



Buffs to keep rotating QBs

Hawkins, Hansen producing similar results on field

By Kyle Ringo
Monday, November 3, 2008

Colorado quarterbacks Cody Hawkins and Tyler Hansen will continue to share time this week in a home game against Iowa State unless something dramatic occurs in practices beforehand.

Coach Dan Hawkins and offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich emerged from the team's fifth loss in six games Saturday at Texas A&M saying the quarterback rotation remains the best option for the team because both players add important elements to the offense.

"I think for us right now it is, and, I, generally am not a big fan of that," Helfrich said. "But I think the way that those two guys have handled it and the different styles they are, I think it's OK." The Big 12 announced Sunday the ISU game will begin at 11:30 a.m. and will be televised by Versus. The Cyclones are the only team in the conference more desperate for a win right now than the Buffs.

ISU has lost seven consecutive contests and hasn't won since beating Kent State on Sept. 6 at home. The Cyclones have lost 15 consecutive road games, a streak that spans more than three years.

Hosting the Cyclones represents another opportunity for Colorado's quarterbacks to build confidence and get the offense moving.

The rotation experiment began four weeks ago in practices leading up to Kansas State and produced a win in that game, but the Buffs have since lost two straight with Hawkins and Hansen producing very similar results.

The offense averaged 2.9 yards per play regardless of which quarterback was on the field against Missouri and it averaged 5.1 yards per play against the Aggies, again no matter who was under center.

Cody Hawkins returned to the starting role against the Aggies a week after Hansen started against Missouri, but who starts from week to week is more about what plays coaches plan to run in the first series.

The Buffs continue to make mistakes that snuff out opportunities. Both quarterbacks were also guilty in that regard Saturday.

Hawkins threw a crucial interception in the end zone on a third down from the Texas A&M 5-yard line and Hansen threw two interceptions, including one that sealed the victory for the Aggies in the waning moments.

They have shown flashes of brighter days ahead from time to time.

One example of that came late in Saturday's loss to the Aggies when Hansen led the team on a 98-yard scoring drive, making several key runs on the march.

Hansen has played about two-thirds of the time the past two weeks leading 18 drives, while Hawkins has led eight drives.

Stewart remains

upbeat

A day after suffering a broken leg, what likely will be a season-ending injury, CU freshman tailback Rodney Stewart was able to keep a smile on his face despite the misfortune.

Stewart, the team's leading rusher this season, has been in this situation before. He suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament early in his junior year in high school and missed that season. That experience taught him the value of a positive attitude.

"Everything happens for a reason," he said. "I can't look down it and say I messed myself up or nothing like that. ... I can't let it get to me."

Stewart moved around the Dal Ward Center on crutches Sunday afternoon with a badly swollen right foot heavily discolored black and blue. He will probably have the leg set in a cast later this week.

Stewart had a good chance at setting the freshman single-season rushing mark at CU before the injury. He has rushed for 666 yards this season. Only three former Bufs gained more in their first year in the program.

Stewart said he is holding out hope his teammates can win two more games and become bowl eligible. He believes he could play in the bowl game.

"I think it definitely can happen," Stewart said.

Notable

Place-kicker Jameson Davis said he will probably be held out of several practices this week as he recovers from a concussion suffered in Saturday's game, but he expects to play against Iowa State. Davis made the first field goal of his college career at Texas A&M and will continue to compete with Aric Goodman for the job.



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First look: Iowa State

By Kyle Ringo
Monday, November 3, 2008

Game 10

Matchup: Iowa State (2-7 overall, 0-5 Big 12) at Colorado (4-5, 1-4).

Game time: 11:30 a.m. at Folsom Field (53,750).

On the air: Versus. KOA (850 AM).

Web site:

www.cyclones.com.

The series

Colorado leads 47-14-1, including a 23-6-1 mark in Boulder. The Cyclones have won two of the past three. The series began Sept. 12, 1946 with a 13-7 CU victory in Boulder.

Last time

Colorado collapsed after taking a 21-0 lead into halftime and lost in controversial fashion 31-28 when two apparent game-tying field goals were disallowed in the final seconds.

The Buffs surrendered 31 consecutive points in the third and fourth quarters before rallying and giving place-kicker Kevin Eberhart two chances to tie. Eberhart and field goal team sprinted on the field in the final seconds and hit a 50-yard field goal, but officials called a delay of game penalty on the Buffs for snapping the ball before it was marked ready for play.

Eberhart then made a 55-yard attempt, but officials ruled the snap didn't happen in time before the final second ticked off the clock after they had marked the ball ready for play. It was the most disappointing loss of the 2007 season.

The coach

Gene Chizik is 5-16 in his second season as head coach at Iowa State. Chizik is 2-11 in Big 12 play, but one of those victories came against the Buffs last year.

Numbers game

1,101 -- The number of days as of today since Iowa State last won a road game. The Cyclones have lost

15 consecutive times on the road dating back to Oct. 29, 2005 at Texas A&M.

The lowdown

The Cyclones are coming off a 59-17 loss to Oklahoma State and haven't won since Sept. 6 against Kent State. They have lost seven consecutive games. ...

This is the third consecutive week the Buffs face a team with dreary defensive numbers. ISU is 116th in the nation in pass efficiency defense, 109th in total defense and 108th on scoring defense. The Cyclones are allowing 451 yards of offense and 35 points a game. ...

Alexander Robinson is the team's leading rusher, averaging 59 yards a game.

Who to know

QB Austen Arnaud: A home-grown product of Ames, Iowa, who has become the unquestioned starter as a sophomore after sharing time with senior Brett Meyer last season. He has completed 60 percent of his passes for 1,811 yards, 10 touchdowns and six interceptions.

WR R.J. Sumrall: A senior playmaker from Orlando, Fla., He has made 44 catches for 608 yards and five touchdowns this season. He was not a factor in last season's game.

DB Leonard Johnson: He set an NCAA record with 319 kickoff return yards against Oklahoma State last week. He is also the Cyclones' fourth leading tackler with two fumble recoveries and an interception. Also leads the team in all-purpose yardage.

-- *Kyle Ringo*



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Longmont, Colorado
Monday, November 03,
2008

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Iowa State may be Buffs' best hope

CU's woes abound, but bowl game still in reach

By Patrick Ridgell

Longmont Times-Call

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — The Colorado Buffaloes are about to discover what life is like without true freshman running back Rodney Stewart, the brightest spot in a season that's becoming gray with disappointment.

As if that's their only problem.

CU's kicking game is unsettled, after Jameson Davis hit a field goal and then suffered a concussion. And third-quarter defensive lapses helped Texas A&M score three touchdowns, exposing a secondary that has held up fairly well in 2008 until now.

Then, on offense, the team's two quarterbacks threw three interceptions Saturday, including one in the end zone. Receiver Josh Smith wants the ball more. And now, without Stewart — who broke his right fibula Saturday — Darrell Scott, health permitting, must carry more weight.

The good news? Next up for the Buffs is a home date with Iowa State (2-7, 0-5 Big 12), which has lost seven in a row and assured itself of no postseason. The Big 12 announced Sunday that the game will start at 11:30 a.m. and air on VERSUS.

While CU (4-5, 1-4) remains last in the Big 12 in scoring and yards, guess who yields the league's most points and offense? Iowa State. If CU's beleaguered offense is ever going to get going, now's the chance.

Last Wednesday, coach Dan Hawkins said he believed his team would respond well after the previous week's 58-0 loss at Missouri. Despite Saturday's loss, he commended its resiliency.

"I thought they did a great job with that," Hawkins said. "I thought they would, because I didn't think our coaches are going to be negative, and they're going to keep coaching.

"Our guys are coming. And we keep (saying) that at some point, life and football become more a part of a cause than anything else. And if you can dig up your heels and strap it up, that's a good thing."

That's fine. Otherwise, there isn't much to crow about, after losing five of six.

It's become clear that teams have little trouble handling CU's receivers. Josh Smith has eight catches in five Big 12 games, making him a forgotten man.

Smith said coaches are giving him more plays off due to his special teams responsibilities. He also said cramps Saturday limited his play in the second half.

"It's just one of those deals where I don't want them to tell me how to run the ball, and I don't want to tell anyone how to coach," Smith said. "I'm trying to be as good a tool as I can be to continue to move the ball down the field. That's about all I can do."

CU needs two wins in its final three games to reach bowl eligibility. The Big 12 has enough bowl slots to virtually guarantee the Buffs will get one, along with those extra practices that accompany a bowl — which coaches, especially coaches of young teams — covet.

Ten games into 2008, the Buffs have forgotten that freshmen play many key roles. Colorado could've looked across the field Saturday and seen youth thriving.

Freshmen scored all three Texas A&M touchdowns Saturday. A sophomore who's in his first season as a starter threw each one. The team's leading rusher was a freshman. Trent Hunter, the Aggie who made two fourth-quarter interceptions, is a freshman, too.

CU is in danger of missing a bowl for the second time in three years. Including last year's bowl loss to Alabama, the Buffs have suffered two losing years in a row, and are in danger of posting a third for the first time since the first three years of Bill McCartney's coaching tenure.

The offense, which must replace Stewart, determine which quarterback to use and when, and settle its issues with Smith, must improve to avoid that mark.

"We have a responsibility to move the chains and keep the defense off the field," quarterback Cody Hawkins said. "When we do move the ball, you see how dominant our defense is, like they were in the first quarter (Saturday)."

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Injuries return spotlight to Scott

By Patrick Ridgell

Longmont Times-Call

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — It was about an hour after Colorado lost at Texas A&M on Saturday afternoon when Darrell Scott finally emerged from the locker room to answer a few questions. Better late than never, huh?

That might be the way his freshman season is described, too.

Rodney Stewart, the 5-foot-6 tailback whose productivity and ability in 2008 have been nothing short of “shocking,” as running back Darian Hagan said this week, will miss the final three games of the year after breaking his right fibula Saturday. His season, the fourth-best ever for a CU true freshman running back, has overshadowed some of the frustration that has accompanied Scott’s injury-plagued year.

That shadow is gone now. CU, with its 4-5 record and dwindling bowl hopes, needs Scott to show what he can do. Scott leaned against a rail and looked down on the ground in an empty Kyle Field late Saturday afternoon as a bright sun set. He said he looks forward to this opportunity.

“Everybody looks forward to that,” he softly said.

The Buffs have other backs, such as Demetrius Sumler and Kevin Moyd, on whom they’ll count to help fill the void. Sumler is the best blocker of the group but lacks the big play-making ability CU needs. Granted, he’s only had 31 carries, but his longest run in 2008 has been 12 yards.

Moyd has developed more rust than anything after spending the better part of four years waiting his turn. Maybe with repeated carries, he’ll shed it and shine.

But when Iowa State comes to Boulder next week, expectations are that Scott will be the tailback in the backfield of CU’s offense, which is last in the Big 12 in scoring and yards.

“Speedy (Stewart) was playing really well and able to do some good things for us and allow Darrell to not be pushed into the fires,” Hagan said. “Now he’s going to jump into the fire, and he’d better be ready and he better show up.”

Scott’s lingering groin, knee and ankle problems have sidetracked what was, and still is, expected to be a big college career in 2008. The freshman even missed practice time this week when he was too sick to get out of bed. He entered Saturday with 191 rushing yards at 3.41 a carry.

He rolled his ankle again Saturday at the end of an amazing 42-yard run in which he leaped over three Aggies, landed on his feet and kept running. It showed the kind of talent he has, the kind that made teammate George Hypolite declare in July that if CU’s seniors show Scott right, he’ll win the Heisman Trophy one day.

Scott would settle for emerging from a game uninjured.

“It’s every game I roll my ankle,” he said. “Just have to rehab and do it all over again until the offseason.”

Scott said trainers are doing everything they can to keep him healthy. That includes ankle braces, he said. He said no offseason surgery will be required.

Coaches have waited for Scott to regain his health. Hagan said he had more spring to his step Saturday than he's had in weeks. Yet the frustration that comes with rolling his ankle again can't be ignored.

"We have to keep building his consistency," offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich said.

Scott has 18 carries in his past two games, and his 10 Saturday were his most since the Eastern Washington game, which was the last game during which he felt good, he said.

"I used to average 30 carries a game," Scott said. "I would have to say I need carries to warm up.

"But it's not about me. We haven't even had our whole offensive line. We've had so many injuries, it's ridiculous."

Scott became a bigger part of the offense after Stewart's injury Saturday. Health permitting, he'll be a bigger part next Saturday.

"I have to tough it out and try to make plays," he said.

"I'll do what I can."

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Rocky Mountain News

CU report: A passing hope?

By **B.G. Brooks**, Rocky Mountain News ([Contact](#))

Published November 2, 2008 at 9:10 p.m.



Photo by L.G. Patterson / Associated Press

L.G. Patterson / Associated Press

Missouri linebacker Sean Weatherspoon stops Colorado running back Rodney Stewart for a loss during their game Oct. 25. Stewart broke his fibula against Texas A&M on Saturday.

CU report: A passing hope?

Given the state of their passing game, the Buffaloes might find some solace in these statistics:

The four quarterbacks to face the Iowa State defense most recently have completed 76.4 percent of their passes for 1,382 yards and 12 touchdowns. And that foursome - Baylor's **Robert Griffin**, Nebraska's **Joe Ganz**, Texas A&M's **Jerrod Johnson** and Oklahoma State's **Zac Robinson** - was intercepted only once.

In now-No. 8 Oklahoma State's 59-17 rout of Iowa State on Saturday night, Robinson, a junior from Chatfield High School, completed 18-of-27 passes for 395 yards and five touchdowns.

Included among Robinson's five scoring passes was a school-record 95-yarder to **Jeremy Broadway**. Robinson & Co. visit Folsom Field on Nov. 15 for CU's final 2008 home game.

By contrast, two Buffs quarterbacks, sophomore **Cody Hawkins** and freshman **Tyler Hansen**, combined to go 18-for-34 for 198 yards, no touchdowns and three interceptions in the 24-17 loss at Texas A&M.

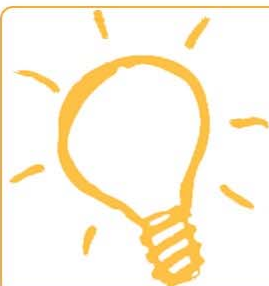
CU remains last in the Big 12 Conference in passing offense (181.6 yards a game) and has slipped to 95th nationally in that category. The Buffs also are last in the conference in total offense (311.6 yards) and scoring offense (18.4 points).

The game against Iowa State on Saturday at Folsom Field will kick off at 11:30 a.m. and be televised by Versus. CU is offering four tickets for \$60, and veterans will be honored at the game.

NATURAL HEALING

Tailback **Rodney "Speedy" Stewart** said Sunday his broken right fibula will not require surgery, but coach **Dan Hawkins** added that might change after further testing for possible ligament damage in Stewart's right ankle.

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Rocky Mountain News

Either way, Stewart is expected to miss from four to six weeks, ending his freshman season unless the Buffs win two of their final three games and become bowl eligible.

Stewart was injured in the second quarter Saturday when a tackler "horse-collared" him. "He pulled me back, and I just heard my ankle snap - and then he rolled on me," Stewart said, noting he didn't know the severity of the injury "until I tried to get up."

Stewart, who scored CU's first touchdown, finished with 19 yards on five carries, giving him 622 in nine games. The 5-foot-6, 175-pounder from Westerville, Ohio, had rushed for 100-plus yards on three occasions, tying a freshman record initially set by **Lamont Warren** in 1991.

He felt confident about breaking that mark, as well as pushing toward a 1,000-yard season.

In his absence in CU's final three regular-season games, Stewart said fellow freshman **Darrell Scott** and sophomore **Demetrius Sumler** "have to step up. Both of those guys have to come out and practice hard. Our linemen have to get more confident - and they're doing that every game."

FILL 'ER UP

Hawkins said receiver **Josh Smith's** non-productivity Saturday partly was due to Smith spending extra time in the locker room for much of the second half, receiving intravenous fluids after the player complained of dehydration.

Smith caught one pass for eight yards but also dropped a probable touchdown pass from Hansen and fumbled on an end-around in the first half.

Hawkins said Smith, who has only eight catches for 121 yards in five Big 12 games, also continues to be plagued by shoulder problems.

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cu football

Freshman Scott now in spotlight

By The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 11/02/2008 10:36:55 PM MST



Colorado's Darrell Scott (2) rushes for a first down Saturday in College Station, Texas. (David J. Phillip, The Associated Press)

Colorado running backs coach Darian Hagan might say that if freshman tailback Darrell Scott didn't have all that bad luck, he wouldn't have any luck at all.

Near the end of his 42-yard run in the second quarter Saturday in the 24-17 loss at Texas A&M, Scott rolled an ankle when trying to avoid a diving Aggie defender. Scott has been bothered by a sore ankle for much of the season and also was slowed by a hyperextended knee and strained groin.

The 42-yard gain is the longest of the season for the Buffaloes on a play from scrimmage.

"It's unfortunate luck, bad luck

for that guy," Hagan said of Scott's injuries. "But he will be fine. He'd better be."

Scott is now the featured running back, replacing fellow freshman Rodney

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"Speedy" Stewart, who fractured a fibula in his right leg during the second quarter and is out four to six weeks. Sophomore Demetrius Sumler becomes the top reserve.

"I think my guys will do all right; it was never a one-man deal," Hagan said. "Speedy was playing real

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well, and he did some good things for us that allowed Darrell to not be pushed into the fire. Now he has to jump into the fire. He has to be ready and show up.

"That was an unbelievable run he had," Hagan added, referring to Scott's 42-yarder. "He jumped into the air and landed on three guys and kept his feet. We just have to keep

loving him up. We'll be happy with him."

One is a lonely number. For the fourth time in the past five games, CU's best big-play receiver, sophomore Josh Smith caught just one pass — an 8-yarder in the first half, although Smith did drop a would-be touchdown pass from quarterback Tyler Hansen.

Smith said he cramped up during the game and sat out some plays. But coach Dan Hawkins said "issues behind the scenes" also have prevented Smith from getting more touches, other than on kickoff and punt returns.

Suggesting that it's not his place to complain, Scott told reporters after the game: "It's just one of those deals where, I don't want them to tell me how to run the ball, and I don't want to tell anyone how to coach."

Aggies young, too. Colorado isn't the only Big 12 team that can talk about inexperience on its roster. Each of Texas A&M's 24 points was scored by a freshman: place-kicker Randy Bullock (one field goal, three PATs) and wide receivers Jeff Fuller (two touchdowns) and Ryan Tannehill (one touchdown). The Aggies were led in rushing by another freshman, Cyrus Gray, who netted 80 yards on 11 carries.

Fading down the stretch. Colorado has struggled

all season to finish out games. The Buffs started Saturday's game going 4-for-6 on third-down conversions but went 1-for-10 the rest of the way. For the season, CU has been outscored 123-86 after halftime.

Vet's game. Colorado is promoting Saturday's home game against Iowa State as its annual Veterans Day tribute. A special ticket deal of four tickets for \$60 is available at CUBuffs.com.

Tom Kensler, The Denver Post

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cu football

Eye on ... The Cyclones

Iowa State at Colorado, 11:30 a.m., Versus

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For the record: Yes, another Big 12 North team is struggling more than Colorado. Iowa State (2-7, 0-5 Big 12) has lost seven consecutive games. The Cyclones fell 59-17 at Oklahoma State on Saturday.

Streiking: Iowa State will arrive in Boulder carrying a 15-game losing streak in Big 12 road games, dating to 2005.

Who's hot: Freshman returner Leonard Johnson. A cornerback in his regular duties, Johnson set an NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision single-game kickoff-return record against Oklahoma State with 319 yards, on nine returns. Clemson's Justin Miller had the record with a 282-yard return day in 2004 against Florida State.

Who's not: ISU's secondary. During the past four weeks, opposing quarterbacks have completed 76.4 percent of their passes against the Cyclones, for 1,382 yards and 12 TDs against just one interception.

Key stat: 682 — the number of yards in total offense amassed by Oklahoma State against ISU. That's the fifth-most in OSU history.

FYI: Johnson had a chance to set the NCAA all-

division kickoff-return record set by Eastern Washington's Bashir Levingston with 326 yards in 1998 against Sacramento State. But Johnson had just 15 yards on his final kickoff return, 7 yards shy of tying Levingston's mark.

Injury report: None reported.

Coachspeak: "It's really one of the only bright spots of our team." — ISU coach Gene Chizik, on Johnson's NCAA kickoff-return record

Tom Kensler, The Denver Post

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