigger and faster and are better

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athletes than in my day," Don Perkins said by phone from his Albuquerque home. "It's hard for a redshirt freshman to play. I think he's doing real well."

Usually coming in off the bench, Perkins is tied for seventh on the team with 22 tackles.

Perkins father, Tony, grew up in Albuquerque and went to Colorado State. He did not play football past the high school level but became a computer engineer. Don Perkins said Anthony has at least one trait that reminds him of himself: attentiveness.

"Anthony is not going to be the one standing out there that will get blown away because he's not watching the play," Don Perkins said.

Dykes is almost embarrassed to say he had never heard of Don Perkins. He predicts a bright future for Anthony.

"He's a smart player. And he can hit you," Dykes said. "And you can tell by the passion he has for the game. It's in his blood."

## Position change.

Redshirt freshman Eugene Goree (6-1, 295) has been moved from defensive tackle to offensive guard, supplying depth to a position that has been hit by attrition. "It's a lot like defense, coming off the ball and shooting your hands," Goree said.

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Longmont, Colorado  
Thursday, October 09,  
2008



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## CU's Solder growing at tackle

*By Patrick Ridgell*

*Longmont Times-Call*

BOULDER — Colorado's Nate Solder knew moving to offensive tackle wouldn't be easy. And that was before he had time to realize who would be the opponents to block.

The past two weeks have seen him lined up against the likes of Florida State's Neefy Moffett and Everett Brown. Last week, Texas had defensive end Brian Orakpo, the Big 12's sack leader. Any assessment of the sophomore's play thus far, five games into his first season at a new position, must factor the opposition into the equation.

At least, that's what CU coach Dan Hawkins appears to think.

"He's going to be a great player; I think he's doing OK," Hawkins said.

"What's so difficult, a little bit for our guys to judge, is there's a good chance that he played against two first-rounders back to back. ... The more confidence he gets, the more familiarity he gets with it, the better he'll be."

When Denver Broncos' rookie left tackle Ryan Clady dropped by CU practice the other day, Hawkins pointed at Clady and told Solder something like, "That's you in a few years."

Clady, whom Hawkins signed while coaching Boise State, was a first-round NFL Draft pick in April.

Solder came to CU as a tight end in 2006 and redshirted. He switched to tackle prior to last spring's drills. His size (6-foot-9, 300 pounds) and agility make coaches believe he'll be a special tackle one day.

He jumped at the chance to be a tackle because he said he believes he'll be good at it, and the team needed help at the position. Solder's assessment of his progress so far echoes Hawkins'.

"It's funny — there's so much I feel like I've learned, but there's so much that I still have left to learn," he said. "It's going well, and I'm adapting pretty well, but there's a lot I still don't know. I'm not as good yet as I'd like to be."

"I feel like I have a lot of talent and I do some things really well sometimes, but I feel like I'm still a young guy and I need to mature and get better at a lot of things."

Solder specifically cites his pass blocking as an area that needs to improve. According to CU statistics, Solder has participated this season in 354 offensive snaps, or every single one, and has yet to allow a sack.

"I think he has the tools, smarts, athletic ability, size and strength," Hawkins said. "It's just getting more confidence instead of thinking about everything and reacting to everything, to really trusting what he does and go do it."

**POSITION CHANGE:** Redshirt freshman Eugene Goree has moved from defensive tackle to offensive guard this week. Hawkins said the move addresses CU's depleted depth on the offensive line.

"Right now we have such a dire need there," Hawkins said.

Goree will be in the mix to play this weekend at No. 16 Kansas, Hawkins said, adding Goree is "very gifted" and is picking things up as well as can be expected.

Will Goree stay at guard? Hawkins said it's too soon to know.

The Buffs lose both starting defensive tackles to graduation following 2008, and there's not much experience or size remaining behind George Hypolite and Brandon Nicolas.

Meanwhile, the offensive line, especially at guard, should get some help from the return in 2009 of injured players Mike Iltis and Max Tuioti-Mariner. Freshmen Ethan Adkins, Shawn Daniels and starter Blake Behrens are seeing their first playing time this fall, as well.

**EXTRA POINTS:** Hawkins said receiver Jason Espinoza is expected to play on offense Saturday. Espinoza has missed the season with a broken collar bone he suffered in August, but is practicing. Josh Smith will continue to return punts. Espinoza returned punts well last spring. ... Hawkins said kicker Aric Goodman is performing well in practice again this week. ... With Saturday's early kickoff, CU is holding early meetings and has also moved its practice times up this week.

Justin Williams contributed to this story. Patrick Ridgell can be reached at [pridgell@times-call.com](mailto:pridgell@times-call.com).



# Bufs' offensive line gets Goree

## Defensive tackle could play on offense as early as Saturday

By Kyle Ringo

Thursday, October 9, 2008

Just a few days ago the idea of Eugene Goree playing offense for the Colorado football team in this week's game at Kansas was far-fetched, to say the least.

What a difference a few days can make.

Unsatisfied with the current group of guards on the offensive line, coaches decided this week to move the redshirt freshman defensive tackle to the other side of the ball to see what he could do. Coaches have liked what they have seen.

"He is picking it up probably about as well as a guy could," Hawkins said. "He's very gifted in there now. He's got a punch. He's athletic in there and he's a big dude. He's 300 pounds plus. If he continues to figure things out, he'll be a nice player in there.

"Now can he get it all figured out by Saturday? Who knows?"

Goree, a 6-foot-1 product of Murfreesboro, Tenn., has never played offense in a game, but coaches are considering using him as early as this Saturday on the road against the No. 16 team in the nation because he is stronger and more athletic than any of their other options.

Goree said his only offensive experience since before high school was practicing as the backup center for a time on his high school team.

"I'm really interested in it," Goree said. "It's something new -- a new challenge, and I like challenges."

The Colorado offensive line has been decimated this season by injuries and academic problems. Three linemen have suffered season-ending injuries, including guards Mike Iltis and Max Tuioti-Mariner, and two others were ruled academically ineligible before training camp.

Still, coaches do have options. They recruited eight offensive linemen in 2007 and added three more who are true freshman now. Some of those players are among the affected with injuries and academics, but it would seem like someone would be ready to take advantage of the opportunity.

Hawkins was asked after Wednesday's practice why it was necessary to move Goree when players such as redshirt freshmen Shawn Daniels and Ethan Adkins, and walk-ons David Clark and Keenan Stevens are available if something should happen to current starters Devin Head and Blake Behrens.

Nearly all of those players were added to the program during Hawkins' tenure.

"We're just trying to get some help in there," Hawkins said. "We are. We're trying to play the best people in there and trying to get some fortification going on."

CU is trying to get some consistency going from its offense, which hasn't produced a 400-yard game in offense yet this season. The Buffs are struggling to run the ball behind the beleaguered line and rank 92nd nationally on the ground.

Colorado will lose two senior defensive tackles at the end of the season and Goree appeared headed toward trying to fill the shoes of George Hypolite and Brandon Nicolas.

Hawkins said that still could happen even if Goree really takes well to the guard position. He could easily move back to defense when more healthy offensive linemen are available.

"Right now we just have such a dire need over there. And I'm not saying he's going to make it permanent. He might come out and be a great guard and flip him over and be a nose guard."



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# KU linebackers present stiff test

## Bufs prepare for Jayhawk defense

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer  
Wednesday, October 8, 2008

Colorado coaches went into the Kansas game the past two years feeling they had their hands full with a tough Jayhawk defense that featured future pro players such as cornerback Aqib Talib and James McClinton.

Those guys are gone this year, but the Buffs still face a difficult challenge on Saturday.

CU offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich said the strength of the Kansas defense this season lies in its linebackers, James Holt, Joe Mortensen and Mike Rivera.

All three of those players are seniors and have been through it all in their careers. Finding ways to get them blocked and out of position is a challenge. All three rank among the top five tacklers on the Kansas defense, with Holt and Mortensen tied at 32 total tackles each.

"Those guys, man, they play hard, physical and they jump out at you," Helfrich said.

It's probably not good news for a young CU offensive line that has struggled so far this season to get the running game going on a consistent basis. The problem has been made worse in the past two weeks by season-ending injuries to Ryan Miller and Max Tuioti-Mariner and the fact the Buffs have played Florida State and Texas.

Helfrich said the Jayhawks present their own challenges.

"They're still very good up front with stout guys up front, and they play tough, run-support, secondary defense," he said. "Their guys just play hard and play fast."

### 119 vs. 119

One of the interesting battles within the game will come this week when Colorado kicks off to Kansas.

The Buffs are ranked last out of 119 Division I teams in kickoff coverage, having allowed two kicks to be returned for touchdowns this season. The Jayhawks are ranked last in kickoff returns, with a puny 13.2-yard average.

### Kicking for scribes

CU coach Dan Hawkins is renowned for finding interesting and amusing ways to conclude practices. Among some of the best have been linemen sliding through snow on their bellies, closest to the pin

(players hit golf balls toward a helmeted teammate down field), and linemen catching punts and kickoffs.

Hawkins came up with a new one Wednesday when he asked media members to come on the field to attempt a 25-yard field goal with quarterback Cody Hawkins serving as holder. This writer, along with scribes from the Denver newspapers and KOA radio play-by-play man, Mark Johnson, all missed their attempts. Some worse than others (Johnson kicked in cowboy boots).

Each time a media member missed, the Buffs had to run a gasser across the field and back. Chris Lewis, a studio host for KOA Radio, was the only member of the media to make the kick and stop the team from having to run. Lewis played rugby at CU.

Hawkins offered this assessment of the media kicking afterward.

"The get-off times were really slow," he said. "There is only so much time you have to protect."

It might have been coincidental that Hawkins chose to put the media on the spot with kicks to make four days after place-kicker Aric Goodman missed three field goals against Texas. Perhaps Hawkins wanted reporters to gain some small measure of what Goodman goes through.

Hawkins said Goodman has responded well to his off day in practice this week. Hawkins said he has been playing head games with his kicker every time he kicks.

"I sit out here and play the worst psychologist in America and try to get in his head and disrupt him," Hawkins said. "He has answered pretty good. 'I just sit there and go, 'Oh you missed three. You're no good. You can't make it. You're washed up. You're going to be in the headlines again.' I've just tried to come up with every one-liner I can think of to keep him distracted."

## Notable

Hawkins said he thinks his players have responded well this week, working hard on trying to end their two-game losing streak, then he said, "We haven't brought out the bamboo and started beating them across the back with it." ... Hawkins said Jason Espinoza will travel to Kansas and is likely to play on offense. Josh Smith will continue to return punts, a job Espinoza had in his sights before breaking his collarbone in training camp. ... Linebacker B.J. Beatty said the hairline fracture in his leg has healed and he's beginning to feel more like himself. He expects to play this week.



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# Rocky Mountain News

## CU report: Goree moves to offensive line

Rocky Mountain News

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Though **Eugene Goree** wasn't sure what it was, he knew change was coming this week.

"I got a text from 'Hawk,' and he said he wanted to have a chitchat with me," Goree said, referring to Colorado coach **Dan Hawkins**

Hawkins' message to the 6-foot-1, 295-pound defensive tackle: You are moving to the offensive line - specifically, right guard.

The change was necessitated by the Buffaloes' injury woes on the offensive front. **Ryan Miller**, **Max Tuioti-Mariner** and **Mike Iltis** have suffered season-ending injuries, and projected rotation players **Erick Faatagi** and **Sione Tau** are ineligible.

Goree is taking a crash course at right guard this week, a challenge he is entering with little offensive experience. The redshirt freshman was exclusively a defensive lineman at Riverdale High School in Tennessee.

"I practiced at backup center, but I didn't really take any snaps in a game situation," Goree said of his high school days. "We're just going to see how I take to it these next couple days and just go with it."

Hawkins said Goree's size and athleticism made the move intriguing, adding that playing this weekend was not so far-fetched: "You never know. We're trying to get some help in there."

### What a rush

If you've already survived a snowslide, a simple winter storm won't instill the same sense of awe.

While the CU offensive line respects the pass rush and defensive front of No. 16 Kansas, the Buffs have endured the avalanche of the Florida State and Texas pass rushes.

"We've absolutely seen some of the best pass rushes, and those guys are some of the most athletic in the country," CU guard **Devin Head** said. "Florida State, they really probably were the most athletic front we're going to see this year, but as a whole, I don't think Kansas is any less of an opponent."

CU surrendered four sacks to Florida State and three to Texas, while the Longhorns also stymied the Buffs running game.

"After last week, we really have something to prove," Head said.

### Etc.

\* **Jason Espinoza** (broken collarbone) is ticketed to play as a receiver. He's missed the first five games.

\* Hawkins said **Aric Goodman**, who missed three

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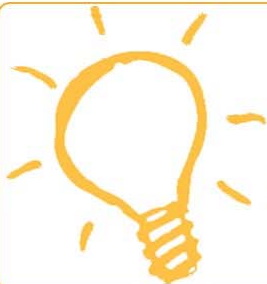
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## Rocky Mountain News

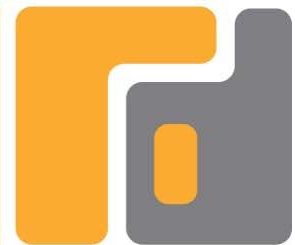
field-goal attempts against Texas, has kicked well in practice this week despite Hawkins' efforts "to get in his head." Hawkins said he has "used every one-liner on him I can think of" to try to throw off the kicker.

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