



Woelk: Important numbers for CU this year

By Neill Woelk
Saturday, July 25, 2009

BOULDER, Colo. — Quite understandably, Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn isn't about to define success with a hard and fast number. He's been around long enough to know those kinds of statements have a way of coming back and biting you in the behind.

In case you missed it, Bohn was asked earlier this week how many wins he'd need to see from CU's football team this year to consider it a good season. Bohn deftly bobbed and weaved and avoided putting a specific number on the board.

But the Colorado A.D. also acknowledged what has been on the minds of most CU fans since the end of the 2008 football season.

It's time for the Buffs to start showing improvement in the only category that really counts. While Bohn and his staff have done a terrific job in rebuilding the department from the ashes of the recruiting scandal that brought CU sports to its knees five years ago, there is still only one standard by which athletic departments are measured in the long run.

"It's about wins," Bohn said. "... we understand winning is important."

But along with simply a specific number of wins this year, there are a few other numbers that will be important to the football program -- and by extension the athletic department -- this year:

3,000. That's the number of season tickets CU needs to sell between now and the beginning of the season to hit last year's numbers. Granted, the economy isn't doing anyone any favors, but the guess here is that there are still a plenty of folks out there on the fence. They haven't seen great progress over the last couple of seasons, and they're waiting.

But if the Buffs can generate some positive vibes in fall camp -- for instance, some great reports on Rodney Stewart and/or Darrell Scott -- it might coax some people off that fence and to the ticket window.

20. To be more specific, 20-point losses, or those that can be defined as blowout defeats.

In each of Dan Hawkins' first three years, the Buffs have suffered two losses by 20 points or more. To put that into perspective, figure this: in each of Gary Barnett's last three seasons, the Buffs suffered at least three 20-point-plus losses, with four hitting home in Barnett's final season.

Compare that to Bill McCartney's final six seasons at CU, a span in which the Buffs lost just once by 20 or more points. (Thanks to Camera reader John Barclay for providing these stats).

Big losses are especially demoralizing, for players and fans. Last season's 58-zip thumping at Mizzou

was quite possibly the low point of the season. It would be nice to see the number of blowout losses this year cut at least in half.

Zero, as in sellouts at Folsom.

CU has not had a sellout at Folsom Field in Hawkins' tenure. In fact, in the last 11 years, the Buffs have played in front of a sold-out home crowd just nine times (and, CU has never sold out all six home games).

It would be a nice boost if the Buffs could put a couple on the board this year. We're betting the Sept. 6 season opener against Colorado State will give Hawk his first sellout, with at least a couple good opportunities for more this season.

Best bets? Try the Halloween date against Missouri (if it's a night game, that improves the chances) and, of course, the season-ender against Nebraska.

800, as in rushing yards for one back.

I realize 1,000 is the magic number when measuring a running back's production. I also realize that it's the team's rushing total that is ostensibly the most important.

But, here are some interesting numbers:

Only once in the last 21 years (2003) have the Buffs had a back rush for at least 800 yards in a season and not gone to a bowl game. Meanwhile, they've had at least one back hit the 800 mark 14 other times in that span, and they've gone to a bowl game each of those years. Conversely, they've managed a bowl game only twice without an 800-yard back in that same span.

Under Hawkins, Hugh Charles (989 yards in 2007) is the only back to hit at least 800. Thus far, that's also Hawk's only bowl appearance at CU. Here's a guess: if the Buffs have a back hit 800 this year, they're going bowling.

Now, as for that magic number that will define success for the Buffs in 2009?

We'll have to get back to you on that one.



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Enrollment delayed for pair of CU football recruits

Nuckols, Moten part of Hawkins' 2009 class

Camera staff report
Saturday, July 25, 2009

BOULDER, Colo. — At least two members of Dan Hawkins' 2009 recruiting class won't be with the Buffs this fall, and another is in question.

Colorado officials announced Friday that defensive tackle Edward Nuckols is awaiting certification from the NCAA Clearinghouse and must also still complete some academic requirements to become eligible. Nuckols will thus delay his enrollment at CU until the 2010 spring semester.

CU also announced that quarterback/athlete Josh Moten is also awaiting certification from the clearinghouse and will not be allowed to participate in any more voluntary workouts with his future teammates until he is officially eligible.

Moten's status could take anywhere from one to four weeks to be determined. He could still be eligible this fall, but until CU receives official word from the clearinghouse, he'll be sidelined.

CU also has another player who will "grayshirt." Earlier this summer Hawkins announced that offensive linemen Shaun Simon will address some academic matters and enroll in the 2010 spring semester.

CU players are scheduled to report for fall camp on Aug. 6, with the first practice scheduled for Aug. 7.



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Hawkins' Buffs picked fourth in Big 12 North

Camera staff report
Saturday, July 25, 2009

BOULDER, Colo. — Members of the Big 12 media voted Colorado to finish fourth in the Big 12 North this season, trailing Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri and ahead of Kansas State and Iowa State.

Nebraska received 17 of 32 first-place votes in the polling, with Kansas (12) and Missouri (3) receiving the others.

In the South, Texas and Oklahoma tied for the top spot, both receiving 174 points. Texas received the most first-place votes (17), with Oklahoma receiving the other 15. Oklahoma State, Texas Tech, Baylor and Texas A&M rounded out the voting.

In voting for All-Big 12 honors, Oklahoma quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford was named Offensive Player of the Year, Nebraska defensive lineman Ndamukong Suh won defensive honors and Baylor defensive tackle Phil Taylor, a transfer from Penn State, was named Newcomer of the Year.

Big 12 preseason poll NORTH

1. Nebraska (17) 172
2. Kansas (12) 164
3. Missouri (3) 124
4. Colorado 100
5. Kansas State 81
6. Iowa State 33

SOUTH

1. Texas (17) 174
1. Oklahoma (15) 174
3. Oklahoma State 130
4. Texas Tech 89

5. Baylor 75

6. Texas A&M 33

All-Conference

OFFENSE

WR -- Dez Bryant, OSU; Dezmon Briscoe, KU

TE -- Jermaine Gresham, OU

OL -- Russell Okung, OSU; Trent Williams, OU Adam Ulatoski, UT; Brandon Carter, TTU

C -- Chris Hall, UT

QB -- Sam Bradford, OU

RB -- Kendall Hunter, OSU; DeMarco Murray, OU

PK -- Alex Henery, NU

KR -- Perrish Cox, OSU

DEFENSE

DL -- Ndamukong Suh, NU; Gerald McCoy, OU; Jeremy Beal, OU; Sergio Kindle, UT

LB -- Sean Weatherspoon, MU; Joe Pawelek, BU; Travis Lewis, OU

DB -- Darrell Stuckey, KU; Jordan Lake, Baylor; Dominique Franks, OU; Earl Thomas, UT

P -- Derek Epperson, BU

PR -- Dez Bryant, OSU



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THE DENVER POST

CU football still waiting on two promising rookies

By The Denver Post

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Updated: 07/24/2009 03:52:43 PM MDT

Colorado football coach Dan Hawkins said today that a promising rookie recruit will likely not be with the team this fall and another is having his eligibility delayed.

Defensive tackle Edward Nuckols, a four-star recruit from San Marcos (Calif.), has not yet met NCAA academic standards, Hawkins said. Nuckols will likely grayshirt this season before enrolling at CU in January. The grayshirt means he will not be able to practice with the team before he is enrolled.

Nuckols had one of the highest ratings among CU's signees in February and the team thought he might earn early playing time after the departure of two DT starters from last season.

"He is extremely explosive," Hawkins said then. "He just knocks people off the ball ... a Warren Sapp-type player."

Also, quarterback Josh Moten, from Carson, Calif., is still waiting for academic approval from the NCAA. Hawkins expects Moten to be cleared in one to four weeks. Before then, Moten is not allowed to practice with the team.

CU said earlier this summer that rookie offensive lineman Shaun Simon, from Broken Arrow, Okla., would also grayshirt while working on academic approval.

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Roadblocks for CU recruits

School delays enrollment for key Buffaloes prospects

By Patrick Ridgell
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BOULDER — The Colorado football program announced Friday that two 2009 recruits will have their enrollments delayed.

One is Edward Nuckols, a defensive tackle from San Marcos, Calif., who coaches hoped could provide immediate help. The other is Josh Moten, a quarterback from Carson, Calif.

Nuckols has course work to complete before he can be eligible. CU reported that the 6-foot-3, 295-pound Nuckols will work on those academic matters this fall while he grayshirts, delaying his enrollment at CU until January 2010.

Rivals.com rated Nuckols the top defensive tackle coming out of California last year, and 23rd in the nation. The Buffs lost three starters on their defensive line to graduation following 2008, including both tackles.

Moten is awaiting certification from the NCAA Clearinghouse and can no longer participate in voluntary workouts with the team until he is cleared. That could take up to four weeks to determine.

Moten is expected, if he is cleared, to begin at quarterback. CU has only three other quarterbacks on scholarship.

CU did not report anything on junior college receiver Andre Simmons, who said earlier this month he planned to move to Boulder the week before camp starts, which is Aug. 7. Simmons had to complete six courses in the spring and three online courses this summer before he could be admitted to CU.

Simmons said July 18 that he is “on the road” to completing the courses he needs.

CU earlier announced that center Shaun Simon, another 2009 signee, would not be admitted to the university. Simon said he plans to grayshirt this fall and complete the courses he needs at Tulsa Community College.

Patrick Ridgell can be reached at pridgell@times-call.com.