



## CU report: A tough guy — hands down

By B.G. Brooks

Monday, August 18, 2008

In practice the day before the first preseason scrimmage, junior cornerback Cha'pelle Brown's left hand got caught somewhere it shouldn't. Result: a fracture across the top side that required casting.

Brown, though, hasn't missed a play since, participating in the Buffs' first two scrimmages and staying in contention for a starting job, which "speaks to the kind of character he has; he's never said boo about it," CU coach Dan Hawkins said.

For his part, Brown said there was "never a question" about continuing to practice. "If it wasn't broke, I was all right. It's a little hard to grab onto things, but I'm getting used to it."

He's hoping the cast can come off before the Aug. 31 opener against Colorado State, and he's also hoping to be in the starting lineup. Five players appear to be competing for the starting corner jobs: Brown, Jimmy Smith, Gardner McKay, Anthony Wright and Jalil Brown, whose impressive Sunday scrimmage earned him time Monday with the first unit.

Meanwhile, the diminutive Cha'pelle Brown (5-foot-7, 180) looks to be a lock as CU's nickel back. As for his size, ignore it, he said: "I just play real hard. That's the way I always play. I never look at my size as anything that hinders me. All I can do is go out there and play."

### Get your motor running

Backup quarterback candidate Matt Ballenger invited roommate Ryan Miller, the starting right offensive tackle, on a summer outing to Ballenger's home in Nampa, Idaho.

On the summer-fun agenda was a water-skiing trip to a nearby reservoir. Miller, it should be noted, stands 6-7 and weighs about 315 — not exactly a water nymph.

"Our boat couldn't get him out of the water," Ballenger said. And while they were trying, Miller ran afoul of an errant ski, which popped him in the mouth and loosened two false front teeth, initially damaged on the football field a while back.

Miller, though, called the experience fun and said he was up for another try, maybe behind a bigger motor.

### ETC.

\* Hawkins wouldn't elaborate on any roster moves that might have resulted from Sunday's scrimmage. "We'll probably reshape that in the next couple of days and throw that out there," he said. "But then

again, you know how we are, particularly on offense. When it comes to the guys who handle the ball, they're going to play in there somewhere."

\* Freshman kicker Jameson Davis, who has been bothered by a swollen left knee, has recovered sufficiently enough to resume kickoff duties, Hawkins said.

\* The Buffs had one practice Monday and have only one light one scheduled Tuesday, with "team unity" functions scheduled for both days. Two-a-days resume Wednesday, and game-planning for CSU begins Thursday.

© Rocky Mountain News



## Talks lag on CU-CSU series

### Dispute centers on Buffs' desire to play at Folsom

By B.G. Brooks

Monday, August 18, 2008

It's not a "drop dead" date for negotiations, but the clock is ticking toward a contractual deadline established by officials at the Metro Denver Sports Commission, Colorado State University and the University of Colorado to firm up the future of the schools' football series.

Kieann Brownell, president of the sports commission and a staunch proponent of keeping the CU-CSU game in Denver, said all parties had hoped to reach an agreement before this year's game is played Aug. 31 at Invesco Field at Mile High.

"We all wanted to have it settled by (then), but that doesn't seem realistic now," Brownell said Monday night. "Our intent is to move on it as much as we can in the next two weeks."

CU athletic director Mike Bohn, though, was optimistic about a decision being reached before the Buffaloes and Rams play for the 80th time overall and ninth in Denver. "I don't know why not," said Bohn, who met with CSU athletic director Paul Kowalczyk last week to discuss the series.

CU and CSU are in the final year of a contract signed two years ago that made Denver the site of the Rocky Mountain Showdown through 2008. The site of games in the contract's two option years - 2009 and 2010 - has not been determined and is among the sticking points between the universities, along with the site of a proposed 2012 game.

CU is the home team this year and next, and to give the Buffs six true 2009 home games - the minimal number in any given season, according to Bohn - CU wants CSU to play at Folsom Field.

Similarly, CSU only has five true home games in 2010 and could bargain with CU to visit Fort Collins if the 2009 game is played in Boulder. However, CSU stands to make about \$1 million more by playing CU in Denver, which Brownell and her organization are pushing.

"We believe the game is very important to the state. . . . It's a good opportunity to highlight the two premier institutions in Colorado," she said.

Kowalczyk agrees.

"We've always thought the games belong in Denver," he said in a statement issued through CSU's athletic media relations office. "Playing in Denver benefits both institutions, not just their athletic programs. Playing there also benefits the city of Denver and the state."

Bohn has said he and CU have no reservations about CSU electing to play its home games in the series in Denver. CU would make more money as the host or visitor at Invesco than at Folsom Field.

But, Bohn added, he remains committed to playing six games at Folsom, particularly after the stadium's luxury suites were sold partially on the premise of having that many home games.

Asked about the progress of negotiations, Bohn said, "Paul and I visited, and we are discussing numerous options. (But) I don't have any definitive information to share."

© Rocky Mountain News



# CU, CSU open talks on football series

## Bufs may try to play Rams in Boulder next year

By Kyle Ringo  
Tuesday, August 19, 2008

Athletic directors from Colorado and Colorado State met late last week to begin discussing the future of the football series between the two schools, including where future games will be played and whether the teams will continue to meet every year.

CSU athletic director Paul Kowalczyk confirmed the meeting during a telephone interview Monday less than two weeks before the Buffs and Rams are scheduled to knock heads for the 80th time in the season opener at Invesco Field in Denver.

Under the current terms of the five-year agreement for a game that has come to be known as the Mile High Showdown, CU must inform CSU prior to this year's edition where it intends to hold next season's game. Kowalczyk said CU still has not made the declaration and might not need to if the parties can reach a new agreement.

"I think it's a good series," Kowalczyk said. "I think it benefits both schools and we'll see how things play out. I don't want to comment or speculate before anything happens.

"Once we see how things shape up, then I can talk about the future."

The Buffs are the home team in 2009, the first of two option years in the deal with the Metro Denver Sports Commission, which pays both schools to play in Denver above and beyond what they make from ticket sales.

CU athletic director Mike Bohn estimates his department makes an extra \$500,000 at Invesco Field versus playing in Boulder.

Kowalczyk said his department makes between \$400,000 and \$500,000 in additional revenue compared with a standard non-conference home game.

Sports commission president KieAnn Brownell said her organization has "offers on the table" to keep the series in Denver for the foreseeable future.

She said corporate sponsors for the game would be disappointed to see it moved back to campus sites, but there is nothing in the contract preventing the schools from doing so.

"We believe the game is a much better deal and more lucrative for both schools in Denver," Brownell said. "We certainly understand the issues with season-ticket holders and with the cities of Boulder and Fort Collins, and we want to be sensitive to that.

"But from a long-term perspective, to the extent that we can keep it at Invesco Field and really grow the game as an event and make it a much bigger deal than just a college football game, I think really would bode well for everybody in the future."

Earlier this year, Bohn said he hoped to move the 2009 game to Boulder to satisfy CU season-ticket holders who have been promised a minimum of six true home games every year. CU has only five true home games scheduled in 2009 and in 2012.

Bohn also previously said that not playing the Rams every season is an option. He would not say Monday whether the parties have discussed skipping one or more years in current talks.

"We respect CSU and appreciate their partnership and we look forward to the continuation of the series," Bohn said.

Kowalczyk would not say if he is open to the idea of playing the 2009 game in Boulder. If CU chooses to play in Folsom Field next year, CSU would have the option of hosting the 2010 game in Hughes Stadium in Fort Collins.

CSU has only five true home games in 2010 if it chooses to play the CU game in Denver. CU hasn't visited Fort Collins since 1996.

"I think our fans would relish the opportunity to host that game here, but we've worked under the Denver scenario as we've scheduled for it, and that's sort of where we are as of right now anyway," Kowalczyk said.

When the game was first moved to Denver, it attracted near sellout crowds of more than 70,000. Last season's game drew the smallest crowd in the eight-year history of games in Denver, with just more than 68,000 seats sold and an actual attendance of about 65,000. Those numbers don't worry either side.

"I think as both programs get better and better, the interest will grow and we'll see the crowds that were there originally when this series (in Denver) first started," Kowalczyk said. "I have full confidence that is somewhat of a reflection on the state of the programs."

"Obviously CU is getting good in a hurry and that's our plan as well."

Colorado assistant athletic director for sports information Dave Plati said CU was allotted 39,000 tickets this year and has sold all but 600, not including student tickets. It has sold 6,800 of 8,900 allotted tickets for students, but student tickets are expected to sell out next week when classes begin.

Colorado State officials said they have sold approximately 20,000 tickets, including selling out their allotment of 10,000 student tickets. The sports commission also receives an allotment of about 3,000 tickets.



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.