



Wheatley has broken bone in his foot

But senior hopes to play vs. Huskers

By Kyle Ringo

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Colorado cornerback Terrence Wheatley is in danger of missing what could be the final game of his college career because of a fractured bone in his foot.

Wheatley suffered the injury two weeks ago against Missouri and missed last week's game at Iowa State, though he did travel with the team and stood on the sidelines wearing a protective boot.

"I'm feeling a lot better, I'm not wearing the boot any more," he said. "That's an upgrade I guess. I'm still in a little bit of pain when I run."

The Buffs have this week off, which should give the senior from Richardson, Texas, an opportunity to heal.

He said team physicians have told him the normal healing time for the injury is about two weeks. He said he is hoping to be feeling more like himself by the beginning of game week.

The Buffs are one win shy of bowl eligibility and facing what amounts to a playoff scenario when Nebraska comes to town Nov. 23. One last go-around with the Buffs' arch-rival combined with the fact that it will be the final home game of his career has Wheatley saying he will consider a cortisone shot prior to the contest if he is given the option.

"We'll wait and see, then at the last second, if we have to do whatever, then we'll do whatever," Wheatley said.

"I definitely want to play my last game. You don't want to sit and watch. That would be very hard to sit and watch the last game if I'm not able to play. But I'll go out there and enjoy it. It's been five years, for me. It's been a hell of a ride, ups and downs and stuff like that."

Playing in pain has been a theme throughout his career. It is one reason he is a strong candidate for the Buffalo Heart Award, which is given every year by Buff fans behind the home bench to the senior who exemplifies heart, determination, desire and grit.

Wheatley has endured four surgeries on his wrist during his five seasons in Boulder. He first injured the wrist in 2004 and played the entire season without having surgery. Doing so caused a bone in the wrist to die.

He had a titanium plate inserted in 2005 along with a bevy of screws and spent part of the year walking around campus with his arm locked into a steel apparatus that kept it from moving too much while

everything healed. Cold days were brutal because all the metal in and around his arm would get cold.

He returned to action in 2006 and earned All-Big 12 Conference first-team honors from the league's coaches. He also cracked the plate in his arm forcing him to have another surgery and a stainless steel plate inserted.

He rebounded nicely once again this season and is tied for the conference lead with five interceptions with one game left on the slate. Four conference teams have two games remaining.

He has been pursuing the program's career mark for interceptions this season. He has 14 and needs two more to tie former Buff John Stearns.

"It's not a terrible injury," Wheatley said. "It's a painful one."



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