



# Cowboys corral Buffaloes

## CU must win at NU for bowl bid

By Kyle Ringo

Saturday, November 15, 2008

Thanksgiving will come with a side of desperation this season for the Colorado football program.

The Buffs will travel to Lincoln, Neb., for the regular season finale against their red rival in a little less than two weeks needing a victory to earn a bowl berth. That reality hit home following another disappointing and frustrating outing in a 30-17 loss to No. 11 Oklahoma State on Saturday.

The Cowboys came to Folsom Field heavy favorites but were frustrated most of the evening by a tough CU defense forced to play without its two senior safeties on senior day. The Buffs held the Cowboys 13 points below their season scoring average but could never get momentum going with a counter punch on the offensive side of the ball.

When it was over late Saturday night, the discussion in the Dal Ward Center glossed over what had just happened on the field and quickly turned to beginning the build up to a must-win contest at Nebraska.

"We always talk about finishing," coach Dan Hawkins said. "We have a big game coming up for a lot of reasons, if not for any other reason, just to finish.

"We need to continue to work and finish."

The Buffs fell to 5-6 overall and 2-5 in the Big 12 Conference and must have six victories to become bowl eligible. The loss completed a sweep by the Buffs' three Big 12 South Division opponents this season. CU had swept its three south foes a year ago.

The game started on a sour note for two seniors. Wide receiver Cody Crawford fumbled after a reception at the CU 44-yard line and safety Ryan Walters was injured on the second play of the ensuing OSU drive.

The injury forced the Buffs to play with redshirt freshman Anthony Perkins at one safety spot and true freshman Patrick Mahnke at the other. Senior safety D.J. Dykes missed the final home game of his career with an undisclosed health problem.

The Buffs held Oklahoma State to a pair of field goals on their first two possessions and the Cowboys held a 6-0 advantage after the first quarter.

The Cowboys finally got into the end zone midway through the second quarter thanks to a dazzling catch by sophomore wide receiver Dez Bryant, who snared a third-down pass across the middle with one hand and raced around defenders to the corner of the end zone. The play gave the Cowboys a 13-0 lead.

That catch proved to be the first of two wild scoring receptions.

After OSU surged to a 20-3 advantage on tailback Kendall Hunter's 43-yard run in the third quarter, Colorado retaliated with a wild and fortunate touchdown connection.

Quarterback Cody Hawkins threw to Crawford over the middle and the ball was tipped high into the air toward the goal line. Fellow wide receiver Scotty McKnight was running a route behind Crawford and ran underneath the batted ball, catching it for a 28-yard score.

"I game-planned that all week," McKnight said.

After a month spent rotating between Cody Hawkins and freshman Tyler Hansen at quarterback, coaches elected to stick with Hawkins the entire game Saturday. The sophomore never found the rhythm and protection that allowed him to throw four touchdown passes a week earlier.

Hawkins completed 19 of 37 passes for 171 yards and a touchdown and did not commit a turnover. His counterpart, OSU's Zac Robinson completed 15 of 23 passes for 217 yards and the show-stopping touchdown to Bryant.

"We were talking on the sideline that that was a SportsCenter Top 10 play," Robinson said.

Colorado was forced to stick with one player at tailback because of injuries. Freshman Darrell Scott re-injured his sprained ankle in practices and did not play in the game. Coaches leaned heavily on sophomore Demetrius Sumler, who ran a career high 22 times for 86 yards a touchdown.

"I had fun out there," Sumler said. "Just wish we could have gotten the win."

That summed up the day for Colorado, and the Buffs are hoping it doesn't also encapsulate the season.



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# CU's Sumler steps in to carry load at tailback

## Sophomore fills in for injured Scott

By Ryan Thorburn

Sunday, November 16, 2008

Darrell Scott was only going to play in an emergency situation after aggravating his sprained ankle earlier in the week at practice.

Instead of dialing 911, Colorado offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich called on No. 2 -- sophomore Demetrius Sumler -- to help move the chains.

Sumler responded with 93 yards on a career-high 22 carries, including a 3-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter.

But the Buffs were still out-rushed by Oklahoma State (226 yards to 133) and out-gained in total offense (443 to 304) during a 30-17 loss to the Cowboys on Saturday night at Folsom Field.

Help!

"Unfortunately, we still have the M.A.S.H. unit," CU head coach Dan Hawkins said when asked if some of his key injured players might heal in time for the regular-season finale at Nebraska on Nov. 28. "We have a lot of guys on crutches and recovering from surgery, so those guys won't be back."

CU lost its leading rusher, true freshman Rodney Stewart, to a broken leg on Nov. 1 during a loss at Texas A&M. "Speedy" finished his season with 622 yards on 132 carries (4.7 yards per) and two touchdowns.

Scott, the No. 1 running back prospect in the nation coming out of high school last year, is probable for the Cornhuskers. He has 344 yards on 85 carries (4.1 yards per) with one touchdown this season.

"I was really excited to see Demetrius do a lot today. Everybody has been talking about Speedy and Darrell since the beginning of the season, but hands down Demetrius is the leader of that group," quarterback Cody Hawkins said. "He works. He knows every single position and every single situation. I'm just really glad because the guy is a hell of a running back and he's going to be a great player for us. He did everything we asked him to."

Sumler now has 193 rushing yards on 52 attempts this season. He is currently CU's fourth leading rusher behind backup quarterback Tyler Hansen (250 yards on 60 carries).

"It was a good experience. I had fun out there," said Sumler, who also caught four passes for 15 yards. "Just wish we could have gotten the win. I'm trying to do whatever I can to help the Buffs."

Scott wasn't healthy during practices leading up to the season and suffered leg injuries against Eastern Washington and Texas. The Buffs hope having some extra time to prepare for Nebraska will allow the talented prospect to provide a solid one-two punch with Sumler in Lincoln.

"He dinged himself up again on Tuesday and didn't really do that much during the week," Dan Hawkins said. "In particular on Thursday, you need to practice. Obviously for a young guy that's really important. ... Hopefully that thing will get healthy again for him because it has been bothering him for a long time."



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# CU football attendance drops slightly this season

## Folsom Field drew 6,193 fewer than last year

By Kyle Ringo

Sunday, November 16, 2008

Attendance at Colorado football games fell slightly this fall, even though the Buffs featured one of the more attractive schedules in recent history.

The Buffs drew 6,193 fewer fans to six home games this season than they did to the same number of games last season.

The combined announced attendance at home games this season was 296,858, compared with 303,051 last season.

The announced attendance includes media members and others who attend using complimentary tickets or passes. It does not equate to ticket sales.

Attendance fell despite an increase in season-ticket sales this season. Athletic director Mike Bohn reported in October that season ticket sales had risen this season to 22,603, an increase of 1,369 from last season.

CU also had more success selling club seats and suites this season than in any previous season since they were completed in 2003.

While the program has made progress in some areas such as the suites and club seats, attendance remains similar to levels under former coach Gary Barnett. Attendance in 2005, the final season under Barnett, was 302,462.

### Walters earns

### Buffalo Heart award

Colorado senior free safety Ryan Walters was honored with the Buffalo Heart Award in a brief postgame ceremony behind the home bench following Saturday's game.

Walters was the 11th recipient of the award, which is given annually by the fans behind the bench following the final home game of the season. The fans vote for the Buff who they believe displays heart, grit, determination and desire.

Walters, who entered Saturday's game as the team's leading tackler, is the fifth defensive player to earn the honor and second defensive back. The award has been given to a defender for three consecutive years now.

Walters was the final senior introduced to the crowd during a pregame ceremony honoring the senior class. He ran to midfield, dropped his helmet on his way to a pushup position and kissed the Buffalo logo before running to meet his family.

It became the most significant action of the night for one of the four team captains. Walters suffered a knee and ankle sprain on the second play from scrimmage for the CU defense and was replaced in the lineup by true freshman Patrick Mahnke. Walters is day-to-day.

Losing Walters compounded problems for the coaching staff because fellow senior safety D.J. Dykes was unable to play because of an undisclosed health problem. Redshirt freshman Anthony Perkins started in his place.

### **Another injury**

Colorado freshman tailback Ray Polk spent this season redshirting while he worked to get bigger in the weight room, but that didn't spare him from the injury bug that has bitten the Buffs all year.

Polk suffered a torn labrum in his right shoulder in practice and underwent surgery last week. He said he expects to be recovered in time for spring practices.

Polk is the 11th player to suffer a season-ending injury this season. He was a four-star recruit from the Phoenix area, who elected near the end of training camp to take a redshirt season.

### **Scott out**

True freshman running back Darrell Scott dressed for Saturday's game but did not play because of a sprained ankle.

The injury has hampered Scott since the Texas game Oct. 4. He re-aggravated it during practices this week and was available Saturday only in an emergency.

Sophomore Demtrius Sumler handled nearly the entire workload against the Cowboys. Scott is day-to-day and is probable for the regular-season finale Nov. 28 at Nebraska.

### **Barnett's name**

#### **pops up**

Former Colorado coach Gary Barnett's name has been mentioned in recent days in connection with multiple vacancies or potential openings around college football. Two of those possibilities are Kansas State and Wyoming.

Colorado plays KSU each season in the Big 12 North Division, but, perhaps, the more likely opening for Barnett would be Wyoming, which is slated to visit Folsom Field next September.

Barnett, 62, has been out of coaching since he was fired from CU following the 2005 season. He has received little attention each December since when job openings in major college football generally occur.

The drawback to hiring Barnett for any program would be the likelihood of rehashing the entire

Colorado football recruiting scandal that played a big part in Barnett ultimately losing his job in Boulder.

### **Dubious record**

CU place-kicker Aric Goodman set a school record with his eighth consecutive missed field goal in the first half. The 50-yard attempt bounced off the left upright.

To that point, Goodman had three of eight misses hit the uprights. He also had another one blocked during a stretch that dated back to a game-winner in overtime against West Virginia on Sept. 18.

The previous school record for consecutive missed field goals was four and was held by several players. Goodman finally broke the streak later in the half with a 31-yard field goal.

In all, Goodman and fellow place-kicker Jameson Davis combined to make just one of 11 kicks between Sept. 18 and Goodman's first kick Saturday.

### **All-purpose man**

Sophomore wide receiver and kick return man Josh Smith set a school record Saturday with seven kickoff returns, giving him 43 for the season.

Terrence Wheatley set the old mark last season at 37.

Smith also gained 187 all-purpose yards through kickoff and punt returns, rushing and receiving. He now has 1,742 all-purpose yards this season and is one of only five players in CU history to gain more than 1,600 all-purpose yards in a season.

### **Notable**

The stadium came to life during a timeout early in the second quarter Saturday when CU basketball great Chauncey Billups was introduced to the crowd. Billups, who was recently traded from the Detroit Pistons to the Denver Nuggets, stood in the south end zone and waved while fans roared with a standing ovation.



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# Injury bug hits Buffs defense

## Dykes doesn't dress; Walters hurt on 1st series

By Ryan Thorburn  
Sunday, November 16, 2008

This was not the way Ryan Walters wanted to leave Folsom Field for the last time.

Colorado's standout free safety and defensive captain had probably envisioned being carried off the field by the fans after a Buffs upset over the No. 11 team in the country.

Instead, Walters had to be helped off the field after suffering a sprained ankle and knee during CU's first defensive series in what turned out to be a disappointing 30-17 loss to Oklahoma State on Saturday night.

Walters is listed as day to day for the Buffs' regular-season finale at Nebraska on Nov. 28.

"You never want to lose your senior safety captain," senior defensive tackle George Hypolite said. "(Walters) was born to be a Buff."

The Buffs were already without starting senior strong safety D.J. Dykes, who did not dress out for the game due to health issues/illness.

Redshirt freshman Anthony Perkins started in place of Dykes. True freshman Patrick Mahnke filled in for Walters after the deflating injury.

"It was so tough. Ryan obviously is our captain, a big-play guy and the leader of our defense and the leader of the team," senior cornerback Gardner McKay said. "It's hard to lose him. Luckily we have a backup in Mahnke who came in and performed pretty well. He showed himself today. ...

"In the future Perkins and Mahnke are going to be nice safeties. And Colorado has always developed some nice safeties. They just have to take it up to another level in the future."

CU's depleted defense held its own against OSU's high-powered offense in the first half, coming up with a pair of goal-line stands to force the visitors to settle for two Dan Bailey chip shots from 18 and 25 yards out for a 6-0 lead in the first quarter.

After struggling CU place-kicker Aric Goodman bounced a 50-yard field goal off left upright with 8:52 remaining in the second quarter, the Cowboys capitalized on the favorable field position and marched down the field for a 13-0 lead.

Dez Bryant made a SportsCenter-worthy one-handed catch on a 29-yard touchdown pass from Zac Robinson to cap the drive.



"I think we basically did well as a defense," McKay said. "It was just a couple of plays here and there that killed us, and they turned them into touchdowns."

OSU took a 20-3 lead with an explosive five-play, 80-yard drive early in the third quarter. Robinson connected with Damian Davis on a 30-yard completion and Kendall Hunter broke off a 43-yard touchdown run on the next snap.

After the Buffs scored on a mini-immaculate reception -- a 28-yard touchdown pass from Cody Hawkins to Scotty McKnight that bounced off Cody Crawford first -- the Cowboys executed an 8-play, 80-yard drive that ended with a 12-yard touchdown scamper by Robinson with 54 seconds remaining in the third quarter to make the score 27-10.

CU snapped a 10-quarter turnover drought in the fourth quarter when weak-side linebacker Shaun Mohler intercepted a Robinson pass and returned it 16 yards to the OSU 16, setting up a Demetrius Sumler touchdown run to cut the deficit to 10 points.

But the Buffs' offense couldn't generate much after that and the brief comeback bid fizzled.

"I think it's all across the board as a team, we need to work on developing a killer instinct and really putting people away or nailing people," Hypolite said. "That's the sign of a young team -- you're inconsistent, you show flashes but you don't do it consistently."

Entering Saturday's game, Walters -- who was still receiving treatment for his injuries after the game -- was second on the team with 86 tackles. Dykes was sixth with 55, including an assist on the game-clinching stop at the goal line on the final play of the victory over Iowa State a week earlier.

"I was definitely surprised when he went down and I was a little nervous going," said Mahnke, who had five tackles and two pass breakups in relief of Walters. "But once I started playing I got into a groove I guess. There's definitely a lot of stuff I need to work on this week. It was definitely a good experience and I loved every minute of it."

Perkins also had five tackles. Travis Sandersfeld, another redshirt freshman safety, suffered a hamstring injury on special teams in the third quarter and did not return.

"(The injuries) hurt a little bit, but I take my hat off to Anthony Perkins and Pat Mahnke," Hypolite said. "They stepped right in and didn't really miss a beat. They didn't really make any mistakes that I saw. They did a great job."

OSU was averaging 42.8 points per game entering Saturday's action.

"I am going to give them some credit," OSU head coach Mike Gundy said of CU's defense. "They had a nice plan and they have been pretty tough within the 5-yard line."



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## Woelk: Colorado missing ability to finish

By Neill Woelk

Sunday, November 16, 2008

Pick out a game that epitomizes the 2008 Colorado Buffaloes' season, and you couldn't find one much better than Saturday night's 30-17 loss to Oklahoma State.

Before the game ever started, the Buffs were missing their leading rusher from last week's win over Iowa State (Darrell Scott, ankle injury) and the starting safety who made the game-saving stop in the win (D.J. Dykes, illness). Barely five minutes into the affair, Colorado then lost its other starting safety when Ryan Walters went down with a leg injury.

Enter two inexperienced backups against one of the nation's best passing offenses. Not a good sign.

Meanwhile, the Buffs then proceeded to become their own worst enemies on offense. A missed field goal, a dropped pass in the end zone, a lost fumble in their own territory (converted by OSU into a field goal) and another fumble that killed a drive in OSU territory took at least 10 -- possibly more -- points off the board.

Defensively, more of the same. The Buffs played well in stretches, but gave up too many of the "gashers" that have plagued them all season, including a 43-yard touchdown run to open the second half. **"We're shooting ourselves in the foot. We get a good offensive drive going, but then we just kill ourselves. We have to be able to smell blood and punch it in."**

By the time it was over, the Buffaloes had played just well enough to make things relatively interesting against the nation's 11th-ranked team, but not nearly well enough to scratch out a win.

That's the season in a nutshell. A team with little margin for error has seen too many of its woes self-inflicted. At the same time, a team whose depth was tenuous at best when the season started found itself stretched far too thin in far too many areas.

Now the Buffs' year has come down to a make-or-break game at the home of their rival. Colorado can still extend its season with a win at Nebraska on Nov. 28, but it most certainly will not be favored to do so.

"It's been a one-game season for us for a long time," said senior defensive tackle George Hypolite.

Said coach Dan Hawkins: "We always talk about finishing. It's a big game coming up for a lot of reasons."

That's one of Hawkins' favorite phrases. Finish.

If you can name one facet missing from the 2008 Buffs, it's been the ability to do just that.

Saturday night, CU had a first-and-10 on OSU's 24, then failed to score when a field goal attempt hit the upright. Later in the half, a first-and-10 at the 16 yielded only a field goal. Another drive into OSU territory ended up empty because of a fumble.

"We're shooting ourselves in the foot," said running back Demetrius Sumler. "We get a good offensive drive going, but then we just kill ourselves. We have to be able to smell blood and punch it in."

Defensively, same thing. Too many times, the Buffs had OSU in third-and-long -- and gave up a big gain to keep the drive alive.

It's a sign of inexperience. Young players make mistakes, and when they make them at inopportune times, it's magnified exponentially. There has been no killer instinct, the confidence that comes with experience.

"We missed some opportunities to be sure," Hawkins said. "We thought we had an opportunity to do some things offensively. ... But the margin of error is clearly very, very small. You've got to make a couple of plays to keep that thing going."

This morning, the Buffs find themselves in exactly the same position they were in a year ago: a 5-6 record with bowl eligibility hanging in the balance when they face Nebraska in the season finale. It means about 10 days of practice to clean up a season's worth of mistakes.

But what Hawkins and his coaching staff can't do is pour a magic potion on his players and make them older overnight. The only cure for inexperience is time on the field -- and one of the bright spots from this season has been that every freshman and sophomore in the lineup has gained invaluable experience.

One irony from this year? When the season began, Buff fans worried that there were too many tailbacks available. But Saturday night, all three freshmen from the incoming class -- Scott, Rodney Stewart and Ray Polk -- were unavailable. It's a situation almost no one could have envisioned, but it's also another sign of the troubles that have hounded this team.

Throughout the season, Hawkins and his staff have maintained that they are headed in the right direction, that the foundation for the future is being built. Even in games such as Saturday's, when opportunities were squandered, there are still plenty of signs that they are indeed building toward a brighter day.

But today, CU fans aren't content with knowing that the young players who made mistakes on Saturday will be the older players making big plays a year from now.

They're only wondering if the Buffs can conjure up enough of Hawk's mojo to spring an upset at Nebraska.

Stranger things have happened.



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THE DENVER POST

cu football

## Bufs' home finale ruined

Cowboys send CU seniors out with Folsom loss

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

Updated: 11/16/2008 12:32:08 AM MST



Oklahoma State quarterback Zac Robinson dives into the end zone Saturday night in front of Colorado's Anthony Perkins. (Andy Cross, The Denver Post )

BOULDER — A 17-point underdog, Colorado pulled out a few good-luck charms Saturday night at Folsom Field.

The Buffaloes wore all-black uniforms. School hero Chauncey Billups was introduced to the crowd in the second quarter. CU assistant coach Brian Cabral, who is of Polynesian descent, put on his flowery,

wraparound "lava lava" garb, a native dress of the Pacific Islands region that, in Cabral's case, had been unbeaten in three showings dating back to 1998.

What the Buffaloes (5-6, 2-5 Big 12) really needed was a genie to appear with two or three playmakers. That was the only way Colorado might have kept up in the 30-17 loss to No. 11 Oklahoma State that disappointed most among the crowd of 46,092.

The visiting Cowboys

### Colorado Football

- View slide show of Oklahoma State-CU football Nov. 15
- View slide show of Iowa State-CU football Nov. 8
- Visit the CU Stats Page for boxscores, Big 12 standings, team leaders and more
- Visit Tom Kensler's All Things Bufs blog for a behind-the-scenes look at CU sports
- Play Pick'em for the upcoming CU football game

(9-2, 5-2), who could field a competitive track team with their skill players, dampened the celebration of Colorado's "Senior Night" home finale. Oklahoma State never trailed.

"Our seniors have done so much for this program, we really wanted to win this game for them," CU sophomore quarterback Cody Hawkins said. "We played well at times but made too many mistakes."

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THE DENVER POST

CU's 15 outgoing upperclassmen will feel even worse if they can't finish out with a bowl game. To become bowl eligible, Colorado must win at Nebraska on Nov. 28, in their annual day-after-Thanksgiving battle.

"It's been a 'one-game season' for us for a long time," CU senior defensive tackle George Hypolite shrugged. "It's going to be a tough challenge."

Colorado began the game without one of its few big-play threats, freshman tailback Darrell Scott, who couldn't go because of a bad ankle. Also out was starting senior strong safety D.J. Dykes because of an illness.

Then, on Oklahoma State's first play from scrimmage, the Buffs lost their other starting safety. Senior captain Ryan Walters stayed down after a 12-yard gain by Kendall Hunter and had to be helped off the field with knee and ankle injuries. He is listed day to day for Nebraska.

The absence of Dykes and Walters left two-deep duties to a pair of first-year players: redshirt freshman Anthony Perkins and true freshman Patrick Mahnke, who was playing last fall for Parker's Mountain Vista High School.

"(Without Dykes and Walters) you lose being able to hide things and disguise things," CU coach Dan Hawkins said.

Considering that the Cowboys entered the game averaging 42.8 points and have a bevy of NFL prospects, Colorado's defensive effort was commendable.

"I was a little concerned about this game because defensively, Colorado has played really good," Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said.

On offense, it was same old, same old. Colorado failed to reach 20 points for the sixth time in seven Big 12 games.

Returning to play in his home state for the first time, Oklahoma State junior quarterback Zac Robinson threw for 217 yards and danced away from pass rushers. He put the game away with a 12-yard touchdown keeper late in the third quarter. "It's great, obviously, to play in front of so many family and friends," he said. "But once it kicked off, it felt like any other game."

The former Chatfield High star was adept at converting third-and-longs by finding star wideout Dez Bryant on crossing patterns. A spectacular sophomore, Bryant made a circus grab over his shoulder on a post pattern for a 29-yard TD in the second quarter.

Just another day at the office, Bryant said. "It just happened as a reaction," he explained.

CU stayed within 13-3 at halftime, thanks to two defensive goal-line stands inside the CU 10-yard line that forced Oklahoma State to settle for field goals on its first two possessions.

The Buffs made things interesting early in the fourth quarter by taking advantage of a Shaun Mohler interception to pull to within 10 points on a short TD run by Demetrius Sumler.

But Colorado had to punt away its next two possessions.

"I still think there's much to be gained (this season) if we get going in the right direction and finish on a good note," Dan Hawkins said.

Time is running out.

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## Key stat

3-of-15: Third-down conversions by Colorado.  
 The Buffs were 4-of-4 on fourth-down attempts.

## Key play

Scotty McKnight's 28-yard touchdown catch from Cody Hawkins in the third quarter. The play was originally designed to go to Cody Crawford, but the pass hit off Crawford's hands and bounced high in the air, where McKnight caught it and ran into the end zone.

Chris Dempsey, *The Denver Post*

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cu football

## Walters' finale at Folsom lasts only one play

Updated: 11/16/2008 12:41:49 AM MST



CU quarterback Cody Hawkins scrambles for a first down against Oklahoma State in the second quarter Saturday in Boulder. (Andy Cross, The Denver Post )

**BOULDER** — It wasn't how Colorado free safety Ryan Walters had pictured his final appearance at Folsom Field.

Minutes after drawing the loudest applause among the 15 outgoing seniors during ceremonial pregame introductions Saturday night, Walters injured an ankle and knee on Oklahoma State's first play from

scrimmage.

Walters remained down after combining with linebacker Shaun Mohler for a tackle of Cowboys tailback Kendall Hunter following a 12-yard gain.

Walters, the son of former CU quarterback Marc Walters, did not return to the game.

"You never want to lose a senior captain," said defensive tackle George Hypolite, a fellow senior. "He was born to be a Buff."

### Cody goes distance.

Sophomore quarterback Cody Hawkins played the entire game.

That marked the first time CU had passing statistics from only one quarterback since the Sept. 27 loss at Florida State, when Hawkins took all the snaps.

"I knew I was going to play the majority of the game," Hawkins said. "We also had some things for Tyler (Hansen). But as the game went along, I stayed in there."

Hawkins moved to third place in school history for career pass attempts (720), completions (408) and touchdown passes (35).

### Off the schneid.

Sophomore place-kicker Aric Goodman snapped a streak of eight straight missed field goals with a 31-yarder in the second quarter.

Goodman hit the left upright on a 50-yarder earlier in the second quarter.

### Footnotes.

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THE DENVER POST

With one regular-season game to go, CU sophomore receiver Josh Smith already has set a school record for kickoff returns in a season. He began the game with 36 kickoff returns and returned seven more Saturday night. Terrence Wheatley returned 37 kickoffs in 2007. . . . The 29-yard catch-and-run for a touchdown by Oklahoma State sophomore wide receiver Dez Bryant was his 16th of the season, but the first on the road. . . . PGA Tour players Scott Verplank and Bob Tway had sideline passes for behind the OSU bench.

*Tom Kensler, The Denver Post*

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Longmont, Colorado  
Thursday, November 20,  
2008

Publish Date: 11/16/2008

## Buff's tripped by OSU

*By Patrick Ridgell*

*Longmont Times-Call*

BOULDER — The sights and sounds in Folsom Field late Saturday night told different tales of heartbreak and glee.

No. 11 Oklahoma State had just defeated Colorado, 30-17, in another one of those games that left the Buffaloes bemoaning a blown assignment here, a missed opportunity there and their youth everywhere.

In the stadium's southeast corner, senior defensive tackle George Hypolite stood alone before the band as it played CU's alma mater. When it ended, he bowed and waved. Other seniors lingered on the field, like they never wanted to leave.

Meanwhile, the northeast corner bursted with Cowboys fans, chanting "Beat OU!" at their team, which can improve its postseason hopes and make a national statement when Oklahoma State (9-2, 5-2 Big 12) concludes a strong season Nov. 29 against their arch-rival Sooners.

No one among those left in Folsom chanted anything about beating Nebraska. The meaning of that is debatable.

For CU, and for the second year in a row, beating Nebraska in its finale means the difference between a bowl berth or holidays at home. Seeing as these two programs once vied annually for Big 12 North supremacy, this isn't the kind of symmetry CU wants. But a bowl will come with that magical sixth win. Considering all that's gone wrong in 2008, there are worse things to hang a hat on.

"It definitely makes the game a big deal," receiver Scotty McKnight said. "Either we're with Pit (conditioning coaching Jeff Pitman) for another month of conditioning, or we got a month to get ready for a fun bowl game to go to. Obviously people are going to be working hard the next two weeks."

Said Hypolite: "We have two weeks to prepare for Nebraska, and they have two weeks to prepare for us. Watching them play in the last few games, they're starting to hit a bit of a stride."

Nebraska (7-4, 4-3) won, 56-28, at Kansas State on Saturday. It appears to be finishing strong and will be eager to continue so against the Buffs. CU? Not so much.

Despite trailing, 13-3, the Buffs hung with Oklahoma State early. Halftime statistics were nearly even. Only a few plays separated the two. They included

### No. 11 OKLAHOMA ST. 30, COLORADO 17

Oklahoma St.  
67143—30  
Colorado  
0377—17  
First Quarter  
OkSt—FG D.Bailey 18, 8:54.  
OkSt—FG D.Bailey 25, :29.  
Second Quarter  
OkSt—Bryant 29 pass from Robinson (D.Bailey kick), 7:20.  
Col—FG Goodman 31, 3:12.  
Third Quarter  
OkSt—Hunter 43 run (D.Bailey kick), 12:12.  
Col—McKnight 28 pass from C.Hawkins (Goodman kick), 4:50.  
OkSt—Robinson 12 run (D.Bailey kick), :54.  
Fourth Quarter  
Col—Sumler 3 run (Goodman kick), 12:30.  
OkSt—FG D.Bailey 21, 4:37.  
A—46,092.  
OkStCol  
First downs  
24 19  
Rushes-yards  
40-226 35-133  
Passing  
217 171  
Comp-Att-Int  
15-23-1 19-38-0  
Return Yards  
17 18  
Punts-Avg.  
4-40.5 5-46.4  
Fumbles-Lost  
1-0 4-1  
Penalties-Yards  
5-31 5-45  
Time of Possession  
30:27 29:33

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Oklahoma St., Hunter 11-102, Robinson 15-61, Toston 9-43, B.Johnson 5-20. Colorado, Sumler 22-86, C.Hawkins 11-26, Jo.Smith 2-21.  
PASSING—Oklahoma St., Robinson 15-23-1-217. Colorado, C.Hawkins 19-37-0-171, McKnight 0-1-0-0.  
RECEIVING—Oklahoma St.,

CU's Cody Crawford dropping a touchdown pass, one play before Aric Goodman missed his eighth field goal in a row, plus a one-handed catch and touchdown run by Oklahoma State's Dez Bryant that McKnight called "one of the most ridiculous plays I've ever seen."

Pettigrew 7-75, Bryant 4-82, Hunter 3-30, Da.Davis 1-30. Colorado, McKnight 4-51, Crawford 4-43, J.Behrens 4-32, Sumler 4-15, Williams 1-20, Devenny 1-8, Jo.Smith 1-2.
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"I thought we established some offensive continuity; we missed some opportunities, to be sure," coach Dan Hawkins said.

The Buffs pulled to within 10 points twice in the second half, but never closer. CU took possession on its 7 with 7 minutes, 53 seconds to go in its last, best chance. Its possession featured three incompletions from quarterback Cody Hawkins, who played the whole game, before a punt that set up Dan Bailey's third field goal.

Oklahoma State's Zac Robinson went 15-for-23 for 217 yards and a touchdown, and rushed for 61 yards and another touchdown. Kendall Hunter ran for 102 yards and a score, and the Cowboys outgained CU, 247 yards to 116, after halftime.

There were some hopeful moments for CU, which saw De metrius Sumler set a career best with 22 carries for 86 yards while Darrell Scott did not play with his lingering ankle problem. And that first half, in which CU did some things well. Just not enough against a superior opponent.

The Nov. 28 finale at Nebraska is far enough away to allow the Buffs time to rest, heal and hone. They need to do all three. Otherwise, the disappointment that filled their faces as they strolled off the field late Saturday night, especially that pain on the faces of 15 seniors making their last appearance, won't melt away soon.

"We always talk about finishing," Dan Hawkins said. "We have a big game coming up for a lot of reasons, if not for any other reason, just to finish. We need to continue to work and finish, if for no other reason than just to finish.

"It's important (the players) learn and the younger guys learn. I still think there's much to be gained if we get going in the right direction here and finish on a good note. I've always said we'll sit down when the season is over and figure out what kind of year it was."

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## CU's Goodman staying positive

*By Patrick Ridgell*

*Longmont Times-Call*

BOULDER — It was with a sense of humor that Colorado placekicker Aric Goodman described hitting yet another upright Saturday night during the Buffs' 30-17 loss to Oklahoma State. "Gotta laugh," he said.

The miss, Goodman's program-record eighth in a row, preceded a successful try from 31 yards later in the first half. Goodman is 4-for-13 in 2008. CU's game notes reported he has hit three uprights this year, but Goodman said he has hit five.

Maybe it just seems like five.

"I've hit more uprights than field goals this year," Goodman said.

"It's so unbelievable to think I could hit an upright. The chances of that happening anyway are so slim. Then five times in a season is almost unheard of. Normally you might hit it once or twice."

Goodman's successful try was his first since the game winner, Sept. 18 against West Virginia. CU's previous record for consecutive misses was four.

Coaches have insisted Goodman is good in practice, where teammates dubbed him "Money" in August because he rarely missed. The coaches have also said Goodman's misses are close, so they expected he'd come around eventually.

Coaches did replace Goodman with Jameson Davis for field goals entering the Nov. 8 game against Iowa State. Davis, whose left knee has worsened, only kicked off Saturday night. Goodman said he had not changed his approach, mentally or physically, during the stretch. "I've almost gotten more positive because of it, just knowing that .. a couple of bounces bounced the wrong way," Goodman said. "Just trying to stay positive and stay comfortable up there, and just think about the next kick."

**BUFFALO HEART:** Senior safety Ryan Walters won the 11th Annual Buffalo Heart Award, which goes to the CU senior fans believe best exemplifies heart, grit, determination and desire during their college career.

Walters is the second defensive back and the fifth defensive player to win it.

Walters' night ended in the first quarter when he injured his left leg making a tackle. CU reported he suffered a sprained leg and sprained knee. He's listed as day to day and his status for the regular season finale Nov. 28 at Nebraska (1:30 p.m., ABC) is unknown. "It always hurts when you lose a senior leader like Ryan," linebacker Jeff Smart said.

**INJURY REPORT:** In addition to Walters' absence, the Buffs played without their other starting safety, D.J. Dykes. CU reported he did not dress due to illness.

Freshmen Patrick Mahnke and Anthony Perkins filled the the seniors' spots, previewing what part of CU's secondary might look like in 2009.

Tailback Darrell Scott did not play due to his lingering ankle problem. He was limited in practice last week. CU reported he would only be used Saturday in an emergency.

Sumler carried the ball a career-best 22 times for 86 yards.

"Everybody's been talking about Speedy (Rodney Stewart) and Darrell since the beginning of the season, but hands down Demetrius is the leader of that group," quarterback Cody Hawkins said. "He knows every single position, every single situation." Stewart is out for the season with the broken fibula he suffered Nov. 1 at Texas A&M.

**STRANGE PLAY:** Hawkins threw a pass across the middle that Cody Crawford tipped and Scotty McKnight caught behind the defense. The play covered 28 yards and pulled CU with 20-10 in the third quarter.

"I didn't see it," Hawkins said. "I threw it to Cody, and I got hit right afterwards. I heard everybody screaming and I saw everybody jumping on Scotty, and I was like, 'What?'"

**EXTRA POINTS:** CU honored its 15 seniors before the game. ... Saturday's attendance 46,092, placed CU at 296,858 for 2008, an average of 49,476.3. ... -- Former CU hoops star Chauncey Billups attended the game and was introduced to the crowd during the second quarter. ... CU went 4-2 at home in 2008. CU sought its first 5-1 home mark since 2005. ... Shaun Mohler's interception in the fourth quarter snapped CU's string of 10 straight quarters without a turnover.