



Hawkins to Buffs: 'Hang in there'

CU coach doesn't plan on making significant changes

By Kyle Ringo
Monday, October 6, 2008

Some Colorado football fans might be ready to jump ship despite the fact their team is where most expected it to be after the first five weeks of the season, if not one victory better.

Coach Dan Hawkins' message hasn't changed a bit with his team at 3-2 heading into the meat of the Big 12 schedule.

Hawkins assembled the troops Sunday afternoon, as he does each week, and told his team to hang in there and keep pushing forward through a challenging slate. CU was beaten badly at home Saturday by No. 5 Texas and won't get much of a break this week traveling to No. 16 Kansas.

For the fourth consecutive week, CU will face a top-20 run defense. The Buffs will also be challenged by one of the best quarterbacks in the country in junior Todd Reesing, a player who has had their number the past two years.

"You just have to stay with it, you know?" Hawkins said. "I think when you start hitting the panic button and you start doing things that are exotic and you start beating down on guys, that doesn't solve anything.

"They're trying and they're work-ing. The reality is we've got the Colts this week. We're playing the Patriots next week and then we're playing the Bears. That's the nature of it. So we just have to get as good as we can get and play as clean as we can get, and stay in there and hang in there."

Hawkins and his assistants, particularly on the offensive side of the ball, are trying to get a roster stacked with young players to play with confidence against some of the nation's best teams.

The struggles of inexperience can be torturous. Hawkins watched Saturday as his young offensive line did its best to slow down the nation's best pass rush. He saw sophomore kicker Aric Goodman miss three kicks and four-straight going back to the previous week.

Hawkins said he's won't make knee-jerk changes to personnel but competition at positions remains open, as always. When asked about giving freshman place-kicker Jameson Davis a chance at kicking field goals and extra points, Hawkins said Davis' health will probably keep him in his kickoff role.

Davis has had two surgeries on each knee in the past, and Hawkins said Davis' plant leg will need to be cleaned up again after this season. But that's only part of the reason Hawkins will stick with Goodman for now.

Hawkins and special teams coach Kent Riddle said Goodman made every kick in practice last week and just had a bad day against Texas.

"It's not like he's totally shanking them," Hawkins said. "The guy was just off a little bit. I don't think we're in to disposable people. We've just got hang in there and keep working with him and he'll come around."

Bohn addresses

fan behavior

Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn said he was disappointed with some students who threw objects on the field Saturday, and the athletic department would continue its efforts to avoid such problems in the future.

One of the department's marketing partners left about 20,000 T-shirts on seats mostly in the student section prior to the game against the Longhorns. Some students chose to make projectiles out of the shirts and throw them on the field when officials called penalties against the Buffs, when the Longhorns scored and at other times during the game.

The behavior was reminiscent of the 2005 home game against Nebraska when an entire section of student seating was cleared because of students throwing objects on the field.

"We have made significant strides in the overall behavior and sportsmanship of our student section," Bohn said. "They, along with the marching band, remain the heart beat of the program, and our expectations for game day decorum and sportsmanship remain high. We will continue with efforts to build upon the proper game day experience."

Notable

The Buffs have fallen to 92nd nationally in rushing offense after producing just 49 yards on the ground against Texas. CU is 89th in total offense. ...

Hawkins said none of his players suffered injuries in Saturday's game that would keep them out for an extended period. Running back Darrell Scott has a sprained ankle and safety Ryan Walters injured his knee.



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First look: No. 16 Kansas

By Kyle Ringo
Monday, October 6, 2008

Game 6

Matchup: Colorado (3-2 overall, 0-1 Big 12) at Kansas (4-1, 1-0).

Game time: 10:30 a.m., at Memorial Stadium (50,071) Lawrence, Kan.

On the air: ESPN2. KOA (850 AM).

Web site:

<http://kuathletics.cstv.com>.

The series

Colorado leads 41-23-3, including a 17-14-3 mark in Lawrence. The Jayhawks snapped a five-game losing streak two years ago and have won the past two. The series began with a KU win Oct. 17, 1903 in Boulder.

Last time

The Jayhawks came to Boulder last fall and won for the first time in 12 years thanks to 180 rushing yards and some timely turnovers, or, untimely from the Buffs' perspective. Cody Hawkins threw two interceptions and tailback Hugh Charles added a crucial fumble deep in KU territory. Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing burned the Buffs for the second consecutive year with 84 rushing yards and a fourth-quarter touchdown pass.

The coach

Mark Mangino is 41-37 in his seventh season as head coach of the Jayhawks.

Numbers game

174 -- the number of rushing yards quarterback Todd Reesing has gained in his two previous games against the Buffs. Reesing has accounted for 433 total yards and four touchdowns in those games.

The lowdown

Kansas has a 12-game home winning streak that started against the Buffs in 2006. ...

The Jayhawks are coming off the third biggest come-from-behind win in their history, overcoming a 20-point deficit at Iowa State. ...

The Jayhawks have the sixth-best passing offense in the country, averaging 347 yards through the air each week with 14 touchdown passes. Five different receivers have recorded 100-yard games this season. ...

Kansas has struggled to run the ball this season and ranks 96th in the nation on the ground with 119 yards per game. ...

The Buffs face another top-20 rushing defense for the fourth week in a row. Kansas is 17th nationally allowing 95 yards per game.

Who to know

QB Todd Reesing: The junior, who made his debut against the Buffs two years ago, already is the second leading passer in KU history with 5,414 yards. He has thrown at least one touchdown pass in 10 consecutive games and is third in the nation in total offense, averaging 358 yards per game.

WR Kerry Meier: A multi-talented junior who is second in the nation in receptions per game (8.8) and also serves as the backup quarterback. He has three consecutive 100-yard games and hasn't made fewer than seven receptions in a game this year.

LB Joe Mortensen: The senior will be playing in his 42nd career game and has become one of the Big 12's best defenders. He has recorded 224 tackles, including 36 for a loss in his career. He made a sack and forced a fumble last week.



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CU report: Work through it

By Mike Bialas, B.G. Brooks

Sunday, October 5, 2008

BOULDER — Placekicker **Aric Goodman**'s effort against Texas didn't reflect his week of practice preceding the game Saturday night, when he missed three first-half field-goal attempts in the Buffaloes' 38-14 loss.

CU special teams coach **Kent Riddle** said Goodman "didn't miss a single kick in practice, and when we sat down to analyze his film, there wasn't a whole lot to analyze."

"Obviously, we're battling a little bit of an anxiety issue," Riddle added. "We'll try and get him through that this week."

Goodman, Riddle said, has "good fundamentals and technique. I told him after the game that sometimes you've got to hit rock bottom to appreciate the highs, and you can't go much lower than we were (Saturday). He's a good kid, he works his butt off."

Goodman has missed his four most recent field-goal attempts and is 3-for-8 this season, with a long kick of 32 yards.

QB CHECK

CU quarterback **Cody Hawkins** has struggled in his two most recent games, going a combined 30-for-69 in passing for 272 yards and three touchdowns (one interception). His 13-completion total against the Longhorns (33 attempts) was one more than his career-low 12 in a 55-10 loss to Missouri last season.

In Big 12 Conference passing, Hawkins ranks last in passing efficiency (120.0), while Oklahoma's **Sam Bradford** is the league leader (205.0). Kansas' **Todd Reesing**'s rating is 160.5. In passing yards per game, Hawkins is No. 9 (185.2), and Reesing is No. 2 (344.8).

CU offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach **Mark Helfrich** said his player evaluation "goes on, but you measure how the starter did against starters."

Helfrich said redshirt freshman **Matt Ballenger** (3-for-4 passing, 61 yards, one touchdown) "did a good job while he was in there. Cody can certainly play better, but it wasn't an issue of a one-man breakdown at all."

HARRIS COMMENTS

CU received a weekend pledge from offensive lineman **Jack Harris**, a 6-foot-6, 270-pounder from Chaparral High School in Parker, giving five known commitments for 2009 to the Buffs.

Harris, one of more than a dozen prospects making official campus visits, is the state's second-ranked prospect behind defensive end **Nick Kasa** of Legacy High School, according to rivals.com.

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Hawkins: No time for panic

Struggling players, injuries beset Buffs

By Patrick Ridgell
Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Good news came from the Colorado Buffaloes football program Sunday.

There were no season-ending injuries to report.

Coach Dan Hawkins said “no” when asked if he had an injury update, but he also said no when asked if anyone new is out for the year. Considering CU’s recent run of torn ACLs and broken legs, Hawkins said reporting no such information was a good thing.

Safety Ryan Walters injured a knee during Saturday’s 38-14 loss to No. 5 Texas, and freshman running back Darrell Scott sprained an ankle. Hawkins provided no updates on their playing status.

Otherwise, about the most noteworthy thing Hawkins would discuss Sunday was that he, his staff and his coaches aren’t going to panic. The Buffs face No. 16 Kansas on Saturday in Lawrence. CU (3-2, 0-1 Big 12) carries a two-game losing streak after struggling with blocking, tackling, kicking and execution Saturday night. CU has lost its past two meetings with Kansas.

“When you start hitting the panic button and start doing things that are exotic, you start beating down on guys,” Hawkins said Sunday. “That doesn’t solve anything. They’re trying and they’re working. It’s just the reality is we got the Colts this week, we got the Patriots next week and then we got the Bears.

“We have to get as good as we can get and play as clean as we can and stay in there and hang in there. It’s like I told our guys, last year we were 3-2 and this year we’re 3-2. We’re 0-1 in Big 12. We have to keep coming. ... It never helps you if you panic or start freaking out.”

Part of not panicking means Hawkins will stick with some players who are struggling, including placekicker Aric Goodman. His 0-for-3 night Saturday dropped him to 3-for-8 in 2008.

Goodman beat Jameson Davis for the placekicking duties in camp. By making so many kicks, teammates began calling him “Money.” Davis, who kicks off, is not a candidate to replace Goodman, though.

Hawkins said Davis’ plant leg remains a problem. The plans are to let him continue to kickoff but not try placekicking duties in order to limit wear on the knee. Hawkins said Davis’ knee needs to be cleaned out after the season.

Hawkins said he doesn’t want to “totally rule out” competition. But the main reason Goodman will retain his job is because the coach believes Goodman will “come around.”

“It’s not like he’s totally shanking them; the guy was just off a bit,” Hawkins said. “I don’t think we’re into disposable people. You just have to keep hanging in there and working with them.

First Look

A quick glimpse at CU’s next opponent:

Who: No. 16 Kansas (4-1, 1-0 Big 12)

Where: Lawrence, Kan., Memorial Stadium

When: Saturday, 10:30 a.m., ESPN2

Notes: Kansas has won 12 straight at home, which is the nation’s fourth longest home-field winning streak. ... Kansas is seeking its second three-game winning streak over CU since their series started in 1903. Kansas beat the Buffs from 1962-64. ... The Jayhawks overcame a 20-0 deficit Saturday at Iowa State and won, 35-33. They remained No. 16 in the AP poll for the second week in a row.

Patrick Ridgell

“Aric was perfect in camp. He’s usually pretty good.”

Of more concern this week might be how to handle Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing, who’s been a major thorn for the Buffs the past two years. Reesing shed his redshirt in the 2006 meeting and came off the bench to help rally Kansas from a 9-0 deficit to a 20-15 victory. Reesing ran for 90 yards in the second half that day.

Hawkins said Reesing is another in a long line of Big 12 quarterbacks that’ll provide challenges.

“We’re just playing great quarterbacks and great teams,” Hawkins said. “We just have to keep cutting down on margin of error. That’s our calling.”

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

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colorado football

Bufs find it tougher to get the point(s)

On a two-game losing streak, CU's offense must dig out from near the Big 12 scoring cellar vs. Kansas.

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 10/06/2008 01:18:06 AM MDT

BOULDER — Colorado had better find a way to put up bigger numbers on the scoreboard, or the Buffaloes (3-2, 0-1 Big 12) could find it difficult to hang with their remaining opponents in an amazingly explosive conference.

CU ranks 11th among Big 12 teams in scoring offense (24.2), ahead of only Texas A&M (22.8). The other 10 league members average more than 30 points, with six surpassing 40 points per game.

With the level of competition stepped up, Colorado has averaged just 17.3 points for its past three games, against West Virginia, Florida State and Texas.

"We've got the guys (for a more productive offense)," CU sophomore wide receiver Josh Smith said Sunday. "We've got to get the guys to have confidence and not get down on themselves. We

make big plays in practice every day. We just have to do it in games."

Upcoming opponent Kansas (4-1, 1-0), led by junior quarterback Todd Reesing, averages 35.2 points per game, and the 16th-ranked Jayhawks matched that average last weekend with a come-from-behind 35-33 win at Iowa State.

"When you're going to play those kinds of teams, the margin for error is very small," CU coach Dan Hawkins said Sunday. "The reality is, we've got the Colts this week, the Patriots next week and then the Bears. It never helps if you panic. If you beat down on guys it doesn't work. We just have to keep coming. We just have to adjust to it."

Big commitment.

Colorado coaches had at least something to smile about Saturday night after a 38-14 loss to Texas. According to Internet recruiting sites, Colorado received an oral commitment from Jack Harris, a 6-foot-6, 270-pound senior offensive tackle at Chaparral High School in Parker. [Rivals.com](#) ranks Harris as the state's No. 2 senior prospect, behind Legacy defensive end Nick Kasa (6-7, 245), a five-star (by [Scout.com](#)) and four-star (by [Rivals.com](#)) recruit who is considering CU. Harris also visited Oregon and Vanderbilt.

Footnotes.

Colorado's game Saturday at Kansas will be broadcast on ESPN2. Kickoff in Lawrence is 10:30 a. m. MDT. . . . The Jayhawks have won 12 straight at home, the nation's fourth-longest active streak behind Oklahoma (20), Boise State (16) and BYU (15).

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The Jayhawks

Tom Kensler, The Denver Post

Colorado at No. 16 Kansas Saturday, 10:30 a.m., ESPN2

For the record: The Jayhawks improved to 4-1 and began Big 12 play with a 35-33 win at Iowa State. Kansas overcame a 20-0 halftime deficit with three touchdowns in the third quarter. KU remained No. 16 in the AP poll and moved up one spot to No. 15 in the USA Today coaches poll.

Streaking: The Jayhawks have won five straight Big 12 regular-season road games. In the first 11 years of the conference, KU earned a total of six road wins.

Who's hot: Junior QB Todd Reesing completed all four of his passes in the fourth quarter against Iowa State for 105 yards. He finished 18-for-26 for 319 yards, with three TDs and one interception.

Who's not: In the past three games, the KU defense has yielded 402.7 yards per game. One of those opponents was lower-division Sam Houston State.

Key stat: Junior RB Jake Sharp, a backup most of the season, rushed for 79 yards and caught three passes for 107 yards against ISU.

FYI: The reigning Orange Bowl champion, Kansas is aiming to become the first Jayhawks team to go bowling in consecutive years.

Injury report: None reported.

Coachspeak: "We got to catch a little bit of (Kansas') game on TV. Kansas has a good football team. In the first half it was turnover after turnover after turnover. Once they started to hold on to the football, they were better off." — CU coach Dan Hawkins

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