



COLORADO FOOTBALL / HALFTIME NOTES

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◆ PETROSUN INDEPENDENCE BOWL, Independence Stadium, Shreveport, La. (December 30, 2007)



QUICKLY... Colorado used about 8,000 of its ticket allotment (12,000), between selling/using 3,200 for fans, players and the travel party, and donating just under 5,000 to area organizations and charities... Alabama's 20 first quarter points were the most against CU in a bowl game, topping the 14 that Houston ('71 Bluebonnet), Washington ('96 Holiday) and UTEP ('04 Houston) scored; CU came back to win all three of those games... The 20 points tied for the fourth most in a bowl quarter against CU, trailing 24 by Texas (3rd, '75 Bluebonnet), 22 by Oregon (4th, '98 Aloha); 21 by Rice (2nd, '38 Cotton) and matched 20 by Syracuse (3rd, '93 Fiesta)... Colorado failed to score in the first quarter for just the 11th time in 28 bowls... CU has only been shutout at halftime in two bowls ('72 Gator, '90 Orange), averting that today... CU had just 17 rushing yards on 29 carries against Clemson in its last bowl game ('05 Champ Sports Bowl); CU did not that tonight in the first half with 52 on 15 tries.

STARTERS... Here were Colorado's starters this evening; the five freshman starters are a school high for a bowl game, and the count included four true frosh; eight seniors got the nod as well:

Offense

- WR..... 5 Kendrick Celestine, 5-11, 180, Fr.*
- WR..... 9 Josh Smith, 6-0, 180, Fr.*
- LT 77 Tyler Polumbus, 6-8, 300, Sr.-5****
- LG 51 Kai Maiava, 6-0, 295, Fr.*
- C..... 75 Daniel Sanders, 6-3, 310, Jr.***
- RG..... 76 Edwin Harrison, 6-4, 300, Sr.-5****
- RT..... 73 Ryan Miller, 6-7, 320, Fr.*
- TE..... 84 Tyson DeVree, 6-5, 245, Sr.**
- QB 7 Cody Hawkins, 5-11, 190, Fr.-RS*
- TB..... 2 Hugh Charles, 5-8, 190, Sr.****
- FB..... 32 Maurice Cantrell, 6-0, 240, Jr.**

Defense

- DT..... 86 George Hypolite, 6-1, 285, Jr.***
- NT..... 94 Brandon Nicolas, 6-3, 290, Jr.**
- RE..... 47 Alonzo Barrett, 6-3, 235, Sr.****
- MLB.... 45 Jeff Smart, 5-11, 210, Soph.**
- WLB.... 44 Jordon Dizon, 6-0, 220, Sr.****
- OLB.... 40 Brad Jones, 6-3, 225, Jr.***
- LCB..... 26 Terrence Wheatley, 5-10, 175, Sr.****
- FS..... 15 Ryan Walters, 5-11, 200, Jr.***
- SS..... 25 Lionel Harris, 6-0, 195, Sr.***
- N..... 29 Cha'pelle Brown, 5-7, 175, Soph.**
- RCB.... 42 Benjamin Burney, 5-11, 190, Jr.***

FIRST STRIKE... Alabama is the first team to score on the first possession against the CU defense since the 1996 Holiday Bowl, when Washington's **Corey Dillon** scored on a 2-yard run to give the Huskies a 7-0 lead just 2:56 into the game.

FALLING BEHIND... Alabama's 27-0 run to start the game was the largest by any Colorado bowl opponent (28 games); it was just the fourth that reach double figures. Others: Auburn took a 17-0 lead in the '72 Gator in winning 24-3; Notre Dame went up 14-0 in the '90 Orange and won 21-6; and Washington led 14-0 in the '96 Holiday before CU rallied for a 33-21 win.

SCORING STREAK... The Buffs extended the nation's fourth longest active scoring streak, which is also the ninth longest all-time in I-A/FBS play, to **235** games. The Denver Broncos scored in their 245th straight game today (the current NFL longest streak), and Air Force takes a 180-game streak (the seventh longest) into tomorrow's Armed Forces Bowl; so the three Front Range schools have now scored in a combined 660 straight games. CU has now also scored in all **28** of its bowl games in its history.

PICK CITY... With **FS Ryan Walters'** second quarter interception, Colorado now has one interception in its last 14 bowl games. The streak started in the '91 Orange Bowl when CU defeated Notre Dame, 10-9, to win the consensus national championship. Walters is the 32nd Buffalo to pick off a pass in a bowl game, and his 35-year return was the seventh longest in CU bowl history.

HALFTIME QUOTES... Quotes from the CU sideline as the Buffs went into the lockerroom:

CU Head Coach Dan Hawkins

"So much for our start-fast plan. Alabama had some big mojo plays early, took advantage of some of if not all of our mistakes. We dug ourselves a hole early, and we have to stop setting up their plays with the kind of opportunities we've given them. But we were resilient and got some big plays ourselves there at the end of the half. We just have to keep this momentum going at the beginning of the second half and I think we'll be okay."

TE Tyson DeVree

"We came out right away and couldn't do anything. Alabama got the momentum early on, but we're not going to quit. This is Colorado football."

ON HIS TD CATCH (his fifth on third or fourth down this season)—
"Cody threw a great ball, all I had to do was look it into my hands, get up there and make the play."

FS Ryan Walters

ON HIS INTERCEPTION—"It turned the momentum around and got us back in it, but we still have a long ways to go. We came out flat in the first half and we definitely need to change that coming out to start the second."

COMEBACKS... If Colorado is to win this game, it would have to record the greatest comeback in its football history. Here's a list of regular season and bowl comebacks in Buff annals:

ALL-TIME

Trailed By	Time, Qtr	Final	Opponent, Site (Date)
20 (7-27)	8:01, 3Q	28-27	Missouri at Columbia (Oct. 28, 1978)
19 (0-19)	13:18, 4Q	20-19	Kansas in Boulder (Oct. 7, 1961)
18 (17-35)	8:20, 3Q	43-38	Iowa State at Ames (Nov. 8, 1997)
17 (0-17)	7:00, 3Q	21-20	Minnesota at Minneapolis (Sept. 19, 1992)
17 (7-24)	8:11, 3Q	27-24	Oklahoma in Boulder (Sept. 29, 2007)

BOWLS

Trailed By	Time, Qtr	Final	Opponent, Site (Date)
14 (0-14)	3:10, 1Q	33-21	Washington (1996 Holiday)
11 (3-14)	1:11, 1Q	3-28	UTEP (2004 Houston)
7 (twice)			