



## Davis, Suazo to maintain duties

By Kyle Ringo

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

Two Colorado kickers are all smiles this week after being elevated to starting positions.

The two teammates they are replacing are doing their best to regroup and get those jobs back.

Place-kicker Jameson Davis and punter Tom Suazo will continue to receive most or all of the opportunities at their respective positions this week when Iowa State comes to town Saturday for a must-win game for the Buffs.

Davis, a 23-year-old true freshman, made the first field goal of his career last week at Texas A&M after watching sophomore Aric Goodman miss his seventh consecutive try over a six-game span. Davis later suffered a concussion on kickoff duty but is expected to be ready to kick against the Cyclones.

Goodman is leaving no stone unturned in an effort to regain his confidence. He is working with a sports psychologist and trying to keep a positive attitude despite the demotion. In fairness, one of those missed attempts was not his fault because it was blocked. Two others hit the uprights and the others were near-misses.

"At this point, you know, it's like I can't catch a break," Goodman said. "I can't really tell what's been going on and why they're not going in. I mean in practice, I'm not really having any issues."

Colorado coaches remained patient through Goodman's struggles but ultimately felt they had to give Davis an opportunity.

"I feel for him," coach Dan Hawkins said. "He has missed more close ones and he kicks pretty well in practice. But again, Jameson came in and kicked it and made it. So probably the natural tendency is to lean a little bit more toward Jameson."

Hawkins said he chose to give Suazo an opportunity because the senior from Glenwood Springs had been punting better in practice and has done everything right during four years in the program.

Suazo said there have been times during his career he has questioned whether he wanted to continue putting in the hard work. He said conditioning days in the winter were particularly tough, but his love for the game kept him committed.

"Obviously the competition never ends because Matt is a great punter," Suazo said.

Hawkins said Suazo still has room for improvement, especially when it comes to his get-off times. Hawkins said Suazo has been better at directional kicking, which is something the coaching staff would like to do more.

DiLallo watched the entire Texas A&M game from the sidelines. It was the first time since the 2005 season that DiLallo hasn't been the Buffs' punter.

"It was a little disheartening, but, I mean, you've got to get over it quick," DiLallo said. "We're pushing to get better as a team. The whole goal is for the team, not the individual."

### **OSU set for 6 p.m.**

The final game on CU's schedule with a previously undecided start time has been set.

CU's Nov. 15 home game against No. 8 Oklahoma State will begin at 6 p.m. and will be televised on ABC.

As announced earlier this week, the Buffs will host Iowa State on Saturday with an 11:30 a.m. kickoff. The game will be televised on Versus.

The Buffs' final game of the regular season is Nov. 28 at Nebraska. As previously announced, that game will kick off at 1:30 p.m. and be aired on ABC.

### **Sense of urgency**

Hawkins said he likes the steady state of mind he sees in his team as it approaches the final three games of the season knowing it must win two to become bowl eligible.

"I think you always want to have a certain sense of urgency," he said. "You can border to the other side of being chaos."

### **Huddle up**

Hawkins said the Buffs will continue to huddle on offense this week in an effort to simplify the offense and improve communication. There could be situations when the team uses the no-huddle approach it has worked with since spring practices.

### **Scouting report**

The Buffs will face an Iowa State team Saturday that has lost seven consecutive games and hasn't won on the road since 2005. Hawkins said the Cyclones have been close to breaking out of both slumps.

"They've had some people on the ropes," he said. "I like what they're doing schematically. It's very sound. It's very tough."

### **Notable**

Air Force cadets will carry the POW/MIA flag around the CU campus and throughout Boulder for 24 hours this weekend to spread awareness of the sacrifices of our military members who have been prisoners of war or are missing in action. The Arnold Air Society from the 105th Air Force ROTC Detachment will hold the annual Vigilance Run November 7-8.



# Bufs try to tune out negativity

## Hawkins, players believe program is going in right direction

By Kyle Ringo

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

Dan Hawkins ran into a Colorado football fan at the gas station recently. The fan told him to hang in there through what has become a difficult season in black and gold. He heard from another as he rode his bike through a greenbelt. The fan shouted encouragement.

Hawkins said those moments mean a great deal to him.

With his team struggling badly on offense and having lost five of its past six games, Hawkins knows the naysayers are out there, too. Some are getting restless with lopsided losses, the team's inability to score points, a quarterback rotation, the pace of player development, slow recruiting and the possibility of missing a bowl game.

But Hawkins believes in what he's doing and the direction he has his program headed, and he's ignoring their armchair coaching suggestions and negativity.

"The sad reality a little bit about my existence is I am a people guy, but what you have is you've got to kind of go a little bit, 'OK, let's not listen to them. That's an extreme voice,' " he said. "If Mike Bohn comes to me and says something, if one of my players comes to me and says something, if one of my coaches says something to me, if somebody who is close to our program and knows, says something to me, I'm going to listen to it.

"People want us to be in the shotgun. People want us to be in the 'I'. People want Tyler. People want Cody. People want Rodney. People want Darrell. People want to blitz more. People want to play more zone. That's the nature of it. And that's part of, in a sense, what makes college football great."

Passion for the program also gets taken to extremes. During a wide-ranging and lengthy session with reporters Tuesday during his weekly media luncheon, Hawkins mentioned Internet sites and anonymous postings as one part of the college game he has come to dislike.

He said he was disappointed to see the mainstream media has given voice to anonymous critics. He recently spotted comments taken from message boards on the front of the sports page at USA Today.

"I'll be honest with you," he said. "There is a side of me that kind of goes, 'Is that responsible journalism?' That on the front sports page, you allow somebody to make some sort of a comment on a national paper, and then there is absolutely no accountability behind it?"

Hawkins said he has seen ugly behavior from fans make its way down to the high school level in recent years, and some bright, capable coaches have chosen to get out of the business because they don't care to

deal with the second-guessing and personal attacks from parents and supporters.

Hawkins said the players he coaches every day have done well to this point in blocking out the criticism, speculation and rumors that often begin on the Internet.

"It's just really, really impressive how positive they are, their buy-in, how much they believe, how much they're in it heart and soul," Hawkins said.

Hawkins recently gave his players the opportunity to evaluate the program through anonymous critiques. Everything was fair game from the coaching to the way the team travels and the food that is available to players.

Junior tight end Riar Geer said he appreciates the opportunity Hawkins gives players to voice their criticisms and concerns about the program. Geer said it's a unique approach he hasn't heard many other programs put to use.

Hawkins said he values the opinions of his players, and it is them he is ultimately charged to serve. He said the evaluations were overwhelmingly positive this season, despite the struggles on the field. Hawkins said as the program continues to build his model of talent, depth and experience, more fans will share that view.

"When we sit here in a year or two and we've got some experience and we're not banged up, it will be a whole different scenario," he said. "It will be."



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## Woelk: Scott ready to embrace opportunity

By Neill Woelk

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

"You're the guy."

Ready or not, those are the words Colorado freshman Darrell Scott has been hearing this week.

Most of you are familiar with Scott's story. He's the young man who arrived on campus last summer as one of the most-heralded recruits in Colorado football history. The top-ranked prep running back in the nation. His decision on where he would play college ball was deemed important enough to be nationally televised.

He was the can't-miss kid.

But instead of hitting the ground running, Scott found himself limping. Slowed by a variety of injuries almost from the beginning, he watched as fellow freshman Rodney Stewart grabbed the playing time and headlines.

This week, however, the story line has taken another dramatic turn. Stewart is out with a broken leg. That means that Scott -- still hampered by a sprained ankle -- will be asked to shoulder a much larger load.

The opportunity is there for the taking.

"Basically, the running game has been put on my shoulders," Scott said. "I have to play through the injuries and get it going. My teammates and coaches have told me, 'You're the guy.'"

"I believe I can do it."

No doubt, the season has been an eye-opener for the kid with the infectious smile and a maturity far beyond his years.

Coming into this year, Scott had missed only a couple of games in his life because of injury. He cannot remember ever having to take himself out of a game.

This year, though, seemingly every time he's started to feel healthy, he's been dinged again.

Saturday against Texas A&M, Scott broke an electrifying 42-yard run, CU's longest play from scrimmage this year. It was the type of play fans hoped to see with regularity when he arrived, and it gave the Buffs a first-and-goal at the 6.

But instead of getting to stay in the game and reap the possible reward of a touchdown, he had to take

himself out. In the process of hurdling an A&M defender on the play, he tweaked his sore ankle again.

Back to the bench.

Frustrating, right?

"Yes -- but you know, it's helped me mature," Scott said. "It's been very humbling. In some ways, it's been mentally good for me. I've had to learn to watch more film, do the little things that will help me become a better player.

"I've learned a lot."

One lesson he's learned is that life isn't always long runs and touchdowns. Once in a while, you get blindsided.

His coaches have watched carefully.

"He's been great," said head coach Dan Hawkins. "What's difficult for him is you have a whole body of people ... (who) want everybody to come in and be Walter Payton -- and they're 18 years old.

"I think he's done an awesome job of managing the expectations. ... He was great about supporting Rodney when Rodney was doing well and not being jealous. I think he's been great about managing all that stuff."

Scott has also learned that injuries are part of the game. There's still a little bit of wonderment in his eyes when he says, "I was never really hurt before. This is all so new.

"Now I know that it's not going to be 100 percent the rest of the season. I know I have to play through it. It's something you just have to experience."

Most importantly, Scott hasn't given up on this year. When reminded that many folks now have the Buffs penciled in as being home for Christmas, he winced.

"C'mon Buff nation -- what's up with that?" he asked. "We're down, but we're not out. We're scrapping. We're going to get some things done."

Scott then pointed to Tuesday's practice as proof.

"It was one of our best practices of the year," he said. "On the first play of the scrimmage, Josh (Smith) took it to the house. The Buffs aren't done."

We're willing to bet the same can be said for Darrell Scott.



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# Rocky Mountain News

## CU report: Missed opportunities

By **B.G. Brooks**, Rocky Mountain News ([Contact](#))

Published November 4, 2008 at 9:57 p.m.

**BOULDER** — In what might have been a game-changing first half Saturday at Texas A&M, coach **Dan Hawkins** said the Buffaloes' lackluster offense lacked two key ingredients for success: experience and a full complement of healthy bodies.

In a 24-17 loss that dropped them to 4-5 (1-4 Big 12 Conference), the Buffs failed to convert on three first-half opportunities inside the Aggies' 35-, 26- and 2-yard lines and led only 10-3 at halftime.

"The reason we didn't make the most of those . . . is when you have a team like ours that kind of gets beat down a little bit and maybe is not as confident as it ought to be, those things escape them . . . because they're not ready to seize the moment," Hawkins said.

"You've got a bunch of guys in the training room, and that gets harder and harder. What you do is keep your morale going, you stay with your fundamentals and you keep working on blocking and tackling and covering."

Hawkins said he and his offensive coaches have "explored as many options as we can" and tried to "adapt and adjust but not get too out of

whack."

One wrinkle added Saturday was returning to huddling rather than having plays signaled in from the sideline, and Hawkins said that practice likely will continue as the Buffs continue to try and work through their offensive issues with what they have.

"If you had a wishbone guy, a run-and-shoot guy, a West Coast guy and a spread guy in a room, they would all get in a fistfight about what's the best way to move the football," Hawkins said. "None of them are wrong, none of them are right. What it's about is trying to perfect your system."

### Dual QBs to continue

Splitting time between sophomore **Cody Hawkins** and freshman **Tyler Hansen** at quarterback will continue, even though it is difficult for the team and coaches.

"Totally," Hawkins said. "That's why nobody likes it - including me. It is what it is."

Hawkins said he and offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach **Mark Helfrich** still are trying to give Hansen "a manageable package" while using Cody for specific situations.

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## Hawkins sticking with plan

By Tom Kensler  
Denver Post Staff Writer

Article Last Updated: 11/04/2008 11:01:18 PM MST



QB Tyler Hansen is still learning CU's system but will play Saturday against Iowa State. (David Zalubowski, The Associated Press)

BOULDER — Colorado football fans are bound to be restless and grumpy, with the team having lost five of its past six games and in danger of not qualifying for a bowl game. Buffaloes coach Dan Hawkins said Tuesday he respects the fact that people have opinions, but he can't allow himself to get caught up in it.

"I am a people guy," Hawkins said during his weekly

media luncheon, "but what you have to do a little bit in order to maintain your sanity is, you've got to kind of go, 'OK. Let's not listen to them.' Because that's an extreme voice.

"People want us in the shotgun. People want us to be in the I-formation. People want Tyler (Hansen, at quarterback); people want Cody (Hawkins). . . . The vast majority of those

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people, they really care and are concerned about the program, and that's great. But they don't really know all the ins and outs."

Coming off a 24-17 loss at Texas A&M, Colorado (4-5, 1-4 Big 12) must win two of its last three games to become bowl eligible. The Buffs host Iowa State (2-7, 0-5) on Saturday, then face eighth-

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ranked Oklahoma State at home before finishing at Nebraska.

The combination of youth throughout the roster and key injuries on the offensive line have impeded the progress that coaches had hoped to make this season, although the schedule was expected to be challenging in any case for a team dependent on so many youngsters.

Although it has not translated enough to the scoreboard, Hawkins said the program has made improvements in many areas during his three years in Boulder. He cited gains from weight training and conditioning, higher academic standards, leadership off the field, bigger crowds at home games, the refurbished locker room and practice bubble.

"I know when you're sitting here 4-5, people wonder, 'What's going on?' " Hawkins said. "We know what's going on. There's a plan. There's a process in place. . . . The road is never easy."

## Slowing down.

Colorado's offense set up from a huddle more often against Texas A&M. Early in the season, CU almost exclusively used a hurry-up, no-huddle approach.

"The thing with (using) the huddle is trying to simplify," Hawkins said. "Also, with the nature of our offense, we're trying to be a little more complex in our look and disguise some things."

## Footnotes.

Look for the dual-quarterbacks system to continue. Dan Hawkins said Cody Hawkins and Hansen will play Saturday against Iowa State. Hansen, the coach said, is not yet comfortable with all of the system and Cody's experience remains an asset. "Nobody

likes the two-quarterback thing, including me, but it is what it is," Dan Hawkins said. . . . Kickoff for the Nov. 15 game at home against Oklahoma State has been set for 6 p.m.

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