



Bohn wants more grad students in stands for Buffs games

CU considering options to boost school spirit

By Brittany Anas
Saturday, October 20, 2007

Kim Trenbath's ideal mascot would perhaps be a commodore-mountaineer-buffalo hybrid — a diplomatic cross of the collegiate teams she has stood behind.

Trenbath, a University of Colorado doctoral candidate in atmospheric sciences and a student-government leader, is working this fall with the campus's athletic department to boost graduate students' school spirit.

"We know that they went to another school before and are probably used to cheering for that team," said Trenbath, who did her undergraduate work at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee and earned her master's degree at West Virginia University. "But we want our graduate students to come here and cheer for the Buffs."

There are more than 5,000 master's and doctoral students on the Boulder campus, and athletic department officials say they need to do a better job converting their hearts to black and gold.

That means discounting tickets for students' spouses and children so it's affordable for families to watch sporting events and the marching band, said Athletic Director Mike Bohn. The department also wants to give graduate students their own sections in the stands at football and basketball games and host appreciation events to recognize them, he said.

"I believe we've missed them in the past," Bohn said. "We believe they are an integral part of our campus, and we want them to feel good about being Buffs."

Trenbath said graduate-student leaders are also working to put together happy hours before upcoming basketball games and might hold tailgating parties next football season.

David King, president of CU's United Government of Graduate Students, said the partnership with athletics fits into the group's mission to better student life.

Graduate students may be helping with tutoring and study-hall programs for student athletes. There are also plans to hold a large graduate-research symposium in the spring at the football practice bubble on Franklin Field.

"A strategic alliance with the athletics department will help enhance one aspect of the sense of community that we are attempting to foster at the post-baccalaureate level, which is somewhat

unprecedented on average at a national level," King said.

Last football season, doctoral student Tanya Phillips had season tickets to the Buffs' home games. But there are nights when Phillips — who also works in a lab at the National Center for Atmospheric Research — debates whether she even has time to sleep.

"You're so busy with your research and your classes," she said. "I enjoy watching the games; it's just hard to find the time."



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Bufs gear for visit from No. 15 KU

Turnover ratio a key for both squads in Big 12 North showdown

By Kyle Ringo
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The give-and-take element is a big piece of the success of any football season.

The Colorado Buffaloes have been giving much more than they want to and taking in fits and spurts so far this fall.

The Buffs must flip a turnover ratio that is getting uglier by the week or their Big 12 Conference championship and bowl-game hopes could flop. Coach Dan Hawkins' team has given opponents 12 interceptions and four fumbles through the first seven games while forcing just six fumbles and snaring only six interceptions.

In a loss last week at Kansas State, the Buffs committed four turnovers and forced zero from the Wildcats. Those numbers don't account for a blocked punt that was returned for a touchdown in a 47- 20 loss, the widest margin of defeat in Hawkins' brief tenure.

The turnover picture could hardly be more different for the Buffs and today's opponent, the No. 15 Kansas Jayhawks (3:31 p.m., ESPN). While CU ranks 104th in the country and next-to-last in the Big 12 in turnover ratio, Kansas is first in the conference and sixth nationally with 18 takeaways and only nine turnovers.

One explanation for that success is the play of quarterback Todd Reesing. The sophomore made his debut against the Buffs a year ago and led Kansas to victory with smart decisions and making plays on the run.

He has thrown 16 touchdown passes this season compared with only four interceptions and is the Jayhawks' third leading rusher. Those numbers stand in stark contrast to CU quarterback Cody Hawkins, who has thrown 12 interceptions and 11 touchdowns in the first seven games of his career.

Reesing has only three partial-games more experience than Hawkins.

"He is very hard to tackle and he moves around back there," Dan Hawkins said of Reesing. "Again, he's being very efficient with the ball, not turning it over and getting it to the right guy.

"I think, last year in the game against us, he was more of a runner and he wasn't as much of a passer as he is this year."

Kansas comes to town in the middle of one of the strangest seasons in recent history ranked No. 15 in both polls and undefeated at 6-0. KU is one of only five unbeaten team remaining in Division I.

The Jayhawks bring some baggage to Boulder.

Most outside of Kansas believe they still have much to prove. Their six wins came against teams with a combined record of 15-24. Five of those games were played at home, with their only road game being a 70-mile drive to Kansas State.

Kansas hasn't won in Boulder since 1995 and has produced a 5-21 mark in road games under coach Mark Mangino. Yet, they are favored today against a CU team that defeated the No. 3 team in the nation the last time it played on its home field three weeks ago.

The Jayhawks seem to be playing with more confidence on the road of late. Two of those five road wins under Mangino have come in the past three road trips.

"I've been looking forward to it because the first few games we were blowing out opponents and winning by a lot and I wanted to see how we could go through some adversity," KU linebacker Joe Mortensen. "I look forward to Colorado. I hope there are some points in the game that when we're down, we see how strong we are. I think that's a good team."

While turnovers have played a big part in the records of both teams, penalties also have had an effect. The Buffs have been flagged 21 times for nearly 200 yards in the past two games combined. Kansas is the least penalized team in the country, having committed only 22 infractions all season.

Dan Hawkins made his players endure extra running for all the miscues earlier this week. Whether that punishment leads to fewer mistakes will be an item of interest today.

Another mystery revolves around Kansas's lofty position in many statistical categories. Observers will have a better idea after the game whether the Jayhawks' scoring offense (ranked No. 2 nationally), their scoring defense (No. 2), rushing defense (No. 8), pass defense (No. 7) and total defense (No. 4) are for real or inflated by a lackluster schedule.

The Buffs running game has shown steady improvement for four consecutive weeks and will be one key element in today's outcome.

"They do a lot of different stuff and they keep you honest in a lot of different areas," KU safety Darrell Stuckey said. "They do not have a lot of tendencies where they always do this or always do that. They are balanced like our offense."

Radio change

With Game 1 of the World Series being played on Wednesday, next week's Dan Hawkins Show will air Tuesday from 7-8 p.m. on KOA (850 AM) rather than on its usual day.



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Woelk: Buffaloes have backs to wall today vs. KU

It's nitty-gritty time in the Big 12.

If the Colorado Buffaloes are indeed going to stick around long enough to become a factor in the North Division title chase, they can't afford another slip.

Not today, anyway. Not against one of the other handful of teams in the division that has eyes on a Big 12 title game berth.

The Buffs are still in good position to be in the mix down the stretch — but they need a win against No. 15 Kansas today to stay in the picture. Colorado is 2-1 in the Big 12, but 0-1 against North foes. Another loss in the division would be damaging to their hopes, to say the least.

Thus far, Dan Hawkins' Buffs have been an enigma. Good enough to outplay — and beat — Oklahoma three weeks ago; sloppy enough to suffer the worst loss in Hawkins' tenure last week at Kansas State.

Certainly, consistency has not been their forte in recent weeks. How the Buffs play today could be a good indication of what we'll see the rest of the season.

The Jayhawks, meanwhile, bring a chip on their shoulder to Boulder. Despite their No. 15 ranking and 6-0 record, there's an underlying feeling that they aren't getting the respect they deserve.

There's a reason. The Jayhawks haven't played a game outside the state of Kansas yet this year; and they played a schedule loaded with creampuffs early.

A win at Colorado would no doubt help add a sense of legitimacy to their lofty ranking.

But it's the Buffaloes who are playing with their backs to the wall. If they are indeed going to live up to the expectations that were fostered by the win over OU, they must return to that level of play in a hurry.

They can't do it with a snap of their fingers. If the Buffs have discovered anything about themselves in the last couple of weeks, it is this: any less than their very best performance won't be enough to win against quality competition.

Today, the pressure will be on the defense. The Jayhawks bring the nation's second-ranked scoring offense to Boulder (50.33 points per game), featuring the No. 13 rushing offense and No. 16 passing offense. KU quarterback Todd Reesing has thrown for at least 250 yards in five of Kansas' six games, and has 16 touchdowns and just four interceptions. It won't bode well for the Buffs if they allow that kind of ratio today. Colorado must force some Kansas mistakes, then take full advantage when the opportunity arises.

That brings us to Buff QB Cody Hawkins.

The CU freshman had perhaps his worst game yet last week against Kansas State. All three of his interceptions were his mistakes, including at least one when he looked past an open receiver over the middle in favor of heaving an ill-advised long ball downfield.

"Sometimes when you think you have an opportunity to make a big play you try and jump on that rather than reading every play from square one," Hawkins admitted. "I definitely need to work on that and pull back on the reins a little and not try to launch it every time I get the chance."

Publicly, at least, CU's head coach kept an even keel last week. The man whose mantra is "stay out of the valleys and off the mountain tops" didn't change his tone after the disappointing performance at Kansas State.

But it's also clear that Hawk knows his team is rapidly approaching do-or-die time.

"We didn't take care of business last week, and anytime you do that, you put more emphasis on getting it done this week," Hawkins said. "I really think our team is growing each week, and I think that they came out of that (K-State) game with an understanding of what has to be going on mentally and how they have to approach each situation."

Six weeks ago, the Buffs were a young team trying to accelerate the maturation process. To a degree, they've accomplished that goal.

But the next step comes today. Whether they can ramp it up another notch remains to be seen.



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Helfrich hoping Hawkins finds balance

By B.G. Brooks, Rocky Mountain News
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BOULDER - Mark Helfrich has groomed enough quarterbacks to know what kind of player he has in Cody Hawkins. Helfrich also knows what Hawkins is lacking - and on most occasions, Hawkins' chief shortcoming is not a 6-foot-5 frame.

Hawkins, Colorado's redshirt freshman starter, is coming off a three-interception outing at Kansas State that sent his 2007 total to 12 - one more than his seven-game touchdown total.

Helfrich would like to see a zero in the interception column, and CU's offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach expects the number to decline.

But Helfrich also realizes Hawkins' makeup includes a hint of gambler - something Helfrich likes, within limits.

A gambling quarterback is "going to win you some games you shouldn't win," Helfrich said. "And for the most part, you can harness that. . . . So, yeah, you definitely want that element of a guy who's going to make a play."

Hawkins' time spent studying tape probably equals, perhaps exceeds, that of any other Division I-A quarterback.

He's usually so familiar with a defense that when a cornerback or safety blows a coverage, it can work to the defender's advantage if Hawkins' decision is based on where the defender should be.

Helfrich calls it "a common thread among quarterbacks - anticipation vs. predetermination."

Hawkins calls it "overthinking" and forcing plays that aren't there. Many of his interceptions, he said, result from "trying to make plays when you need to take the easier stuff. . . .

"A lot of times you might know exactly what defense they're in, but sometimes (defensive) guys will mess up their assignment and still get themselves in good position - and then you end up getting yourself in a bad place.

"It's just kind of playing what's there and not necessarily being all about the scheme. You've just got to go out there and play."

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Local college football, October 20

October 20, 2007

CU

His time to shine

Until last week's game at Kansas State, sophomore **Jake Behrens** didn't have a college carry, reception or touchdown.

He got all three in CU's 47-20 loss, running 24 yards on the Buffaloes' opening play from scrimmage, then catching a 1-yard scoring pass in the second quarter.

Coach **Dan Hawkins** said utilizing Behrens, of Omaha, was a reward for Behrens' practice performances.

"I'm always talking about throwing (fullbacks) a bone and giving them some love, getting them in the mix somehow," he said. "Fortunately, the good Lord made me spend some time on the bench, so I have empathy for these guys who are scrapping and trying to get in the game.

"And, really, the last Sunday scrimmage we had, he was ballin'."

Behrens is listed third at fullback on this week's depth chart behind **Samson Jagoras** and **Maurice Cantrell**.

Two-headed monster

Kansas lost tailback **Jon Cornish** (1,457 yards in 2006) to graduation, but the Jayhawks' ground game hasn't suffered.

Replacing Cornish have been sophomore **Jake Sharp** (76 carries, 498 yards, five touchdowns) and senior **Brandon McAnderson** (74-461, seven touchdowns).

At 5-foot-10, 190 pounds, Sharp is the speedy half of the duo, while the 6-foot, 230-pound McAnderson provides the muscle at tailback as well as fullback.

'The Voice' returns

Folsom Field public-address announcer **Alan Cass**, who has battled West Nile virus and pneumonia for almost two months, is scheduled to return to the booth today.

He missed home games against Florida State, Miami (Ohio) and Oklahoma.

Numbers game

2 **kickoff returns** for touchdowns this season marks the first time that has occurred for Kansas since 1972.



David Zalubowski © AP

Air Force's Chad Hall, right, will have the attention of opposing defenses after rushing for 256 yards last week. "That's what football teams do," coach Troy Calhoun said.

He said it

"You'd hope that in the grand scheme of things, regardless of what their record is or what they're ranked, that your guys are going to bring their 'A' game."

Hawkins, on CU gleaning motivation from Kansas being unbeaten and ranked No. 15

Etc.

- Sixth-year Kansas coach **Mark Mangino** has a 3-18 Big 12 Conference road record. He is 31-35 overall, 13-29 in the conference and 1-4 against the Buffs.
- CU is minus-8 in turnover margin (tied with Baylor for 104th in NCAA Division I-A), while Kansas is plus-9 in the same category (sixth in the division).
- Beginning with last season's 20-15 win against CU, Kansas has won nine of its past 10 games. The only loss was in the 2006 regular- season finale at Missouri (42-17).

CSU

Chance to break out

CSU's offense, which has scored only three touchdowns in the past three games, hopes to break out against a faltering Nevada-Las Vegas defense when the teams meet today in Las Vegas (7 p.m. MDT, no television).

CSU (0-6) moved the ball with reasonable consistency in its first three games of the season - losses against Colorado, California and Houston. But the offense has been effective only periodically since.

"Early in the year, we were scoring points, but we've gone into a scoring slump," co-offensive coordinator **Dan Hammerschmidt** said.

"We're not scoring enough points. We've got the run game better, and we're hitting a few explosives, but that's all we've had.

"We've got to put it in the end zone. . . . We have to score more to get more momentum. I think it all goes together."

CSU hopes to get a spark on its offensive line with the addition of **Brian Lepak**, a redshirt freshman from Claremore, Okla.

Lepak will make his first career start at guard today, replacing sophomore **Scott Benedict**, who is out with a broken toe.

The Rams have used a revolving offensive front while giving up 16 sacks in their first six games.

Numbers game

378 **days** since Colorado State last won a football game. The Rams have lost 13 consecutive games since beating UNLV on Oct. 7, 2006, at Sonny Lubick Field at Hughes Stadium.

Etc.

- CSU senior **Jesse Nading** is on the midseason watch list for the Ted Hendricks Defensive End Award. The list of several dozen players will be pared to five or six in late November, and the national award winner will be announced Dec. 5. Nading, a graduate of ThunderRidge High School, is a third-year starter who has 26 tackles this season, including four for loss and 2 1/2 sacks.
- CSU has beaten UNLV five straight times in Las Vegas. The only time the Rams faced the Rebels in Las Vegas and didn't