

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

cu football

WR McKnight has no time for blues

By Tom Kensler
Denver Post Staff Writer

Article Last Updated: 08/21/2007 11:54:09 PM MDT

Boulder - Two days after earning first-team status at one of Colorado's wide receiver positions, Scotty McKnight smiled and told reporters he couldn't lie about what drew him to Dan Hawkins.

Was it the coach's creative offense? His enthusiastic personality? The inspirational speeches?

Not exactly.

"I've been following Coach Hawkins for a while, and it goes back to Boise State," McKnight said Tuesday after a two-hour morning practice. "To be honest, a lot of it was based on their uniforms and that blue field. I liked that. And they were winning, too."

After Hawkins took the Colorado job, it became a no-brainer for McKnight to switch his plans from Boise to Boulder.

McKnight, a redshirt freshman, joined the Buffaloes before last season as an invited walk-on from Coto de Caza, Calif.

McKnight had been given glowing reports about CU while training in Orange County under John Minardi, a Buffs receiver from 1998-2001.

College Football

- [Watch](#) staff writer Jim Armstrong's interview with Dan Hawkins, Cody Hawkins and watch a virtual tour of CU's new locker room
- [Visit](#) CU beat writer Tom Kensler's foray into blogging
- [Visit](#) our CU Page
- [Join](#) the CU conversation
- [Visit](#) our CSU Page
- [Join](#) the CSU conversation
- [Visit](#) our AFA Page
- [Join](#) the AFA conversation

McKnight met Cody Hawkins at an Elite 11 Quarterback Camp before their senior year of high school, and they became fast friends. McKnight looks forward to catching passes from his pal, starting on Sept. 1 in the season opener against Colorado State at Invesco Field at Mile High.

Though not a blazer, McKnight has good quickness and runs precise routes. He patterns his game after Broncos wideout Brandon Stokley's.

"The guy just comes down with the ball; he makes plays," wide receivers coach Eric Kiesau said of McKnight. "You can have the fastest guy in America. But if the ball clangs off his hands all the time, he's

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture



OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 8-31-07

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

just a fast guy."

"You have to deal with Scotty when he's out there because he knows how to get open," defensive backs coach Greg Brown said.

Dan Hawkins is impressed by McKnight's ability to find seams and how quickly McKnight recovered from a broken ankle suffered on the first day of spring drills.

"A lot of those guys that have a healthy ambience, that have a cheerful countenance, optimistic guys - those guys, for whatever reason, either tend to not get hurt or, when they get hurt, their downtime is minimal," Hawkins said. "Scotty did what he had to do to get back on the field."

Smith update

According to CU officials, freshman receiver Josh Smith is expected to be released from Boulder Community Hospital today. Smith bruised a kidney in Saturday's scrimmage.

Staff writer Tom Kensler can be reached at 303-954-1280 or tkensler@denverpost.com.

 Print  Email  Return to Top  Share »

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture



OfficeLiquidators.com
 Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
 11111 W 6th Ave
 Between Kipling & Simms
 303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
 MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 8-31-07

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™



Bufs 'sluggish' in morning workout

By Ryan Thorburn

Wednesday, August 22, 2007

Behind the now-closed gates to the Colorado football practice fields there is a large sign that greets the players when they enter.

It simply reads: Discipline.

Dan Hawkins and his coaching staff hope to have a well-tuned winning machine assembled when CU faces Colorado State on Sept. at Invesco Field.

That means paying attention to the details — such as not being offside on kickoffs, or taking a delay of game penalty on offense, or grabbing on to a facemask on defense.

Discipline.

It's something the Bufs still needed to work on after an intense but imperfect practice on Tuesday morning as preparations for the Rams started to get serious on the field.

"It was sluggish," Hawkins said. "And typically when you start throwing some game-plan stuff at them and the scout team you get into that anxiety curve."

The Bufs also practiced from 8 to 10 p.m. to get used to that time period. The Sept. 8 game at Arizona State kicks off at 8:15 p.m. and the Folsom Field opener on Sept. 15 vs. Florida State kicks off at 8 p.m.

Rams update

Most of the reports out of Fort Collins this month have been positive, unlike last August when standout running back Kyle Bell was lost for the season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

Colorado State safety Klint Kubiak returned to practice this week after being held out of full-contact work for the previous two weeks due to a groin injury that required surgery during the spring. The son of former Denver Broncos offensive coordinator and current Houston Texans head coach Gary Kubiak told the Fort Collins Coloradoan that he will be ready for the Sept. 1 opener against CU.

The Rams also believe they have found enough big bodies to form a solid offensive line to block for a fully-recovered Bell this season.

"They're coming along great," Bell said of his line after last Saturday's scrimmage, during which he scored on a 49-yard touchdown. "We have a group of eight or nine guys in the mix that can come in to play."

Notable

CU's defense was able to consistently stop running plays in a goal-line situation on Tuesday morning, but a perfect pass from Nick Nelson to a diving Tyson DeVree in the corner of the end zone salvaged the session offensively. ... Hawkins said McKnight, wide receiver Cody Crawford, safety Daniel Dykes and place-kicker Tyler Cope are all walk-on players who could be under consideration for scholarships at some point. ... A second sign positioned along the back wall of the CU practice fields reads — 1990 National Champions.



Smith set to be out of hospital today

But bruised kidney could keep frosh WR on sidelines for several weeks

By Ryan Thorburn

Wednesday, August 22, 2007

A little down and still not out of the hospital.

That was the latest update on Josh Smith from his room on Tuesday night as the Colorado wide receiver remained at Boulder Community Hospital while recovering from a bruised kidney.

Smith, who was practicing at a high enough level to be in the mix for major playing time as a true freshman, is trying to keep his spirits up after suffering the injury during Saturday's scrimmage at Folsom Field. He underwent a CAT scan on Tuesday that didn't show any further damage to the kidney, which he hopes means doctors will release him from the hospital today.

"They want to keep me away from contact right now and keep me safe," Smith said. "I'm definitely looking forward to dropping out of here in the morning. ... We'll see what the doc says."

At this point Smith is just focusing on getting healthy enough to attend classes next Monday when the fall semester at CU begins. It could be weeks before he is ready to return to the football field and he isn't ruling out the possibility of redshirting this season.

"My decision all depends on what they say about my injury," Smith said. "Of course missing some games might have me leaning towards a redshirt. I don't want to come back in the middle of the season."

CU head coach Dan Hawkins has said that he is very careful about not playing true freshmen unless the coaching staff plans to use them enough to make an impact. Smith is a very skilled player who could be one of Cody Hawkins' go-to-guys for the next three or four years.

"I was definitely making my way up there on the depth chart," Smith said. "At least I know I can adjust to the game speed."

The good news for the Buffs this week is that redshirt freshman Scotty McKnight is helping fill the void by continuing his impressive camp. He is currently listed as the starter opposite junior Patrick Williams on the depth chart.

"He's a baller," Dan Hawkins said of McKnight. "The guy makes plays. He knows how to use his body and get open."

Smith knew something was wrong in the shower after practice when his adrenaline went down and the unbearable pain kicked in. He ran into the wall in the back of the south end zone at full speed but says the unusual injury will not keep him down for long.

"I'm not sad about anything that happened," he said. "I don't feel bad. The worst is over."



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.



Point-Counterpoint: CU-CSU: Better in Boulder or Denver?

By Joshua Lindenstein , Chris Shelton
Wednesday, August 22, 2007

Boulder

Josh Lindenstein

College football belongs on college campuses.

And that goes for the Colorado-Colorado State game.

Sure, more people get to watch the game at Invesco Field than at Folsom Field or that pasture with bleachers in Fort Collins.

But give me the atmosphere and camaraderie of fans tailgating all over campus before jovially convening for the game over packing into the mega parking lot at Invesco any day.

Give me the excitement and hostility and home-field advantage that the crowd at either stadium creates over a too-large stadium evenly divided any day. Give me die-hard visiting fans toughing that environment out.

The vibe at the game when it's been in Denver over recent years seems, well, aloof when compared to home games on campus. And it tends to devolve from there (Can you say tear gas?).

CU won't make enough money playing at CSU you say? Fine. Don't go to Fort Collins. Invite the Lambs down to Boulder — where you can make the same or more money as playing in Denver — every other year and bring in Wyoming or Air Force on the off-years.

But don't cheat thousands of college football fans out of the on-campus experience they get so precious few times per year.

Denver

Chris Shelton

This state's biggest college football game of the year should be played on the biggest stage.

Playing the CU-CSU game at Invesco Field makes the event an even bigger spectacle.

It also starts the college football season with a bang, as far as grabbing the attention of fans in the Denver area about CU or CSU football.

Besides, CU fans will have six more opportunities to see the Buffs in Boulder this year.

And this season's home schedule is a great package — Florida State, Miami of Ohio, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

The attendance figures make it difficult to overlook, too.

In the past seven games played at Invesco Field, the average attendance was 72,773.

In the past three games played in Boulder, the average attendance was 54,447.

The last time the game was at CSU in 1996, the attendance was 36,371.

Granted, the stadiums are smaller at CSU and CU, but more people in the stands means more people are into this rivalry game.

In 2003, there were 76,219 at Invesco Field for the CU-CSU game. If the schools can attract that many people to game, the game should be at Invesco.



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.



Longmont, Colorado
Wednesday, August 22,
2007

DAILY TIMES-CALL

Publish Date: 8/22/2007

Shallow depth

CU's Cabral concerned about numbers at LB

*By Patrick Ridgell
The Daily Times-Call*

BOULDER — Colorado linebackers coach Brian Cabral is facing a depth shortage unlike any he's ever seen.

Actually, Cabral explains, it's beyond just a depth shortage.

"I have no depth," Cabral said. "I have to develop some depth. I have to have some guys step up."

Behind starters R.J. Brown and Jordon Dizon, both of whom are team captains, and Brad Jones, who plays on the outside, CU lists three walk-ons — Jake Duren, Jeff Smart and Brian Stengel. Michael Sipili would be a starter, but he's suspended until his legal matters are resolved. Marcus Burton would be an experienced reserve, but he's out for the season due to academics. Cabral said he can't remember the last time he's had to rely so heavily on walk-ons entering a season.

There's a candor in Cabral's words that reveal his concern over what might happen if an injury hits a starter. But in his 19th year coaching in Boulder, and as the owner of one of the best reputations among the nation's linebacker coaches, Cabral can admit he has a big task ahead in 2007 and still come across as someone who's far from panicking.

"We have to find the best way to get the best 11 players, whether it's all linebackers or defensive backs, we have to find ways to get the best guys on the field," Cabral said. "We have to be creative. We have to be smart. We have to put guys in situations we know they can handle, where they can hold up."

"Jordon is having a great camp; he's doing everything we expect him to. R.J. is having a great camp, and Brad is having a good camp as well. So the first three are very solid; we're very pleased with the first three."

"If either one of those first three go down, that's when we have to start coming up with some real answers."

One answer may or may not be Joe Sanders. The fifth-year senior who came to CU as a tight end in 2003 and moved to linebacker in 2004 is back at tight end, and doing well. But he also plays at one of the program's deeper spots, considering the camp emergence of Nate Solder and the return of Riar Geer and Tyson DeVree.

Moving Sanders back to linebacker, where he might make a good backup for Jones, is "not really" something coaches have discussed, Cabral said.

"But that certainly is a possibility," Cabral continued. "We have ways to change up our personnel. It just depends on situations."

Sanders said at this point, he doesn't think a change will come, and that he doesn't believe there's been much talk about it. He also didn't sound too interested in playing both positions this season.

"I'm happy where I am," Sanders said. "I just want to focus on tight end."

"If the team called on me to do so, I could play both, but right now, I think they just want me at tight end."

Cabral said Smart knows what he's doing within CU's defense. Smart, a third-year sophomore, played in 11 games in 2006 on special teams, and four on defense. Head coach Dan Hawkins said Smart "can really run."

Duren transferred from Northern Colorado a year ago and redshirted in 2006. Cabral said Duren is still learning the system, but at least he played a lot in Greeley.



Colorado linebacker Jake Duren works on a fumble recovery drill during practice Aug. 6. Duren is a transfer from Northern Colorado and could find himself on the field quite a bit if injuries hit the Buffaloes' starters. **Times-Call / Bradley Wakoff**

Stengel is similar to Smart in the way he knows the offense. This is his third year at CU.

All three need game experience, Cabral said.

“They’re getting an awful lot of reps; they’re getting an awful lot of looks,” Cabral said. “Now it’s just a matter of learning the defense.”

And for Cabral, it’s a matter of getting them ready.

“I’ve never been this thin,” he said of the depth. “I guess that’s why they pay me.”

Smith update: Freshman receiver Josh Smith remained in Boulder Community Hospital on Tuesday night. Hawkins said he’s expected to be released today.

Smith has been there since suffering a bruised kidney during CU’s scrimmage Saturday. His availability for the season opener — Sept. 1 against Colorado State — and beyond is unclear, though Hawkins has said he expects to use Smith in 2007. Smith has excelled in camp.

Extra points: Bernard Jackson’s status remains unclear. He practiced Tuesday morning but not Tuesday night, so he could focus on academics, Hawkins said. ... The team is holding its walk-through this morning at Invesco Field. ... Hawkins called Tuesday morning’s practice “sluggish.” The players had most of Monday off to move into dorms and other residences. Many used their free time to go swimming. Hawkins and his staff met and worked on recruiting, among other tasks. ... CU also has started putting in its game plan for CSU, which gives players, especially younger ones, an “anxiety curve.” Hawkins said they did a much better job Tuesday night. ... Asked about CSU running back Kyle Bell, who’s making a return from a torn ACL this year, Hawkins said, “When you have those kinds of proven players on your club, it gives you a bunch of confidence.” ... Men’s basketball player Xavier Silas visited Tuesday morning’s practice. He mentioned Patrick Williams and Demetrius Sumler as the football players who are also pretty good basketball players he’s faced in pick-up games.

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

Rocky Mountain News

To print this page, select **File** then **Print** from your browser

URL: http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/ncaa/article/0,2777,DRMN_23932_5678979,00.html

CU might have to burn redshirts across thin D-line

By **B.G. Brooks, Rocky Mountain News**
August 21, 2007

BOULDER — In a perfect world, assistant coach Romeo Bandison would redshirt all of the incoming freshman defensive linemen at the University of Colorado. But "perfect" might not be among the adjectives describing Bandison's world as CU prepares for its Sept. 1 opener against Colorado State.

With two of the linemen suspended for the opener or beyond (Taj Kaynor for one game, Chris Perri for three), Bandison has 10 scholarship players available at four positions.

Three of the 10 — Lagrone Shields, Eugene Goree and Conrad Obi — are true freshmen Bandison would like to see slip into redshirts.

But Bandison isn't sure that is possible. Goree, a 6-foot-2, 290-pound nose tackle, and Obi, a 6-3, 250-pound end, have shown well enough in camp to challenge for playing time.

Goree is positioned behind junior Brandon Nicolas and sophomore Jason Brace at nose guard, while Obi and redshirt freshman Eric Lawson are battling to back up senior Alonzo Barrett at end.

Bandison said Goree, because of his high school experience in a "two-gap" defensive front, is "a little more prepared for what I teach. He was a nose guard (in high school) and was used to getting his hands on the center, locking out and separating."

Still, Bandison hopes he doesn't have to use him.

"I have to have those (young) guys prepared, but I don't want to burn their redshirt years," he said, noting Goree turns 18 on Sept. 1.

Three of Bandison's four starters — Barrett, junior end Maurice Lucas and junior tackle George Hypolite — have a redshirt season available. Nicolas used his sitting out a transfer year after leaving Notre Dame.

As with the linebacking corps, there's scant experience behind Bandison's front-liners. Competing at ends with Lucas and Barrett are Obi and redshirt freshman Marquez Herrod, both of whom Bandison says "go 100 miles an hour all the time."

Bandison's biggest role to fill is that of an effective pass rusher. He said replacing departed end Abe Wright (team-best 11 1/2 sacks last season) is "impossible," but added, "Collectively, we'll have a better pass rush than we had last year, but we won't have that single guy who just gets after it."

ETC.: After missing Monday morning's work, offensive captain **Bernard Jackson** practiced Tuesday morning. . . . Coach **Dan Hawkins** said walk-ons being considered for scholarships include receivers **Scotty McKnight** and **Cody Crawford**, safety **D.J. Dykes** and place-kicker **Tyler Cope**. . . . Freshman receiver **Josh Smith**, who suffered a bruised kidney Saturday, is scheduled be released from Boulder Community Hospital today.

brooksb@RockyMountainNews.com or 303-954-5466

Copyright 2007, Rocky Mountain News. All Rights Reserved.