



Buff Moyd impresses in switch from RB to WR

By Kyle Ringo

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BOULDER, Colo. — Production from the wide receiver position is a concern for any fan of the Colorado football program looking toward the 2009 season.

But apparent deficiencies at the position don't have quarterbacks Cody Hawkins and Tyler Hansen worried.

Coaches are prohibited by NCAA rules from coaching or watching seven-on-seven workouts in the summer. So Hawkins' and Hansen's impressions of player organized practices are probably the best assessment of how the team is developing between the end of spring ball and the start of fall camp.

Several wide receivers from the 2009 recruiting class have made an impression on the two quarterbacks, but the biggest surprise to this point has been a 5-foot-7 player in his fifth year in the program.

"Kevin Moyd has been doing real good since he switched to receiver from running back," Hansen said. "He's made a lot of progress. He's been making catches, running good routes. He looks like he's been doing it for a couple years now."

Moyd moved to wide receiver during spring practices after spending his first four years in the program as a running back. The team needed help at wide receiver where only three scholarship players were available during the spring, so Moyd and fellow running back Corey Nabors began practicing there.

When wide receiver Josh Smith decided to leave the program in May, it created an even deeper hole.

Moyd recognized the switch as an opportunity considering there were four talented tailbacks ahead of him on the depth chart before the switch and there was little possibility of playing time at running back during his senior season. "I definitely feel that ever since I've been at receiver, I've been embraced a little more at receiver for whatever reason," Moyd said. "I only have one season left. So I don't have time to go through other stuff. Right now, they're liking me at receiver. So I'm just going to do what I can at that position."

Through his first four years at CU, Moyd has had to settle for making his mark on special teams and in very limited playing time on offense. He was the eighth-leading points earner on special teams as a junior last fall, but touched the ball only eight times on offense.

He could eclipse his 2008 numbers -- seven rushes for 30 yards and one catch for minus-1 yard -- on a single play this fall if he continues to progress.

Moyd has been putting in extra work outside of seven-on-seven on Wednesdays and Fridays with both Hawkins and Hansen. New offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau said he doesn't know where Moyd will fit into the offense this year, but no one is outworking him in the offseason.

Moyd graduated in the spring with a degree in accounting and has added a second major this summer and fall.

He came to CU in 2005 from Miramar, Fla. Many other young men might have decided to leave a program so far from home after multiple seasons without earning much playing time.

"I don't believe in quitting," Moyd said. "I had times when I felt like, 'Man, I probably need to leave and go somewhere else.' But my family doesn't believe in quitting and I don't believe I should have left. ... I feel like my time still will come."

True freshmen Jarrod Darden and Terdema Ussery are both hoping to play as true freshmen this fall.

Early playing time was at least part of the reason both chose to come to Boulder from the Dallas area.

"Terdema and Jarrod, they're definitely freshmen, but being freshmen, they're further ahead than any guy we've had out here," Hawkins said. "They've got it figured out as people, which was very impressive immediately."

"You know, they show up to their tutors on time, they come to every workout, they're always doing extra. We've never had anybody figure it out that fast. We've had some guys, who just left, who never figured it out."

Hansen and Hawkins said Darden is more raw at this point, but they love his size and athleticism. Ussery might be the most likely to get on the field first because he is more polished in all areas of the game.

The two quarterbacks are anxious to finally see third-year sophomore Markques Simas on the field this fall after a redshirt season and a year of ineligibility.

They also have their fingers crossed that junior college signee Andre Simmons is cleared academically after completing six spring classes and three online courses this summer.

One final additional option could be true freshman tight end DaVaughn Thornton moving to receiver for one year. Thornton said coaches have mentioned it as a possibility, but he is unsure how serious they are.

"Ever since spring ball I've been watching receivers and tight ends," Thornton said. "Even when Josh Smith was here and the other receivers, they were still thin and I didn't know if I was going to be a tight end or receiver."



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