



Wednesday Practice Report: Charles' confidence still high

Senior tailback at 100 percent

Kyle McDaniel, For the Camera

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Tailback Hugh Charles is convinced he is not going to lose his starting role with the Buffs.

"I'm not having that role taken from me," Charles said Wednesday. "I felt it was taken from me last year, so that's not going to happen. It is my last season, so I'm going all out. That's not going to happen."

Charles, who missed CU's game against Arizona State with a strained hamstring, returned for the Buffs last Saturday against Florida State. But even with Charles in the backfield, CU rushed for minus-27 yards.

The Buffs outgained the Seminoles in terms of total offense, 279 yards to 221, but it was clear the team's inability to pound the ball created problems all night.

Charles said at Wednesday's practice that he "wasn't full go" against Florida State and that the coaches are hoping he helps get the running game going.

"Well, being injured didn't help at all. They are looking for me to pick it up," Charles said. "The Florida State game -- they didn't like my performance at all, and I wasn't impressed either."

Coach Dan Hawkins said on Tuesday that he is still expecting more from Charles. As a senior and one of the fastest players on the team, the coaches continue to push Charles to be better.

"I still want him to pour it up in there," Hawkins said. "I still want him to have the kind of confidence, the mentality -- there's no question he is fast -- but to be able to put his foot down and go north and south."

In terms of having the mentality to stretch a play for more yardage, Charles said he has all the confidence in the world. He also said the injury he suffered was still in the back of his mind on Saturday and that he does not feel confidence is an issue for him.

Against Colorado State, the Buffs ground game was effective to the tune of 129 yards. Charles was injured early in the game, but freshman Demetrius Sumler led the team with 86 rushing yards and also scored a touchdown.

But against Arizona State and Florida State, the running game never got going.

And when the running game is not going, the coaches will look to the senior tailback for answers. Quarterback Cody Hawkins said on Wednesday that the coaches push Charles and expect more from him because of his ability and his leadership as a senior. In terms of his confidence, Cody Hawkins believes there is always room to gain more.

"I think you can always improve in that area," Cody Hawkins said. "Hugh is a guy with a lot of ability. I think he runs with a lot of confidence. He's the kind of guy who has unbelievable potential. He's a heck of a running back as it is."



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CU introduces 'Legacy Buffs' program

By Kyle Ringo

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

When Jerry Johnson was a boy growing up in Boulder, he attended every Colorado football game he could by forking over a nickel to sit or stand on the grass in back of the end zone at Colorado Stadium.

In 1950 six years after the stadium was renamed Folsom Field, Johnson's parents bought season tickets and the family has kept them ever since. Johnson has seen a lot of faces come and go in that time, including 10 different head football coaches.

When the Buffs take on Miami (Ohio) on Saturday afternoon (1:30 p.m., no television), he will be a part of the history on the field. Johnson and 167 others who have held CU football season tickets for 50 years or more will be honored with a pregame reception and a halftime ceremony on the field.

The athletic department announced a new Legacy Buffs program Tuesday, in which it recognizes season-ticket holders who have stuck with the Buffs for 30, 40 or 50 or more years.

Athletic director Mike Bohn asked Johnson to participate in the announcement at the Dal Ward Center as a representative of those fans.

"It's extremely gratifying to have this kind of recognition," Johnson said.

The three oldest accounts belong to Richard J. Downing Jr., of Denver, William R. Jones, of Longmont, and R.E. Pate III, of Denver. All three have been season-ticket holders for 61 years.

Bohn said there are a total of 2,065 season-ticket holders who fit the bill and they account for 6,456 tickets this season. He said there are 1,390 Legacy Buffs of 30 years or more, 507 of 40 years and 168 of 50 years or more.

"We think that is very, very special," Bohn said.

Every Legacy Buff has been given a special lanyard to wear at games with a picture of Folsom Field from the year in which they became season-ticket holders.

Former CU athletic director and football coach Eddie Crowder joined Bohn and Johnson at the Dal Ward Center on Tuesday for the announcement. Crowder came to CU in 1963 and is included in the group of Legacy Buffs of 40 years or more with the program.

"Heritage is just something invaluable. And it's something that gets overlooked," Crowder said. "... It has value that adds to the sense of tradition, to the sense of character to a program like this. It does a great deal to influence the ultimate imperative, and that's the recruits. So I think what they've done here is tremendous."



'Big-motor' players could boost Buffs

Perri, Sipili to play; Lockridge may see more time

By Kyle Ringo

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Reporters thought they detected just a hint of Negative Nancy in Dan Hawkins on Tuesday, three days after his team lost a winnable game at home to Florida State.

Hawkins volunteered during his weekly meeting with the media that he actually told his players he was disappointed with them following the late-night loss.

By now, Buff fans know their head coach to be a philosophical bookworm who invites self-help gurus to speak to his team and constantly asks his players to visualize the positive. For him to acknowledge disappointment nearly inspired gasps from scribes, who were too busy scribbling down his every word to waste the breath.

Turns out, this was more of the same art-of-Zen, master-your-mind, positive thinking stuff.

"I told them I said, 'Guys, if there is not a fire burning in your belly right now that you can play against anybody and, you know, win games, I don't know what else you need. Because the proof is right there,' " Hawkins said.

"There is no question that we need to play a cleaner level of football, but we're capable of doing that." Hawkins likes to be surrounded with positive people like himself. So he recruits them to his team. He also likes "big-motor" guys from a physical standpoint and three of them figure to begin receiving plenty of playing this weekend when Miami (Ohio) comes to town.

Linebacker Michael Sipili and defensive lineman Chris Perri are eligible once again after serving three-game suspensions for off-field incidents over the summer.

Both have the talent to start — Sipili probably will — and they figure to make a tough defense even more difficult to move the ball against. Hawkins described Perri, a junior college transfer, this way on Tuesday:

"He's got a big-time motor, he plays hard and he can come off the ball. He's a very aggressive defensive lineman, very strong, can run and he is really going to complement our defensive front."

The Buffs need "big-motor" guys nowhere more than they need them in the running game. Three weeks into the season, CU ranks 116th out of 119 Division I teams in rushing. The Buffs have gained five yards on 51 carries in the past two outings.

True freshman running back Brian Lockridge might have the biggest motor on the team.

Quarterback Cody Hawkins talked about Lockridge after Tuesday practice and noted that the tailback from Mission Viejo, Calif., must eat fast food before every game because the high-fat content prevents his body fat from dropping too low during games.

Cody Hawkins said Lockridge is probably in the best shape of any player on the team and he also brings one of the best attitudes to the locker room each day.

"He makes you feel awesome," Cody Hawkins said. "It could be a rainy, stormy day, car just broke down, you failed a test and Brian is going to make you feel like it's Christmas."

Lockridge made his debut against the Seminoles and is competing for more playing time this week in practices, but Dan Hawkins acknowledged the new running back in the mix won't be wasted now that his redshirt season has been burned.

"He has a lot of speed, but he also has a different style in that he'll pour it up in there and has no trepidation about that," Dan Hawkins said. "He'll just throw a rock on the gas pedal and go. He's kind of like an energizer bunny, the guy just has a tremendous spirit about him.

"...He is a guy who will return a punt, catch it, run all the way down, hand it to the punter and be standing there before you even know that he just ran 100 yards."

Hawkins said he envisions a role in the offense for all his tailbacks but he also can see the need to stick with one more than others if a player begins to demand more playing time through his performance.

Until that happens, his philosophy is a simple one.

"I think you play the best guy for the right situation," Hawkins said.



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Woelk: Disappointed Buffs not a bad sign

By Neill Woelk

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

It may be only an incremental shift in attitude, but the bar is being raised in the Colorado football locker room.

A year ago, the Buffs were more surprised than anything else after playing then-No. 9 Georgia to a virtual standstill.

One year later, they were disappointed — and maybe just a bit ticked off — after letting what they believed to be a chance at victory slip away against Florida State.

"Last year, a lot of guys were saying, 'I can't believe we stayed with these guys,' " said Buff center Daniel Sanders on Tuesday. "This year, we were saying, 'I can't believe we lost to these guys.' "

Their coach felt the same way after Saturday's game.

"It was the first time that I told our guys I was disappointed," Hawkins said Tuesday. "I said I was a little disappointed, and they were too.

"It's not that I think we should have won that game, but we certainly could have. We could have. Our guys definitely felt that."

Of course, a loss is still a loss, no matter how you feel after the game.

But, it's nevertheless a sign that these young Buffs are beginning to build up a little confidence and shed the doubts that have followed the program since late in the 2005 season.

"It's a totally different feeling," Hawkins said.

Since the beginning of a four-game slide to close Gary Barnett's final season at CU, the Buffs have won just three of their last 19 games. Confidence has not been a commodity in great supply over that stretch, and last year's 2-10 season under a new coach didn't do much to change that.

This year, though, the Buffs have seen two opportunities slip through their fingers against quality teams. They let a 14-0 lead against Arizona State melt away, and allowed a handful of mistakes against the Seminoles keep the game from going down to the wire.

"It was like we let those chances slip through the cracks," said Buff freshman Josh Smith. "I mean, against Florida State, we knew they were going to come out and show some speed. We knew they were good." But after a while, we realized that they're human, too. We figured out we could play with them — and we just made too many mistakes."

Still, correcting those mistakes will take more than talking about them. The Buffs' running game — currently ranked 116th in the nation out of 119 Div. I teams — needs some serious improvement. Hawkins and his staff are still waiting for one of their running backs to emerge from the pack as the clear No. 1 guy, and they will also take a look this week at the offensive line to determine if it might not be time for some of the youngsters to make their debuts.

The good news is that Colorado finally gets a break in the schedule this week. While the Buffs aren't good enough to take anyone for granted, it's no secret that Miami of Ohio isn't on the same level as FSU or ASU.

It will be a great chance for the Buffs to correct some of the mistakes that have tripped them over the last couple of games. It will also be an opportunity for Hawkins' team to build a little confidence.

They'll need it. Less than two weeks away is a visit from No. 4 Oklahoma — probably the best team Hawkins has seen in his short tenure in Boulder. It also will be the CU foe this year that has more physical talent from top to bottom.

But as Hawkins noted Tuesday, "It's not about playing on paper. It's about playing football. It's about cleaning it up."

This would be the perfect week to start "cleaning it up." The Buffs have spent the last two weeks talking about missed opportunities and wasted chances. They've talked about mistakes being the biggest difference.

Now, they need to pay heed to Hawkins' assessment just minutes after the Florida State game.

"We need to stop making excuses and start making plays."

Indeed.



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college football

CU coach Hawkins "disappointed"

By Tom Kensler
Denver Post Staff Writer

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Boulder — While the 16-6 loss to Florida State on Saturday night wouldn't qualify as one of those "breakthroughs" that Colorado's Dan Hawkins envisions, it did mark a first.

For the first time, the second-year CU coach told his players in the locker room afterward that he was disappointed.

"And they were, too," Hawkins said this afternoon during his weekly media luncheon.

That could become a significant step in the development of the program, the coach said.

"People asked me so many times last year if I was frustrated or disappointed, and I really wasn't," Hawkins explained, referring to going 2-10 in 2006. "That's because last year we did what we could do. That was some of the realities of it.

"But this game we certainly could have won it. Our guys very much felt that."

As the minutes ticked away in the fourth quarter against Florida State, Hawkins told the team that he has seen a team score 16 points in 20

Colorado Football

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seconds. Everybody, he said, nodded his head in agreement.

"They were very much right there," Hawkins recalled. "I really think they thought, 'Just a play or two away' and the outcome would be different.

"Coming out of the Georgia game last year, it was a more a feeling of being despondent. Coming out of this game, it more of an energizing feeling of, 'We can play with anybody on the schedule.' "

Junior center Daniel Sanders agreed.

"Last year, we were, like, 'I can't believe we stayed that close,' " Sanders said. "This year it's, 'I can't believe we lost that game.' "

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

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Hawkins voices emotion

Coach says FSU loss 'disappointed' him

By Patrick Ridgell
The Daily Times-Call

BOULDER — You knew when Colorado coach Dan Hawkins started talking about “The Alchemist” at his Tuesday news conference, he had something interesting to say.

Hawkins expressed dismay upon seeing only one in a room full of sports reporters had read the book, and then promised not to ruin it for those who plan to. According to online reviews, “The Alchemist” tells the story of Santiago, a boy who has a dream and the courage to follow it. And Hawkins, who didn’t speak to reporters following Sunday’s practice and provided only short answers during Monday’s Big 12 teleconference, sees a parallel between his plight and Santiago’s.

“As I go through my personal tenure here, I often feel like that boy,” Hawkins said.

Hawkins obviously has spent a lot of time thinking about Saturday’s loss to Florida State and the opportunity CU missed to pull a big upset. And he now wonders how his 1-2 Buffs, who are 108th in the nation in total offense and 104th in scoring, can be 14-point favorites over anyone, as they are for Saturday’s game with 1-2 Miami-Ohio.

But his main point in talking literature and philosophy was to show what he hopes his team took from Saturday, and what role it’ll play as Hawkins tries to rebuild CU into a winner.

“The great thing in the locker room after that game was that it was the first time (in his CU tenure) that I told our guys I was disappointed ... and they were too,” Hawkins said. “Not that there wasn’t some of that last year, but clearly, you always have to be careful when you use your words. It’s not that I think we should have won that game, but we certainly could have.

“Clearly coming out of the Georgia game last year, it was a feeling of being despondent, where as coming out of this game, it’s more of an energizing feeling, of everyone saying, ‘You know guys, we can play with anyone on the schedule. You know that, and we’ve got to maximize our opportunities.’”

Hawkins said the players’ energy should stem from the disappointment.

“I told them, ‘If there’s not a fire burning in your belly right now that you can play against anybody and win games, I don’t know what else you need, because the proof is right there,’” Hawkins said.

“There’s no question that we need to play a cleaner level of football, but we’re capable of doing that.”

Defensive tackle George Hypolite said the disappointment is not lingering, but he also said Hawkins’ words resonated.

“It’s good to hear the head coach has only been disappointed once, because I’ve been disappointed a couple of times,”



Colorado football coach Dan Hawkins said Saturday’s loss to Florida State marked the first time he was ever disappointed with his team during his tenure in Boulder.

AP/Jack Dempsey

Hypolite said.

“Florida State made the right plays and won the football game, and you have to say that. But we left a lot of things out there that could’ve impacted the game. ... And that hurts as a football player. Because there are things you could’ve done a little better. And hindsight’s always 20-20, it just feels that game, you’re like, ‘Wow, we really left that one on the table.’”

CU held Florida State to 221 yards Saturday night, and the Buffs get starting middle linebacker Michael Sipili back this week. Also set to make his debut is defensive lineman Chris Perri, who’s expected to add depth.

The offense is struggling. Coaches are trying to fix a ground game that’s averaging 44.7 yards a game, 116th in the nation, and 1.7 per attempt.

Even last year, when the Buffs had the worst offense in the Big 12, they could run the ball some.

Center Daniel Sanders and receiver Josh Smith reiterated the theme of the day when they talked about what’s going wrong.

“To us, though, we feel like we’ve been stopping ourselves, so we just need to quit stopping ourselves in games because that’s what has been beating us,” Sanders said.

Said Smith: “I think the mood of the team is that we feel like we should have won that game. I mean, the defense held them to 16 points. We know that we are better than six points on offense, and we know that we need an earlier start.

“I think we just found out a little too late that we could move the ball on those guys.”

Extra points: Sipili is listed as the starter at inside MIKE linebacker. Junior R.J. Brown, who started the previous three, suffered a concussion and is listed as doubtful. ... CU reported Tuesday 8,500 seats remained for Saturday. There are about 5,400 left for the Oklahoma game on Sept. 29. ... Linebacker Jordon Dizon leads the nation in tackles per game at 16.3. ... CU unveiled its Legacy Buffs program on Tuesday. It’ll honor season ticket holders of 30 years and more in three different tiers — 30-, 40- and 50-year holders. CU reported there are 2,065 accounts that have held season tickets for more than 30 years, including 168 that have been active for 50 years or longer. ... Brad Bates, the athletic director at Miami-Ohio, was Bill McCartney’s first full-time strength and conditioning coach at CU. Bates worked with the Buffs from 1982 to 1985 before moving on to Vanderbilt.

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

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Local college football notebook

By B.G. Brooks (CU), Randy Holtz (CSU), Jim Benton (Air Force) and wire services (UNC, Wyoming).
September 19, 2007

CU

Lockridge gets chance

Senior tailback **Hugh Charles** continues to draw scrutiny in a running game that managed a school-low minus-27 yards last week against Florida State.

Competition at tailback and in the offensive line have reopened this week, with freshman **Brian Lockridge** certain to get his share of carries after his redshirt was discarded last weekend.

Coach **Dan Hawkins** said Lockridge "has speed, but (he) has a different style in that he'll pour it in there and has no trepidation about that. . . . He'll throw a rock on the gas pedal and go. He's kind of an Energizer Bunny - there's just a tremendous spirit about him. He's not afraid. . . . Even though he's not the biggest guy, he'll put his pads down."

Large shoes to fill

Miami (Ohio) University's passing record and total-offense sections are dominated by Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback **Ben Roethlisberger**, who played at the school from 2001 to 2003.

Roethlisberger, who led the Steelers to the Super Bowl XL title, had 14 300-yard passing games for Miami.

Senior RedHawks quarterback **Mike Kokal** has two 300-yard passing games, both last season.

But he has shared playing time during the past two weeks with sophomore **Daniel Raudabaugh**, who passed for 240 yards and a touchdown in Saturday's 47-10 loss to Cincinnati.

Hawkins expects to see more of Raudabaugh on Saturday, calling him "a little bit more of a thrower" than the more experienced and versatile Kokal.

Raudabaugh's two-game passing stats: 37-of-69, 462 yards, three touchdowns, three interceptions.

'Legacy Buffs' kicks off

CU will honor its longtime season- ticket holders Saturday with the newly formed "Legacy Buffs" program. The school has 1,390 season- ticket holders of 30-plus years and 507 who have held their tickets for 40-plus years.

Individuals who have held season tickets for 50-plus years will be recognized at a special pregame reception in the Dal Ward Varsity Room, then again on the field at halftime. CU has 168 accounts, representing 556 tickets, dating back 50 years or longer.

Etc.

- Linebacker **R.J. Brown** (concussion) is doubtful for Saturday's game; tight end **Riar Geer** (ankle) and cornerback

Terrence Wheatley (knee) are probable; safety **Lionel Harris** (ankle) is questionable; and linebacker **Nate Vaionmunga** (mouth) is day to day.

- CU's Big 12 Conference opener against No. 4 Oklahoma (Sept. 29, Folsom Field) will kick off at 11:30 a.m. MDT. It will be televised by FSN.
- Sophomore punter **Matt DiLallo** was chosen to the Ray Guy Award watch list. The award is presented every year to the nation's top punter.
- Offensive coordinator **Mark Helfrich** said Tuesday was "our best offensive practice of the year. We got after our guys pretty good on Sunday and Monday, and they responded."

CSU

Heat is on

The Rams are concerned about the Texas heat and humidity, and they should be. The game kicks off at 3:30 p.m. CDT, the hottest part of the day, and the long-range forecast calls for a high temperature in the low 90s and humidity in the 60 percent range, with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms.

Name that stadium

When Colorado State visits Houston on Saturday (CSTV), the Rams will line up on a field named similarly to their own.

Houston's stadium, like CSU's, has a long official name to honor a major contributor to the program. CSU plays at Sonny Lubick Field at Hughes Stadium, the playing surface named to honor the Rams' current coach. The Cougars play at John O'Quinn Field at Robertson Stadium.

The Robertson part is for **Corbin J. Robertson**, a former Houston Board of Regents member who helped fund the campus stadium's renovation in 1970.

John O'Quinn's name was attached to the stadium's natural- grass field in 1999 after the prominent Houston attorney helped fund a major face-lift that included a seating expansion and 20 luxury suites.

Numbers game

844-721 is **CSU's advantage** over opponents in total yardage output in its first two games. The Rams outgained Colorado 386-330 and California 458-391. Where it matters most, though - points - CSU lost against the Buffaloes 31-28 in overtime and 34-28 against the Golden Bears.

Etc.

- CSU's coaching staff has moved **Guy Miller**, a redshirt freshman from Scott City, Kan., from the offensive line to the defensive line. Miller, who was listed as the Rams' No. 3 right guard, was moved to provide depth on a defensive front that has seen its share of injuries.
- Starting center **Tim Walter** (ankle) remains questionable for Saturday's game.
- Despite a so-so start to his senior season, CSU punter **Jimmie Kaylor** is one of 41 punters selected to the Ray Guy Award watch list.
- CSU practiced for about 90 minutes and likely will go that long again today and Thursday.

Air Force