



Kiesau: Smith must take next step

By Kyle Ringo

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

Colorado wide receivers coach and passing game coordinator Eric Kiesau said he hasn't been able to keep sophomore Josh Smith as involved in the offense as he would like because of Smith's injured shoulder.

Smith talked about wanting to be a bigger factor in the offense after a loss last week at Texas A&M in which he caught just one pass, dropped another and fumbled on a sweep. Smith missed a large chunk of the second half because he was getting intravenous fluids in the locker room. He has missed other lengthy stretches this season because of the shoulder injury.

Kiesau said the shoulder has limited the amount of practice repetitions Smith can take and that has cut into what he is ready to execute on Saturdays. Kiesau said Smith is a player who learns better by doing rather than by watching things from the sidelines or on film.

"He's got to mentally process things," he said. "He's very methodical in how he thinks. He's not the spontaneous reactor. I can't just throw him in the fire on Saturday.

"He's not well-versed or a veteran football player. Remember, he only started playing as a sophomore in high school and he was always the best guy. Now he's in kind of a complicated offense here. It just takes a little time to click."

When Smith has been on his game, he has been the Buffs' most dynamic playmaker. Kiesau, who has coached NFL receivers such as Kevin Curtis and DeSean Jackson, said Smith has exceptional physical ability but now needs to take his preparation and studying to the next level.

"He's heard me and he's heard Hawk, and he's heard people tell him what it takes to become a great player, but now it has come to the point where Josh has got to realize that Josh has got to take some steps in his life to become that great player," Kiesau said. "Everybody can tell him how great he could be or the kind of potential he could have, but that all in my mind is just talk. I think he is realizing that now."

Bad Luck Schleprock

Freshman wide receiver and punt return man Jason Espinoza became the ninth Buff to suffer a season-ending injury this week when he dived for a pass in Tuesday's scrimmage and broke his collarbone.

Espinoza had broken the bone in training camp and missed the first five weeks of the season. He returned against Kansas and played last week at Texas A&M but will be forced to sit and watch the rest of the year.

Coach Dan Hawkins said he has never been through a season in which he has lost so many players to

season-ending injuries. The program has lost 83 games to injury or illness already this season and all of the players who account for those games figured in the two-deep depth chart or special teams roles when the year began.

"I'm like that little guy in the Snoopy cartoon who walks around with the dust cloud over his head," Hawkins said. "What's that other guy in that other cartoon? Bad Luck Schleprock."

Hawk on Prince

Kansas State coach Ron Prince is being forced out after less than three full seasons on the job. When Hawkins heard the news Wednesday he shook his head, but said he wasn't surprised by the news.

"It doesn't make sense, but the more this thing goes, the wackier of a profession it gets," Hawkins said. "The day you expect it to make common sense, it's not going to. If it fair? No, but unfortunately life's not fair. It's the nature of the business."

Prince will finish the season at KSU before parting ways with the school. He and Hawkins were two of the 11 Division I coaches hired in 2006. Three of those coaches are already no longer with the programs that hired them.



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.



Buff line shoulders burden for woes

Inexperience, injuries have hindered offense

By Kyle Ringo

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

The young men on the Colorado offensive line who are struggling to provide consistent blocking this season are also grappling with the gut-wrenching thought that games are being lost because of their shortcomings.

Sometimes growing up quickly isn't much fun.

Colorado is last in the Big 12 in scoring this season, averaging 18 points a game. That number falls to 12 points in conference games only. Every other team is scoring at least a touchdown more and half the league is averaging twice as many points per game as the Buffs.

Colorado is last in passing, 10th in rushing and last in total offense, and just can't seem to find any kind of consistency in moving the ball.

"I think as an offensive line, we definitely put the blame right on our shoulders," redshirt freshman tackle Matt Bahr said. "Everything starts and stops with us."

The Buffs started the season with one of the youngest lines in the nation. The only senior in the group is Daniel Sanders, and left tackle Nate Solder is spending his first full season at any level as an offensive lineman after moving from tight end last winter.

Sophomore Ryan Miller, who has less than a full year of starting experience under his belt, was lost for the season when he suffered a broken leg in the Florida State game. True freshman Max Tuioti-Mariner suffered a season-ending anterior cruciate ligament tear just a few days before Miller was hurt. Those losses forced players such as Bahr and redshirt freshman guard Blake Behrens into more playing time than coaches ever imagined they would see this season.

"We're still getting that cohesiveness," Behrens said. "You will see flashes where we just completely dominate and then you will see sometimes we don't block a D-tackle and he makes a tackle for loss. We're putting in the work. We're practicing hard. We need to get together and just figure out what we need to do to put us all on the same page."

Players have handled the pressure well at times, and like most young players, there have been lapses, whiffs and blunders, too. No one has been immune, including Sanders, who has been a starter for three years.

Offensive line coach Jeff Grimes has searched everywhere for answers, including a two-week experiment with defensive tackle Eugene Goree practicing on offense and even playing 17 snaps in the

Kansas State game. Grimes has played 10 different offensive linemen this season.

Grimes acknowledges that his unit is banged up even beyond the season-ending injuries. Junior guard Devin Head has been playing with a shoulder injury. Behrens has a bad back. But Grimes uses none of it as an excuse and he doesn't want his players to either. He wants his linemen to feel like the offense's problems are their problem to fix.

"That's always my message to them, and whether that's the case or not, I want them to feel the burden of the offense," Grimes said. "What I always tell our guys is if we run block, come off the football and get on our guys, our backs are good enough to make yards. "I really want those guys to feel like the outcome of the game is on their shoulders."

There might be reason for mild optimism this week with Iowa State coming to Folsom Field for an 11:30 a.m. kickoff Saturday. It's not that the Cyclones have been just as miserable on defense as the Buffs have been on offense.

The Buffs are beginning to feel more confident with what they're doing, in part because coaches have simplified some things in the past two weeks. It's also true that the game is slowing down a little now. Behrens said he is recognizing keys in defenses earlier and it is allowing him to play more aggressively.

The offense drove 98 yards for a touchdown late last week at Texas A&M when it needed a score to remain in the game.

"I think that was a real point of maturity for our offensive line being able to drive that type of distance," Bahr said.

The Buffs got the ball back in the final 2 minutes but quarterback Tyler Hansen threw an interception on the first play to kill what might have been a game-winning rally. The line hopes to build off the way it ended last week when they get the ball this week.



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

cu football

Scott's back in business

The running back is in tip-top shape and is learning to play with pain before Iowa State.

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 11/05/2008 11:09:15 PM MST



CU's prized freshman, Darrell Scott, is going to get his chance for a breakout game Saturday against Iowa State, running backs coach Darian Hagan said. The blue-chipper has gained just 257 yards in nine games. (Jeff Roberson, The Associated Press)

backs coach Darian Hagan. His autumn has been about as difficult as anyone's.

As if having freshman tailback Darrell Scott banged up for much of the season and then losing another freshman, Rodney Stewart, last weekend to a fractured fibula were not enough, Hagan took a spill himself earlier this week — over his dog.

Not thinking there was any reason to turn on a hallway light at home, Hagan headed downstairs in the dark. He failed to see his St. Bernard puppy at the top of the steps. Fortunate not to be injured seriously, Hagan sustained a sore knee, twisted foot and bruised ego after coming to rest after tumbling down

Colorado Football

- [View slide show of CU-Kansas football](#)
- [View slide show of Texas-CU football](#)
- [View slide show of CU-Florida State football](#)
- [View slide show of West Virginia-CU football](#)
- [Visit the CU Stats Page for boxscores, Big 12 standings, team leaders and more](#)
- [Visit Tom Kensler's All Things Buffs blog for a behind-the-scenes look at CU sports](#)
- [Play Pick'em for the upcoming CU football game](#)

BOULDER — Republicans and those employed in the financial sector have nothing on Colorado running

17 steps. He counted.

Advertisement

Office Liquidators is Now Offering Office Supplies

Office Liquidators has been Colorado's **Low Price Leader** for Office Furniture **for 23 years** and will now do the same with **Office Supplies!**

\$20 off
initial order of \$60
enter code PC2060

Still locally owned with the same **great service.**

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS

Profit From Our Experience

ORDER ONLINE
www.OfficeLiquidators.com

303-759-3375 11111W. 6th Ave/LAKEWOOD
Between Kipling & Simms

Hours: M-F 8:30 - 6:00, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

Fellow assistant coaches joked Hagan had never been hurt that badly during his playing days as an option quarterback for the Buffaloes.

"I thought, 'What else can go wrong?' " Hagan said, shaking his head.

At least the "light at the end of the tunnel" that Hagan has been waiting on all season may be ready to arrive. Scott, proclaimed by Hagan as the featured back following Stewart's injury against Texas A&M, is having some of his best practices of the season this week.

Colorado (4-5, 1-4 Big 12) hosts Iowa State (2-7, 0-5) Saturday at 11:30 a.m. Hagan said Scott will get every opportunity to record a breakout game. Scott, voted the preseason Big 12 freshman of the year by the league's coaches, has yet to rush for 100 yards in a game.

One particular run this week in practice convinced Hagan that Scott may have turned the corner.

"Darrell had an inside run, off an iso (isolation) block," Hagan explained. "In the past, he would get the ball, and if one guy (defender) was in the hole, Darrell would just try to run that guy over. This time, he didn't even think about the defensive lineman. He made a cut off the fullback's block and took it about 50 yards to the house."

Hagan could not stop smiling.

"We're definitely going to try to get him rolling on Saturday," Hagan said. "He'll be the hot guy. He'll get some carries and get some confidence. He needs a breakout game. He needs some things that are successful for him. He's deserving. He's going to get it."

Scott has 257 yards and one touchdown through

nine games, averaging just 3.9 yards per carry. That's not exactly what was expected of a bluechipper ranked by Internet recruiting sites last fall as the nation's top high school running back. Scott rushed for a personal-best 66 yards last weekend at Texas A&M, including a 42-yarder, and said he is ready for bigger and better things.

For one thing, Scott finally is in tip-top shape. He said he arrived in Boulder for August drills weighing 228 pounds. He weighed in this week at 202, and feels lighter and faster.

"I was a little chubby," he said. "Now, I'm reading it quick, hitting it quick. Things are becoming second nature."

Scott, who has suffered from groin, knee and ankle problems, is learning to play with pain. He turned an ankle against Texas A&M.

"We've had to teach him that, as a running back, you're never going to be healthy," Hagan said. "He's the guy. He can't say he can't go."

"Yeah," Scott said, "I'm the guy now. I don't even have time to think about the ankle."

Footnotes.

Wide receiver Jason Espinoza fractured his collarbone in practice Tuesday and will miss the rest of the season. The walk-on redshirt freshman from Alamosa High School broke the bone in the same spot last August in preseason drills. He'd recently returned to the team, including game action.

Tom Kensler: 303-954-1280 or
tkensler@denverpost.com

Advertisement

Office Liquidators is Now Offering Office Supplies

Office Liquidators has been Colorado's **Low Price Leader** for Office Furniture for 23 years and will now do the same with Office Supplies!



\$20 off
initial order of \$60
enter code PC2060

Still locally owned with the same **great service.**

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS

Profit From Our Experience

ORDER ONLINE
www.OfficeLiquidators.com

303-759-3375 11111W. 6th Ave/LAKEWOOD
 Between Kipling & Simms

Hours: M-F 8:30 - 6:00, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

college football

Bufs likely to change FG duties

By Tom Kensler
 Denver Post Staff Writer
 Article Last Updated: 11/05/2008 01:57:42 PM MST

Colorado Football

- [View](#) slide show of CU-Kansas football
- [View](#) slide show of Texas-CU football
- [View](#) slide show of CU-Florida State football
- [View](#) slide show of West Virginia-CU football
- [Visit](#) the CU Stats Page for boxscores, Big 12 standings, team leaders and more
- [Visit](#) Tom Kensler's All Things Buffs blog for a behind-the-scenes look at CU sports
- [Play](#) Pick'em for the upcoming CU football game

BOULDER — Colorado freshman place-kicker Jameson Davis connected on his first college field-goal attempt last weekend, and it appears he will get more opportunities Saturday against Iowa State.

In Colorado's 24-17 loss at Texas A&M, Davis booted a 30-yarder with three seconds remaining in the first half to put the Buffaloes up 10-3. Earlier in the second quarter, sophomore Aric Goodman hit the right crossbar on a 46-yard attempt. Goodman, a transfer from Wyoming, is 3-for-11 on field goals.

"I feel for (Goodman)," CU coach Dan Hawkins said. "He's missed some close ones, and kicks pretty well in practice. But, hey, Jameson came in and made it. So probably the natural tendency is to lean a little bit toward Jameson (against Iowa State) and see how his leg holds up."

Davis has handled kickoff duties all seasons, but a sore knee on his plant leg (left) made coaches reluctant to use him for field goals. Davis plans to get the knee scoped following the season.

"Now that we're near the end of the season, it's giving me a little more stress," Davis said. "I haven't torn anything. But when I kick a lot of field goals, it hurts more than on kickoffs, for some reason. It must be the way I plant my leg. On kickoffs, my leg is planted perfectly straight. On field goals, I bend it a little bit for accuracy."

Goodman has missed seven straight field-goal attempts after going 3-for-4 in the opening three games.

"We had to do something," special teams coach Kent Riddle said of switching to Davis. "Maybe this will take some pressure off Aric."

Davis suffered a concussion during the second-half kickoff against Texas A&M due to a helmet-to-helmet collision with an Aggie blocker. Davis said he expects to play Saturday.

"I'm doing a lot better," said Davis, who last had a concussion in the ninth grade. "At first I had a huge

Advertisement

Office Liquidators is Now Offering Office Supplies

Office Liquidators has been Colorado's **Low Price Leader** for Office Furniture for 23 years and will now do the same with Office Supplies!



\$20 off
initial order of \$60
enter code PC2060

Still locally owned with the same **great service.**

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS

Profit From Our Experience

ORDER ONLINE
www.OfficeLiquidators.com

303-759-3375 11111W. 6th Ave/LAKEWOOD
Between Kipling & Simms

Hours: M-F 8:30 - 6:00, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

headache and it was hard for me to concentrate. But my symptoms are looking a lot better now."

Tom Kensler: 303-954-1280 or
tkensler@denverpost.com

Advertisement

Office Liquidators is Now Offering Office Supplies

Office Liquidators has been Colorado's **Low Price Leader** for Office Furniture **for 23 years** and will now do the same with **Office Supplies!**



\$20 off
initial order of \$60
enter code PC2060

Still locally owned with the same **great service.**

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS

Profit From Our Experience

ORDER ONLINE
www.OfficeLiquidators.com

303-759-3375 11111W. 6th Ave/LAKEWOOD
Between Kipling & Simms

Hours: M-F 8:30 - 6:00, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

[Print page](#)[Close window](#)

Longmont, Colorado
Thursday, November 06,
2008

Publish Date: 11/5/2008

Buff's place big hopes in backfield

All eyes, expectations turn to Darrell Scott

By Patrick Ridgell

Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Darian Hagan believes the strange, frustrating season that Darrell Scott has endured is about to take a turn for the better.

"I expect this week for him to have a breakout game," said Hagan, Colorado's running backs coach. "I really do."

If that sounds maybe too optimistic for the Buffaloes as they prepare for Saturday and Iowa State (11:30 a.m., VERSUS), it's understandable, given the events of recent weeks. Still, CU hopes Scott will help replace leading rusher Rodney Stewart, who broke his right fibula Saturday at Texas A&M, putting him on the bench for four to six weeks.



Colorado's Darrell Scott eludes Eastern Washington's Will Edge in the second quarter to set up the Buffs' first touchdown at Folsom Field in Boulder on Sept. 6. Colorado won, 31-24. **Joshua**

Buck/Times-Call file

Groin, knee and ankle injuries have dogged Scott, the nation's top running back recruit last year, all season. He was among the final newcomers to move to Boulder last summer because he had an algebra 2 class to take back home. He ate lots of macaroni and cheese and chicken parmesan dishes his mother and girlfriend made. He arrived in town weighing 228 pounds.

Tuesday evening, Scott was smiling, joking, claiming the offense had enjoyed its finest practice of the year. Hagan backed him on that. Scott also revealed six-pack abs, saying he's down to 202 pounds and losing more each week.

"I like to hear that, but I just can't wait until the game," Scott said about Hagan's prediction. "I want to practice perfect, and so far, it's working good for me."

"I'm reading it quick, hitting it quick. We're just rolling right now."

Scott said he feels quick, too, but admits his ankle remains an issue. He admitted it Saturday afternoon after losing at Texas A&M and said, "No," when asked Tuesday if it feels good.

"I can't think about it," he said. "I'm the guy."

Hagan said the primary ball carrier against Iowa State will be "the hot guy," adding that he wants to get Scott rolling early. Hagan described a run Scott made in practice in which he made one quick cut and went 60 yards to the end zone, sprinting down the field at about 4.3 speed. That's where Hagan's expectations stem from.

Scott needs confidence and success, Hagan said. With an average of 3.89 yards a carry and a total of 257 yards, 2008 has not been as productive as expected. Scott said he continues to ignore those expectations placed on him before he arrived.

"You can't worry about what other people think," he said. "Just worry about you and what you have to do."

Coaches, including head coach Dan Hawkins, continue to emphasize that Scott is merely a freshman and it's unreasonable to heap too many expectations upon any freshman. Injuries haven't helped. As Hagan points out, and Scott may realize, injuries can no longer be an issue.

"The thing about him is now he doesn't have the luxury of limping around and saying he can't go on certain plays, because Speedy's not here," Hagan said, referring to Stewart. "Now I don't care if he can't go: 'Get your butt in there and roll.'

"That's going to teach him that as a running back, you're never, ever going to get healthy. Once he realizes that, he'll be fine. He'll realize it this weekend."

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

Rocky Mountain News

CU report: RB Scott's time has arrived

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

Published November 5, 2008 at 10:14 p.m.

Updated November 5, 2008 at 10:14 p.m.

BOULDER - Ready or not, with three games remaining in his freshman season, **Darrell Scott** and his position coach believe Scott's time has arrived.

In truth, neither of them has much choice.

With leading rusher **Rodney "Speedy" Stewart** out because of a broken leg, Scott could find himself as "the guy" in the Buffaloes backfield.

But running backs coach **Darian Hagan** says that tag isn't as important to Scott as "getting some carries, some confidence and contributing.

"Now, he doesn't have the luxury of limping around, saying, 'I can't go' on certain plays because 'Speedy' is not here. Now, I don't care if (Scott) can't go. Get your butt in there and roll.

"That's going to teach him as a running back, you're never, ever going to be healthy. And once he realizes that, he'll be fine. He'll realize it this weekend."

Scott doesn't have time to dwell on a recurring ankle injury or knee and groin problems that slowed him earlier in the season.

"I've got to roll. . . . I can't think about it because I'm 'the guy,' " he said. "We've just got to crank out two more wins (for bowl eligibility). That's our mission."

Through nine games, Scott has carried 66 times for 257 yards and one touchdown. His 42-yard run Saturday at Texas A&M was CU's longest play from scrimmage this season.

Buck stops there

CU's secondary had prided itself in weekly improvement, even climbing to the top of the Big 12 Conference's pass defense statistics.

The Buffaloes remain there, allowing 213.7 passing yards a game. But after yielding three third-quarter touchdown passes in the 24-17 loss at Texas A&M, CU's defensive backs aren't celebrating.

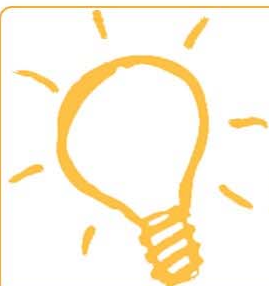
"That's tough to erase . . . it's in the backs of our minds," junior cornerback **Cha'pelle Brown** said. "We take it upon ourselves as DBs that we lost that game.

"There's a lot of other things that happened, but we gave up too many big plays in the third quarter."

Brown said most of the errors were in technique: "All that happened was they made plays and we didn't."

Hawkins on Prince

Advertisement



A bright idea in online advertising.

PrinterStitial® ads by Format Dynamics.



FormatDynamics®

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

Rocky Mountain News

Coach **Dan Hawkins** said Kansas State's firing of third-year coach **Ron Prince** "doesn't make sense, but the more this thing goes, the wackier a profession it gets. The day you expect it to make common sense, it's not going to. . . . It's unfortunately the nature of the business."

Prince, 16-18 in two-plus seasons at Kansas State, entered the Big 12 Conference at the same time as Hawkins, whose record during the same span is 12-22.

Prince's teams were 2-1 against CU, defeating the Buffs 34-21 in 2006 and 47-20 in 2007. The Buffs beat the Wildcats 14-13 on Oct. 18.

Doubly bummed

Redshirt freshman receiver/punt returner **Jason Espinoza** is out - again.

And again it's because of a broken collarbone - the same break that sidelined him for the season's first month.

Espinoza, of Alamosa, suffered the second break during practice Tuesday.

Advertisement



A bright idea in online advertising.

PrinterStitial® ads by Format Dynamics.



FormatDynamics®

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™