



# Hawkins rescues Buffaloes

By Kyle Ringo

Saturday, November 8, 2008

Clutch.

It's the term the Colorado football team uses for its two-minute offense. It aptly described the play of the young man leading that attack in the second half Saturday at Folsom Field.

Cody Hawkins to the rescue.

Colorado's sophomore quarterback came on in relief of starter Tyler Hansen against Iowa State and threw four second-half touchdown passes and a two-point conversion to rally the Buffs to a 28-24 season-saving victory.

He kept the Buffs' bowl hopes alive with the initials of his siblings written on one bicep and the jersey numbers of injured teammates on the other.

Hawkins has faced some vicious criticism at times this fall from fans, but he earned his way back into their good graces, for a week at least, by completing 20 of 29 passes for 226 yards.

Hawkins led scoring drives of 81, 80 and 84 yards. The Buffs had just five drives of 80 yards or more the whole season prior to Saturday. He came through, despite not receiving any practice repetitions on Thursday and Friday because coaches had planned to use Hansen the entire game.

"I'm glad we won," Hawkins said. "I don't think it's about me. My guys are loving me up and keeping me confident in practice. It came down to going out and doing what we do every day in practice."

Despite Hawkins success in bringing the CU offense back to life, the Buffs' defense made a game-saving goal-line stand to win the game as time ran out.

After the Buffs took the lead with 90 seconds to play on a pass from Hawkins to wide receiver Cody Crawford, Iowa State regrouped and drove to within a foot of the winning touchdown.

Instead of using powerful quarterback Austen Arnaud on a sneak in the waning moments, Iowa State coaches called an option play that CU safety D.J. Dykes and cornerback Jimmy Smith sniffed out and snuffed out.

"The ball just happened to come my way," Dykes said. "Eleven other guys on the field would have made that play."

Iowa State came within inches of snapping two losing streaks. The Cyclones have now lost eight in a row this season and 16 consecutive road games dating back to Oct. 29, 2005. They fell to 2-8 overall

and 0-6 in the Big 12.

"It was basically a fourth-quarter meltdown," ISU coach Gene Chizik said. "Cody did a nice job leading his team. There is no doubt about that. Defensively, we didn't slow him down in the two-minute offense."

The Buffs are within one victory of earning bowl eligibility at 5-5 (2-4 Big 12) and have two games left to earn that sixth victory. They host No. 8 Oklahoma State next Saturday and travel to Nebraska in three weeks.

"I really believe we're doing the things championship teams do," coach Dan Hawkins said. "I really believe that on and off the field.

"We're doing what you're supposed to do and we just have to hang with it."

The Buffs produced 422 yards on offense, the first time all season they eclipsed the 400-yard mark. Tailback Darrell Scott made his first start and rushed for a career best 87 yards.

The Buffs produced a comedy of special teams errors in the first half with two penalties for running into or roughing the punter. The offense also was largely ineffective leading to a 10-0 Iowa State lead.

Hansen ran nine times for 48 yards but completed just four of 12 passes. He threw an interception, stopping the Buffs momentum when they appeared to be moving the ball well. Hansen didn't get any help from place-kicker Jameson Davis, who missed attempts of 38 and 29 yards in the half.

The missed kicks continued a stretch dating back to the West Virginia game in which the Buffs have made just one field goal in their past 10 attempts.

The Buffs finally scored with 9 minutes, 50 seconds remaining in the third quarter when Dan Hawkins boldly went for it on fourth-down-and-goal at the ISU 4-yard line. Cody Hawkins found wide receiver Scotty McKnight in the back corner of the end zone. Iowa State blocked Aric Goodman's extra-point attempt, keeping the score 10-6, but it was the beginning of a memorable rally for the Buffs.



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# Colorado's special teams continue to struggle

## List of errors against Iowa St. a long one for CU

By Kyle Ringo

Sunday, November 9, 2008

After all that went wrong with Colorado's special teams units Saturday against Iowa State, the coach who directs them was most annoyed with the final gaffe.

The CU offense had just completed a stirring comeback to take the lead with 90 seconds remaining in the game, and the kickoff team allowed Iowa State to return the ball to its 39-yard line.

Solid field position took some of the pressure off the Cyclones' offense led by quarterback Austen Arnaud, who led his team to within inches of victory before time expired.

"There is just no excuse for the last one, no excuse," Kent Riddle said. "Guys knew what was going to happen and didn't play it right. We'll get that fixed."

The Buffs missed two field goals, allowed a blocked extra point, were flagged for roughing the punter and running into the punter, and gave Iowa State great field position late in the game with a kickoff out of bounds and the kickoff coverage mistake.

Riddle was clearly annoyed with the problems when asked about them after the game, but vowed to correct them.

"I know exactly what the answers are," Riddle said. "We just need to push through. We're not going to give up. We're going to keep correcting and keep fixing them."

The most glaring problem for Riddle's special teams units this season has been the inability of place-kickers Aric Goodman and Jameson Davis to make field goals with consistency.

Davis earned the job last week at Texas A&M by making a 30-yard attempt after watching Goodman miss earlier in the game. Davis brought out the boo birds in Folsom Field on Saturday after missing attempts from 38 and 29 yards in the first half.

Davis appeared to hurt his already injured knee later in the game Saturday and Riddle said the team will probably return to using Goodman on field goals the rest of the season. The two have combined to make one of 10 attempts since Goodman made a kick in overtime to beat West Virginia back in September.

Goodman made two extra point attempts in the game and had one blocked because of poor blocking by his teammates.

"That wasn't on him," Riddle said. "He kicked the ball very solid. He's been good all week."

Riddle said the extra kicking and the torque required on Davis' plant leg has made his bad knee even worse.

Riddle did find some positives in the game. He said Tom Suazo punted well and was helped by several good bounces. He also pointed to the kickoff return team and the punt return team for setting up solid returns from Josh Smith.

Wide receiver Scotty McKnight also came in late in the game with Smith out with a bad shoulder and Jason Espinoza out for the season to field a punt deep in Buff territory.

"I mean some of this stuff is a little bit of a domino effect of having to pull guys into situations where that's not normally what they would be doing and get them taught in a week what to do," Riddle said. "Some of the other stuff is better."



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# Low-profile WRs come up big for Buffs

## Crawford, McKnight, Williams deliver in second half

By Ryan Thorburn  
Sunday, November 9, 2008

Scotty McKnight. Patrick Williams. Cody Crawford.

If the Colorado football program were as deep and talented as head coach Dan Hawkins hopes to make it over the next year or two, this would be a great list of backup wide receivers.

But Saturday these skills players, who are much-maligned for their skills, made play after play for Cody Hawkins in the second half to spark the Buffs to a 28-24 comeback victory over Iowa State at Folsom Field.

McKnight, who had only two touchdowns in the first nine games, scored on catches of 4 and 22 yards in a span of seven minutes and 29 seconds during the third quarter to turn a 10-0 halftime deficit into a 13-10 lead (one of the extra points was blocked).

The sophomore finished with six catches for 62 yards and credited talented classmate Josh Smith -- who is struggling with painful shoulder injuries -- for allowing him to get so open on his second touchdown.

"It's kind of a designed play. Josh does draw a lot of attention because of his athleticism, so it's kind of a fake screen to him and I act like I'm going to block the corner and then take it up the sideline," McKnight explained. "Both (defenders), I don't know if they ran into each other or what, but they bit on Josh and that kind of left me by myself."

The Cyclones answered with a three-play, 62-yard drive that took 52 seconds and was capped with a 14-yard run by Alexander Robinson to give the visitors a 17-13 lead with 1:23 remaining in the third quarter.

When Robinson added a 1-yard touchdown run to make the score 24-13 with 9:14 remaining, things looked bleak for a CU offense that had been struggling to put points on the board during a 1-5 stretch.

"We have a lot of great play-makers on this offense," Cody Hawkins said. "I think a lot of us are just young and when we start to get some momentum going and start moving up and down the field and getting that fast pace, guys are comfortable and just doing what they do every day."

Cody Hawkins was 7-for-8 for 80 yards on the Buffs' next possession -- including a 16-yard completion to Crawford on a third-and-8 -- and capped the frenetic drive with a 14-yard touchdown pass to Williams.

"It felt good to make plays," said Williams, who doubled his TD total for the season. "We've kind of

been in a stalemate for a little while. That felt good to put things together. ...

"I think it was just a matter of playing with emotion (in the second half). We had to come out and produce our own spark."

Still trailing by three points and without much confidence in either place-kicker, the Buffs engineered another clutch drive with Hawkins completing 6-of-8 passes for 67 yards, including a 5-yard touchdown to Crawford that proved to be the difference in the game.

"We've been waiting to have a breakout day. We've been talking about it and this week we just said we have to stop talking about it and go out and do it," said Crawford, who also had only one previous touchdown this season. "It started with our O-line. They came out fired up and everybody just kind of bought in and got fired up and it went from there. We just clicked in the second half. We came in at halftime and just decided that we needed to leave every inch of it out there and have no regrets."

The receivers said the Cyclones' secondary was there for the taking all along and the second-half explosion wasn't all about the change at quarterback from Tyler Hansen to Cody Hawkins.

But the numbers don't lie: Hansen was 4-for-12 for 48 yards with an interception while Hawkins was 20-for-29 with 226 yards and a career-high four touchdowns.

"It was great to see them just operate," Dan Hawkins said of the receivers in a passing attack that was averaging just 181.6 net yards entering Saturday's game. "To block the right guy, run the right route, catch the ball. We certainly know they're capable of that. We stay after them week after week and eventually it shows up."



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## Scott makes first start a good one

By Kyle Ringo , Ryan Thorburn  
Sunday, November 9, 2008

It's only a matter of time before Darrell Scott runs into the spotlight.

On Saturday, Cody Hawkins and a last-second goal-line stand by the defense stole the headlines as Colorado rallied for a 28-24 victory over Iowa State at Folsom Field.

But Scott's first career start at CU is worth noting. The talented freshman finished with 87 yards on a career-high 19 carries.

"He's doing better," head coach Dan Hawkins said of the prize recruit, who had been relegated to backup this season due to a painful ankle injury and the emergence of Rodney Stewart. "The biggest thing is hopefully he got out of it without tweaking his ankle, and I think that will be the biggest adjustment for us."

Cody Hawkins threw a career-high four touchdown passes in the second half to lead the Buffs to the comeback win. On CU's first possession of the second half Scott had six carries, including an impressive 37-yard burst to get the team in position for its first points of the contest.

"He's touched up a little bit, too, on the injured side," wide receiver Josh Smith said of his nephew. "When you get the opportunity, he had to roll and he did a real decent job."

Stewart rushed for 669 yards (4.7 per carry) on 132 carries with two touchdowns this season before breaking a leg in the loss to Texas A&M on Nov. 1. He is currently fourth on CU's list of career rushing yards for a freshman behind Lamont Warren (830), O.C. Oliver (668) and Lee Rouson (656).

Scott has 344 yards and one touchdown with two games remaining. Quarterback Tyler Hansen has 250 yards rushing, which means CU's top three rushers this season are freshmen.

"We certainly want to give (Scott) the ball. He's a good player, we want to run the football, and without Rodney his opportunities go up," Dan Hawkins said. "And then he's getting healthier, so it's kind of a convergence of a lot of principles."

Demetrius Sumler had only one carry for 3 yards but had five catches for 40 yards as part of the Buffs' second-half air attack.

"Darrell Scott worked his butt off this week. I was just patient and I waited my turn to make some plays," Sumler said.

**Playing through pain**

Sophomore Josh Smith joined an exclusive club in the CU program Saturday with 143 all-purpose yards against the Cyclones, giving him 1,555 all-purpose yards this season.

Only six players in CU history have gained more all-purpose yards in a season, and Smith will likely pass Bob Stransky (1,566 in 1957) and Hugh Charles (1,586 in 2007) next Saturday against Oklahoma State.

Smith is producing statistically despite playing with two injured shoulders. He has been receiving a pregame shot in each shoulder in order to play and might require surgery on a bad AC joint after the season.

"Both of them are pretty banged up. We're just going to have to continue to see how it goes," Smith said. "After the X-ray they said I was a step away from surgery, but not quite there yet. So we figured just going with the numbing shots and that would help me out to be able to not feel the pain. I should definitely be fine."

Smith had one reception for 8 yards against Iowa State but performed in a decoy role at times while Scotty McKnight (two touchdowns), Pat Williams (one touchdown) and Cody Crawford (one touchdown) were making big catches.

"Those guys really battled back on that second half. It was just extra focus and concentration and desire to get this win," Smith said. "Those guys went out and did a really good job and it was big for us."

Rashaan Salaam set the school record for all-purpose yardage in a season in 1994 when he rushed for 2,055 yards and added 294 receiving yards (2,349 total). Salaam won the Heisman Trophy for his efforts.

### **The other Smith**

Jimmy Smith made his first career start for CU at cornerback and finished third on the defense with nine tackles and had three of the team's six pass break ups.

"It's perfect timing. We got the win and I played well," he said. "I should have had some interceptions. It gave me a lot more confidence knowing that they trust me to go out there and do what I can do."

Smith was in on the game-saving tackle at the goal line with safety D.J. Dykes.

### **By the numbers**

Williams made his 100th career reception and went over the 1,000-yard mark for career receptions on the same play. The senior finished with a career-high 85 yards on four catches. ... Ryan Walters led the Buffs with 16 tackles. Jeff Smart (11) and Dykes (10) were also in double digits. ... The Buffs were 3-for-3 on third-and-1 and are 14-of-16 in such situations this season.

### **Notable**

Dan Hawkins' aunt, Lillian Flohr of Wheat Ridge, was on hand to witness Saturday's win. She even had a special birthday present for Hawkins (it's Monday) -- a home-baked fruitcake, a favorite of his. ... CU leads the all-time series with Iowa State 48-14-1, including a 24-6-1 edge in Boulder. ... Current Denver Broncos tight end and former CU standout Dan Graham watched the game from the sideline. ...



Saturday's game was CU's first-ever appearance on the Versus network.

### Quotable

"I'm not going to lie to you, it was tough," Williams said of watching Iowa State march down the field and getting within one yard of a game-winning touchdown as the clock ran out. "But I had a lot of confidence in the defense."



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## Woelk: Late audible breathes life into Buffs

By Neill Woelk

Sunday, November 9, 2008

Let's see here ... back up the tape and make sure we have all of this correct:

Cody Hawkins can't play because he's a) too short; b) doesn't have a cannon for an arm; and c) can't run.

Mark Helfrich's offensive stratagems should be tossed because a) he calls the wrong plays; b) he doesn't take advantage of the talent available; and c) all kinds of other stuff that we can't remember at the moment, but we're sure it's true because we read it on the Internet.

Does that just about cover all the bases?

Full confession here: Just a week ago, I wrote that Colorado's football coaches should pick a quarterback and stick with him. This rotation stuff just wouldn't work.

Weirdly enough, that's actually what CU's coaches had in mind when Saturday's game with Iowa State began. They spent the week designing a game plan specifically for true freshman Tyler Hansen, and the strategy was to play the youngster the entire game.

Thankfully, those same coaches had the temerity to change their minds at halftime. Instead of sticking with the plan, they called an audible.

Out with Hansen, who struggled against Iowa State's zone blitz.

In with Hawkins, who had withstood criticism from just about every corner this year -- including this one.

Good call. Hawkins proceeded to help give his father one of the best early birthday presents he may ever receive, a gut-twisting, hold-on-to-the-edge-of-your-seat, are-you-kidding-me 28-24 win over Iowa State.

It was a masterful performance. When Hawkins threw his last pass of the day -- a 5-yard touchdown to Cody Crawford -- it capped a 20-for-29, 226-yard, four-touchdown performance. CU had the ball six times in the second half, and Hawkins took the Buffs to touchdown drives of 63, 84, 80 and 81 yards.

That's a great game for just about any quarterback. It's an almost unbelievable performance for a half -- especially when he entered the game with his team trailing 10-0.

It's also hard to quibble with CU's overall game plan in the second half. The O-coordinator who has also absorbed a plateful of grief this year gave us a glimpse of what the future could hold if the pieces are in place.

That would be a short passing game that ate up nice chunks of yardage. A play-action attack that put a defense on its heels. And perhaps most importantly, that would be Darrell Scott ripping off long runs on sustained drives. The freshman finished with career highs in carries (19) and yards (87), and quite likely would have had even bigger numbers had the Cyclones not rallied to take an 11-point lead in the fourth quarter.

That forced Helfrich and Co. to abandon Part II of their plan and go to Part III, the two-minute offense stretched over nine minutes. Exit Scott, enter Demetrius Sumler, who proved to be a clutch escape valve receiver.

Good call again.

Yes, we're well aware that nobody should get carried away. After all, CU's second-half rally came against a defense that hasn't stopped anyone all year -- well, except for the Buffs in the first half. It also came against a team that hasn't won since defeating Kent State on Sept. 6.

And it's certainly no guarantee that CU's offensive woes won't return next week when Oklahoma State pays a visit to Folsom for the Buffs' last home game of the season. The Cowboys are a good team with big things on their minds.

The Cyclones are neither.

But for a team desperate for a little confidence boost, a team greatly in need of a little validation for the work it puts in, Saturday's effort was big.

The Buffs absolutely, positively had to win -- and they did.

Of course there are still issues. If Dan Hawkins isn't recruiting a field goal kicker today, he's crazy. Then there's poor Kent Riddle, whose special teams seem to be a disaster in waiting.

But there's also reason to be optimistic. CU's youngsters are growing up -- even if it's sometimes painful to watch.

In on the game-saving tackle was sophomore cornerback Jimmy Smith, who received his first career start and responded with nine tackles and three pass knockdowns. Getting more and more playing time is true freshman defensive lineman Curtis Cunningham -- a big step toward next season, when the Buffs will need D-linemen. Then there are sophs Marquez Herrod, Jalil Brown and B.J. Beatty, all of whom are making a difference on defense.

Offensively, there's Scott and currently injured Rodney Stewart. Even CU's young linemen are improving, another key when it comes to building depth for the future.

And yes, Cody Hawkins is a sophomore and Hansen a freshman. For the first time in several weeks, Buff fans saw measurable improvement from the offense.

Certainly nobody can gloss over the Buffs' problem areas. Dan Hawkins is in the third year of building from the ground up. No shortcuts, no quick fixes. There are no doubt more bumps in the road ahead -- as in next week.

But as Hawkins continues to insist that the foundation is being built, that the Buffs are doing things the

right way, it's always nice to see a little evidence to back up those claims.

Saturday did just that.



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cu 28, iowa state 24

## Smith rises up at end

The cornerback's tackle near the goal line preserves the win for the Buffs.

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 11/09/2008 12:49:00 AM MST

BOULDER — Players say one of the best things about football is always getting another opportunity to prove oneself.

If Colorado sophomore cornerback Jimmy Smith had not been sure of that before, nobody had to convince him Saturday about second chances following the Buffaloes' 28-24 victory over Iowa State at Folsom Field.

A CU defense that had yielded two quick-strike touchdowns to ISU earlier in the second half came up with a big play when nothing short of stellar would do. Iowa State stood one foot from a winning touchdown with time for just one play. Cyclones quarterback Austen Arnaud rolled out to his right on an option play. There was no place for Arnaud to go, so he pitched to tailback Alexander Robinson.

There was no place for Robinson to go, either. Smith and senior strong safety D.J. Dykes were waiting.

### Colorado Football

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Holding its breath, a crowd of 46,440 exhaled with a roar.

Two-yard loss. Game over.

"Oh, man, I love football because there's always another play, another chance to step up," Smith said. "Iowa State drove the ball on us some, but we made the play when we had to."

Colorado (5-5, 2-4 Big 12) snapped a two-game losing streak and moved to within a victory of gaining bowl-eligibility. Smith, making his first college start, couldn't stop smiling. Never before had he made a game-saving tackle. That includes three years of high school ball in Colton, Calif.

"This is a confidence-booster, for the team and for me," Smith said.

Smith was joined in the second-chances winner's circle by sophomore quarterback Cody Hawkins, who threw a career-best four touchdown passes — all after halftime.

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The coach's son had stood on the sidelines a week earlier in a seven-point loss at Texas A&M when freshman Tyler Hansen got the crunch-time call in the fourth quarter. The roles were reversed this time.

Entering the game with Colorado down 10-0, Hawkins played the entire second half and led the Buffs to their highest point total since the second week of the season, a 31-24 win over Eastern Washington. Saturday's 422 yards of total offense marked a season high, the first game to surpass 400.

Cody completed 20-of-29 passes for 226 yards, an amazing, 30-minute performance considering Hawkins had not taken many snaps with the first team in the final two practices of the week. Hawkins said he wasn't sure if he would play at all against Iowa State.

"I'm glad we won," Cody said after the game. "I don't think it's about me."

CU offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich would not commit to a starting quarterback for Saturday's game against Oklahoma State.

"Some of the stuff that happened to Tyler wasn't his fault," CU coach Dan Hawkins said. "We just felt like we needed a little bit of a change with Cody."

Hawkins' fourth touchdown pass looked like it might be enough. Iowa State (2-8, 0-6) took over at its 39-yard line with 1:22 remaining and quickly moved the chains. Trouble was, only three seconds remained after a 4-yard pass from Arnaud to Darius Darks got it inside the 1-yard line. Arnaud spiked the ball to stop the clock. There would be time for only one more play.

"Everybody was looking steely-eyed. None of us was worried," CU senior safety Ryan Walters said.

When Arnaud set up in the shotgun, CU defenders guessed it would be an option. The Buffs guessed correctly.

"They ran it to my side," said Dykes, who assisted Smith on the tackle. "This is big for our team. It shows them (young guys) to never give up."

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## Key stat

179.95: Quarterback rating for Cody Hawkins. Playing only in the second half and taking just 43 snaps, the sophomore threw a career-best four touchdown passes, completed 20-of-29 passes and shattered his career-best QB rating. His previous best rating was 160.3 last year in a win at Baylor.

## Key play

Talk about a receiver and quarterback being on the same page. On CU's final score with 1:30 remaining, senior wideout Cody Crawford was already in the end zone when he saw Hawkins stepping up in the pocket on second-and-goal from the Iowa State 5 to avoid a pass rush. Crawford circled around safety James Smith and came back for the ball. As soon as Crawford turned, Hawkins' pass was there.

Tom Kensler, *The Denver Post*

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cu football

## Cody Hawkins' role as mentor pays off

By Lindsey Korsick  
Special to The Denver Post

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Colorado QB Cody Hawkins passed for 226 yards and four touchdowns in the second half Saturday against Iowa State. (Kathryn Scott Osler, The Denver Post)

BOULDER — Those who don't start, teach. Those who teach, win games.

Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins might have thought he wouldn't get on the field Saturday in the Buffaloes' 28-24 win over Iowa State.

The sophomore watched from the sidelines the first

half and took what he learned with him onto the field in the second half as he helped keep Colorado's bowl hopes alive.

Without taking snaps Thursday or Friday in practice, Hawkins said he knew his role was to make sure Colorado's other quarterback, freshman Tyler Hansen, was prepared. Hansen played the first half but was unable to put any points on the board.

"I think I am very proactive about coaching up Tyler and being there for him on every play when he is taking a rep," Hawkins said. "I want to know if there are any tidbits of information I can tell him. When I understand what he is doing in practice, I have a much better understanding for myself.

"The best way to learn is teach other people, and I think that helped me out this week."

Hansen wants Hawkins' help, but when Hawkins is in the game Hansen said he's ready to return the favor.

"When either one of us is in the game, the other one is just another coach on the sideline," Hansen said.

In one half, Hawkins was 20-of-29 passing for 226 yards and a career-high four touchdown passes. His fourth capped the game-winning, 81-yard drive.

Entering with a 10-point deficit, Hawkins said he welcomed the pressure.

"I was really relaxed and confident," he said. "I went in there knowing that the team needs me right now, so let's make something happen. I went out with some confidence and had a lot of fun."

The weekly quarterback shuffle is in overdrive. Offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich said he does not know who will start Saturday against No. 8

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Oklahoma State.

"You set your ego aside and you're ready," CU coach Dan Hawkins said. "Cody has had to tag out for Tyler, Tyler has had to tag out for him. It's not fun for either of them or for us, but they've handled it awesome."

Last week against Texas A&M, CU found itself in the fourth quarter trying to snag its fifth win. Coaches went with the less experienced Hansen in the final minutes; he ended up throwing an interception as the Buffaloes lost 24-17. But against Kansas State two weeks ago, Hansen's redshirt was pulled and he was the difference-maker in a 14-13 win.

"A couple of weeks ago I was the spark," said Hansen. "Today it was Cody."

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cu football

## Kicking game still having troubles

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BOULDER — Even in victory, Colorado's kicking game continued to be an adventure.

"There's no question that it's squirrely at best," CU coach Dan Hawkins said.

Jameson Davis, a true freshman, got the call to kick field goals in Saturday's 28-24 win and promptly missed his only two attempts, both in the first quarter. Davis went wide left on a 38-yarder and wide right from 29 yards.

To make matters worse, Davis tweaked his left knee. It has bothered him all season and is scheduled to be surgically scoped after the season. Before the Texas A&M game, Davis had been used only on kickoffs, which are easier on his knee because of the running start.

"We knew that was one of the risks," CU special teams coach Kent Riddle said of using Davis on field goals.

Following the game, CU listed Davis as day to day with the knee strain. Riddle said sophomore Aric Goodman likely will be the field-goal kicker for Saturday's home finale against Oklahoma State.

Goodman kicked two extra points Saturday but had another blocked. CU coaches said the blocked PAT

was a blocking mistake and not Goodman's fault.

"We just have to keep correcting things," Riddle said.

**It's never over . . .**

This marked the second consecutive game in the series that came down to the final play. A 31-28 Iowa State win last year in Ames concluded with Colorado failing to get off two field-goal tries as time expired. CU has won 12 of the last 13 meetings in Boulder and leads the series 48-14-1.

### Footnotes.

Freshman tailback Darrell Scott and sophomore cornerback Jimmy Smith made their first starts for Colorado and came through with good performances. Scott rushed for a career-best 87 yards. Smith was in on the game-saving tackle on the final play of the game. . . . CU has had to mount a comeback in three of its five victories this season, with this one joining rallies against Eastern Washington and Kansas State. . . . Visiting Big 12 teams always seem to be concerned about potentially harsh weather conditions in Boulder. Ironically, it was snowing in Ames, Iowa, on Saturday as the teams played in Boulder under mild conditions, with the temperature at 50 degrees for the morning kickoff.

*Tom Kensler, The Denver Post*

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# Rocky Mountain News

## Bufs rally, withstand Cyclones

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

Published November 8, 2008 at 3:01 p.m.



Photo by David Zalubowski/Associated Press

Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen scrambles out of the pocket to avoid the rush from Iowa State defensive end Travis Ferguson during the second quarter.



David Zalubowski/Associated Press

Colorado linebackers Doug Rippy, left, and Shaun Mohler celebrate after the Buffs' victory against Iowa State on Saturday at Folsom Field. Mohler had a hand in stopping Cyclones tailback Alexander Robinson just short of the goal line as time expired Saturday.

**BOULDER** — Cody Hawkins came off the bench to breathe life into the Colorado Buffaloes' offense, but it took a game-saving tackle by safety D.J. Dykes and cornerback Jimmy Smith on the game's final play to preserve a 28-24 win against Iowa State.

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# Rocky Mountain News

CU, trailing by 11 points with less than 10 minutes to play, rallied behind Hawkins' career-best four touchdown passes to improve to 5-5 overall (2-4 Big 12 Conference) and maintain its postseason hopes.

Iowa State (2-8, 0-6) lost its eighth consecutive game and its 16th consecutive road game.

After CU rallied to take its 28-24 lead with 1:30 remaining, Iowa State drove 60 yards to the Buffs' 1-yard line. Quarterback Austen Arnaud spiked the ball on first down to stop the clock with three seconds left.

On the game's final play, he attempted a pitch right to tailback Alexander Robinson, who was stopped for a two-yard loss by Dykes and Smith that touched off a wild, game-ending celebration by the Buffs bench.

Hawkins, playing only the second half, completed 20-of-29 passes for 226 yards and the four scores. Tailback Darrell Scott carried 19 times for 87 yards, both season highs.

CU's second-half flurry enabled the Buffs to finish with a season-high 422 yards, and Hawkins became the sixth player in school history to surpass 4,000 career passing yards (4,165). His 179.95 quarterback rating also was a personal single-game best.

Offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich credited Hawkins for "staying in the season and in the game" when his focus could have wandered after the coaching staff opted to use two

quarterbacks.

"He made plays when we really needed them," Helfrich said, noting the initial plan was to play freshman Tyler Hansen for the majority of – perhaps the entire – game.

"Our plan was to go with Tyler," Helfrich said. "We had a lot of stuff in the game plan for him."

But when the Buffs fell behind by 11 points in the third quarter, Helfrich and running game coordinator Jeff Grimes elected to "go clutch" – or try to catch up by implementing the two-minute, up-tempo offense on every offensive series. That meant leaving Hawkins at quarterback, and the decision paid off.

Iowa State coach Gene Chizik said Cody Hawkins "did a nice job in leading his team," but also said his defense suffered "a fourth-quarter meltdown . . . we didn't slow him in the two-minute offense."

Cody's dad, Buffs coach Dan Hawkins, credited his entire team with being able to "work through games like we had last week (a 24-17 loss at Texas A&M). So much of great football and great teams is being able to work through the bumps and hanging in there.

"You set your ego aside and you're ready. Cody has had to tag out for Tyler, Tyler has had to tag out for him. It's not fun for either of them or us, but they've handled it awesome."

Robinson, averaging 58.8 yards rushing a game,

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# Rocky Mountain News

finished with 101 on 23 carries and two touchdowns. Arnaud rushed 14 times for 70 yards, while completing 16 of 28 passes for 215 yards.

Robinson called the game's final play "kind of a blur right now. I had the ball in my hands and I had to make a play."

Instead, Dykes and Smith, a sophomore making his first start in place of senior Gardner McKay, made it. Dykes said linebacker Shaun Mohler pressured Arnaud and made the Iowa State quarterback pitch to Robinson: "Then we just swarmed the ball. Me and Jimmy Smith were able to break our blocks and make the tackle."

Added Smith: "It was a huge play by our defense. It saved our bowl hopes for the season."

Iowa State isn't accustomed to halftime advantages, having led only once at intermission in the past five weeks (20-0 against Kansas, in a game Iowa State eventually lost 35-33).

But Saturday, the Cyclones found a team they could push around and not get pushed in return.

Iowa State got a 24-yard Grant Mahoney field goal on its first offensive possession to go ahead 3-0. In the second quarter, the Cyclones converted an interception thrown by CU starter Tyler Hansen into a 65-yard scoring drive to take a 10-0 lead over the punchless Buffs.

CU couldn't complain about its first-half field position – only the results.

Courtesy of a 42-yard kickoff return and a 15-yard personal foul penalty against the Cyclones, the Buffs' opening drive started at the Iowa State 41-yard line. But eight plays later, having advanced only 21 yards, newly appointed placement specialist Jameson Davis was wide right with a 38-yard field goal attempt.

Two possessions later – and again courtesy of a Smith return (25 yards on a punt) – CU opened shop at the Iowa State 32-yard line.

Same story, same ending.

In seven plays, the Buffs moved to the Cyclones' 12, where Davis was wide right with a 29-yard field goal attempt.

Davis' pair of misses made him one-for-three since replacing Aric Goodman against Texas A&M. Goodman had missed seven consecutive field goal attempts, prompting the change in kickers.

The Buffs managed only six first downs and 110 total yards in the first half, while the Cyclones gained 163 total yards, including 92 rushing.

Hansen, making his second start since his redshirt was pulled on Oct. 18 against Kansas State, took every CU snap in the first half. But when the Buffs offense took the field the first time in the second half, Cody Hawkins was quarterback.

Starting at his own 37-yard line, he drove CU to the Iowa State 4, where on third down Darrell

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# Rocky Mountain News

Scott was stopped for no gain. On fourth down, probably given their kicking woes, the Buffs elected to go for the touchdown.

It was the right call; Hawkins hit receiver Scotty McKnight in the back of the end zone for the score. But Goodman, who had made all 22 of his previous extra point attempts, had this one blocked, and Iowa State led 10-6.

Cody Hawkins remained at quarterback, which apparently was the right decision. He drove the Buffs 84 yards in nine plays, again capping the march with a touchdown throw to a wide-open McKnight.

This one covered 22 yards, and this time Goodman extra point wasn't blocked. CU took its first lead, 13-10.

But it lasted less than a minute, as Iowa State answered with a three-play, 62-yard drive. Robinson's 14-yard run and Mahoney's extra point pushed the Cyclones back in front 17-13, and the third quarter ended that way.

Two possessions later, Iowa State padded its lead with a four-play, 58-yard scoring drive. After Arnaud hit tight end Collin Franklin for 53 yards on first down, Robinson scored on a 1-yard toss.

Mahoney's point after touchdown kick sent the Cyclones ahead 24-13 with 9:14 remaining – and the offensively challenged Buffs appeared to be in deep trouble.

Yet they responded quickly, with Cody Hawkins

completing eight of nine passes in an eight-play, 80-yard scoring drive. The scoring pass was a 14-yarder to Patrick Williams, and when Hawkins hit fullback Jake Behrens for the two-point conversion, the Buffs trailed by only three (24-21) with 7:05 to play.

After forcing Iowa State to only its second three-and-out of the second half, CU took over on its 19-yard line with 4:32 to play. Again, it was Hawkins' arm that proved decisive.

He completed six passes for 64 yards in an 81-yard scoring drive, hitting Cody Crawford with a 5-yard touchdown pass – giving Hawkins a career-high four scoring passes for the afternoon.

Goodman's extra point shoved CU ahead 28-24, but Iowa State's final push made it far more than interesting.

**ETC.:** CU kept Iowa State's third possession alive with back-to-back roughing or running into the punter penalties . . . Buffs senior receiver/offensive co-captain Williams recorded his 100th career reception and went over 1,000 yards in receiving for his career . . . Saturday's attendance was 46,440 . . . CU's Davis suffered a second-half knee strain, leaving the kicking job once again in question.

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Longmont, Colorado  
Monday, November 10,  
2008

Publish Date: 11/9/2008

## CU rallies behind Hawkins

*By Brian Howell*

*Longmont Times-Call*

BOULDER — Maybe Cody Hawkins is the guy to lead the University of Colorado offense.

The Buffaloes still aren't sure, but Hawkins was the answer on Saturday.

CU's game of musical quarterbacks continued Saturday, as Hawkins relieved an ineffective Tyler Hansen and led the Buffaloes to a 28-24 win over Iowa State at Folsom Field.

A goal-line stand on the final play preserved the win and kept CU's bowl hopes alive. Colorado (5-5, 2-4 in the Big 12) has to win one of its final two games to become bowl eligible.

"We huddled up in the locker room (at halftime), and we basically said, 'Who wants this more? Do you want to go to a bowl game, or do you want to be sitting on the couch watching other people play?' We just wanted it," said Colorado cornerback Jimmy Smith, who teamed with safety Daniel Dykes to make the game-saving tackle on the last play.

Iowa State took the final snap with 3 seconds to play from inside the Colorado 1. The Cyclones ran an option play and pitched to Alexander Robinson, who was tackled for a 2-yard loss.

That play saved what turned out to be a great day for Hawkins. He completed 20-of-29 passes for 226 yards and a career-high four touchdowns — all in the second half.

"To be totally honest, I didn't know if I was going to play at all today," Hawkins said. "I didn't take any reps (Friday) or Thursday, and I was just trying to coach Tyler up."

Hawkins began the season as CU's starting quarterback, but with the offense sputtering, the Buffs turned to Hansen, a freshman. For the past few games, Hansen and Hawkins have alternated under center.

Against Texas A&M on Nov. 1, the Buffs couldn't get much going offensively with Hawkins, but they did with Hansen.

With that in mind, the Buffs actually planned for Hansen to play the entire game Saturday.



Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins, front, throws a pass for the go-ahead touchdown as Iowa State's Nate Frere applies pressure in the fourth quarter Saturday at Folsom Field in Boulder. **David Zalubowski/AP**

### colorado 28, iowa state 24

Iowa State  
3777—24  
Colorado  
001315—28  
First Quarter  
ISU—FG Mahoney 24, 7:06.  
Second Quarter  
ISU—Scales 1 run (Mahoney kick), :55.  
Third Quarter  
Col—McKnight 4 pass from C.Hawkins (kick blocked), 9:50.  
Col—McKnight 22 pass from C.Hawkins (Goodman kick), 2:21.  
ISU—Robinson 14 run (Mahoney kick), 1:23.  
Fourth Quarter  
ISU—Robinson 1 run (Mahoney kick), 9:14.  
Col—Williams 14 pass from C.Hawkins (J.Behrens pass from C.Hawkins), 7:05.

“That was the plan,” Hansen said. “I wasn’t getting things done, and we needed a little spark to get us going. A couple weeks ago, I was the spark.”

With Hansen under center in the first half Saturday, the Buffs failed to score and managed just 110 yards on 30 plays. Hansen did get the Buffs into field-goal range twice, but both kicks failed.

Hansen rushed for 48 yards on nine carries but completed just four of 12 passes for 48 yards, and he was picked off once.

“It’s not easy,” CU head coach Dan Hawkins said of his shuffling quarterback system. “I still believe in the guy (Hansen); our team still believes in him, and he’s going to be fine. Some of the stuff wasn’t all his issues, either.”

Whether Hansen was to blame for the lack of offense in the first half or not, the Buffs handed the reins to Cody Hawkins in the third quarter. From that point, they were a different team, piling up 28 points and 312 yards in the second half.

“It’s nice to have a familiar face back in there sometimes,” CU receiver Scott McKnight said. “I love Tyler. Tyler is a great player, and he’s going to do great things here, but Cody, he has a certain presence in the huddle.”

It showed immediately. Cody Hawkins directed the Buffs to touchdowns on their first two possessions of the second half. Both drives ended with Hawkins hitting McKnight for touchdown passes.

“Getting momentum going was huge,” Cody Hawkins said. “I just went in the second half to see if we could get some things going, and luckily my guys were making a lot of plays for me.”

Iowa State responded with a pair of touchdowns to take a 24-13 lead with a little more than 9 minutes to play.

That’s when Cody Hawkins really shined.

He completed 7-of-8 passes, including a touchdown to Patrick Williams, to pull the Buffs within 24-21.

After an Iowa State punt, Cody Hawkins directed another touchdown drive, an impressive 11-play, 81-yard march culminating in a touchdown pass to Cody Crawford with 1:30 to play. Hawkins completed 6-of-8 throws on that drive.

“It’s just about doing what you do in practice, and I have a lot of faith in the work that our entire team puts in,” Cody Hawkins said when asked about his performance.

He admitted the view from the first half — watching Hansen — was different, but said he was prepared for whatever was needed of him.

“I have a lot of confidence in myself, and I know I can do some things,” he said. “So, I always prepare like I’m going to start and prepare like I’m going to play. You’re going to make yourself a much better player if you aren’t sitting off on the side. I think the more proactive you are about studying film and making yourself better, you’re going to make the team better as well.”

As for Hansen, he was just happy to see the Buffs get the win, even if he did watch Cody Hawkins pull it off.

“Experience plays a big part in this,” he said. “Playing Division I college football, you’ve got to have experience. Cody has experience, and that’s why he had so much success today.”

Col—Crawford 5 pass from C.Hawkins (Goodman kick), 1:30.

A—46,440.

ISUCol  
First downs  
2221  
Rushes-yards  
44-18832-148  
Passing  
215274  
Comp-Att-Int  
16-29-024-41-1  
Return Yards  
88154  
Punts-Avg.  
6-38.73-49.7  
Fumbles-Lost  
2-02-0  
Penalties-Yards  
5-506-50  
Time of Possession  
32:4827:12

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Iowa St., Robinson 23-101, Arnaud 14-70, Scales 7-17. Colorado, Scott 19-87, Hansen 9-48, C.Hawkins 2-14, Sumler 1-3, Jo.Smith 1-(minus 4).

PASSING—Iowa St., Arnaud 16-28-0-215, Team 0-1-0-0. Colorado, C.Hawkins 20-29-0-226, Hansen 4-12-1-48.

RECEIVING—Iowa St., Darks 8-69, C.Franklin 2-76, Hamilton 2-32, Jones 2-19, Scales 1-18, Se.Johnson 1-1. Colorado, Crawford 8-79, McKnight 6-62, Sumler 5-40, Williams 4-85, Jo.Smith 1-8

"I just want the team to win. I want to make a bowl game. I want to help the team as much as I can. If that's sitting on the sideline cheering Cody on, absolutely I'll do it."

Stay tuned to find out what role Hansen and Hawkins play next week. Even the coaches aren't sure.

"We'll see," CU offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich said. "We don't have, I don't think, a situation necessarily where you're playing the lesser of two evils. I think both of these guys have some definite strengths and both of them have some things they need to work on. We need to utilize those strengths, so we'll see."

Brian Howell can be reached at [bhowell@times-call.com](mailto:bhowell@times-call.com).



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Longmont, Colorado  
Monday, November 10,  
2008

Publish Date: 11/9/2008

## **Buffs defense preserves win**

*By Brian Howell*

*Longmont Times-Call*

BOULDER — Throughout Saturday's 28-24 win against Iowa State, the Colorado defense had a tough time stopping the run.

On the game's final play, however, the Buffs weren't fooled.

With a chance to pull off the upset, Iowa State took the final snap of the game with 3 seconds to play inside the Colorado 1. Considering the Cyclones had rushed for 190 yards on the day to that point, the Buffs keyed on the run.

"We knew it was coming," said sophomore cornerback Jimmy Smith, who made his first career start Saturday. "They were running all game and having success. When it came down to it, they went to their bread and butter. We knew it was coming, and we stopped it."

Safety Ryan Walters thought the Cyclones might try a quarterback sneak, but when Iowa State quarterback Austen Arnaud lined up in the shotgun formation, "we all thought option," Walters said.

Indeed, Iowa State did run an option play. Arnaud pitched to Alexander Robinson, and Smith and Daniel Dykes stuffed him for a 2-yard loss.

"As soon as he started running the option, I knew we were going to make the play," said Walters, who had a game-high 16 tackles. "It was a great way to end the game."

Smith couldn't have agreed more.

"I've never been in a situation like that, ever," he said. "It was amazing. I've never heard the stadium like that before."

**KICKING WOES:** Once again, CU struggled in the kicking game.

Freshman Jameson Davis got his first chance to start as CU's kicker, but he missed both of his first-half field goal attempts, from 38 and 29 yards.

Aric Goodman got the call in the second half and has his first extra-point attempt blocked. He also made two PATs.

When asked about his kicking game, CU head coach Dan Hawkins laughed hard and then said, "There's no question it's a little squirrely, at best."

CU is now 4-for-16 on field-goal attempts this season and has missed nine of its past 10 attempts.

"You just have to hang in there and keep trying to work with them," Hawkins said. "It's not like they're not trying. You don't have a whole bunch of options. We just have to keep grinding and keep working."

**GOOD SCOTT:** Freshman Darrell Scott made his first career start at running back. He didn't have a great game, but he was effective, rushing for 87 yards on 19 carries (4.6 average).

Scott's previous best effort was the 66 yards he gained against Texas A&M a week earlier.

**MILESTONES:** CU receiver Patrick Williams hit two milestones Saturday — 100 career catches and 1,000 career receiving yards — and did it on the same play.

The senior caught four passes for 85 yards and a touchdown Saturday, giving him 102 catches for 1,047 yards in his career.

**SMITH SORE:** Josh Smith had a big day on returns — 104 yards on four kicks and 35 yards on three punts — but it wasn't an easy day.

Smith said he aggravated his sore shoulders on a third-quarter punt return. Scotty McKnight fielded the final Iowa State punt.

"Both of them are pretty banged up," Smith said of his shoulders. "We're just going to have to continue to see how it goes."

Smith said he's been told he's "a step away from surgery but not quite there yet," and he said he takes a couple shots a game to dull the pain so he can play.

**EXTRA POINTS:** Colorado's 422 yards in total offense was a season high. ... The Buffs' 28 points were their most since Week 2 against Eastern Washington. ... CU has been shut out in the first half three times this season, including Saturday. ... The Buffs are 12-1 in their last 13 games against Iowa State in Boulder. ... Cody Hawkins tied John Hessler for third on CU's all-time list for touchdown passes (34). Only Joel Klatt (44) and Koy Detmer (40) have more.

Brian Howell can be reached at  
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