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kansas 19, colorado 14

Jayhawks chalk one up

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

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CU freshman receiver Josh Smith is brought down by the Jayhawks' Chris Harris during the third quarter. (Special / Nathan W. Armes)

BOULDER — The 15th-ranked Kansas Jayhawks showed off an explosive runner Saturday to a Folsom Field crowd of 51,940 and a national ESPN audience.

Todd Reesing can pass the football, too.

A sophomore quarterback with dancing feet, Reesing is generously listed at 5-feet-11 and 200 pounds but came up big in the clutch in Kansas' 19-14 victory. He set up a first-half field goal - the only score of the first half - with a 53-yard scramble, and used his wheels to key a

15-play, 94-yard drive in the fourth quarter to give his team a 12-point cushion.

Kansas (7-0, 3-0) remained the only unbeaten team in the Big 12 Conference, both in overall record and league mark. The Jayhawks won in Boulder for the first

Colorado Football

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time since 1995.

Reesing completed 20-of-29 passes for 153 yards, with one touchdown and no interceptions. His game-leading 84 yards rushing might have been more disheartening to Colorado's defense.

"It's frustrating," CU senior linebacker Jordon Dizon said. "You see him run and you can't do anything about it."

Colorado (4-4, 2-2) trailed just 3-0 at halftime but failed in its attempt to upset a ranked team at home for the second time this season, having

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upset then-No. 3 Oklahoma on Sept. 29. With its chances of winning the Big 12 North Division all but eliminated, Colorado must turn its attention to winning at least two more games to become bowl-eligible.

Remaining on its schedule are road trips to Texas Tech (on Saturday) and Iowa State, and home games against Missouri and Nebraska.

Pointing to a missed field goal in the first half, dropped passes and a lost fumble by senior tailback Hugh Charles deep in Kansas territory, Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said his young team has small margin for error.

After this loss, the same goes for earning a bowl trip.

"We feel pain because we wanted this game and we just didn't get it done," CU junior center Daniel Sanders said.

Within a touchdown of the lead, Colorado trailed 13-7 and had Kansas backed up on third-and-9 from the Jayhawks' 21 when, on the first play of the fourth quarter, Reesing dodged a CU pass rusher, reversed his field from right to left and scampered 17 yards for the first down.

With the life stolen from Colorado's spirit, Kansas moved downfield. Again utilizing his feet as well as his arm, Reesing ran around to buy some time outside the pocket and found tight end Derek Fine alone for a 4-yard touchdown pass on third- and-2 with 10:23 remaining. That gave Kansas a 19-7 lead, enough to withstand

an 80-yard touchdown drive by Colorado late in the game.

The Jayhawks made a statement by winning their second straight Big 12 road game, having won 30-24 at Kansas State two weeks earlier. Perhaps now skeptics will forget about Kansas' soft nonconference schedule.

Historically one of the weakest programs in the Big 12, Kansas looks like it has finally arrived. Reesing, who might be closer to 5-9 than 5-11, is savvy enough to carry the offense on his back while the KU defense rides the play of junior cornerback Aqib Talib, an All-America candidate, and defensive tackle James McClinton, who should be one.

"(Reesing) is one of those tough kids," Kansas coach Mark Mangino said. "He just gets it done. He has made a major difference."

CU quarterback Cody Hawkins completed 27-of-44 passes for 287 yards and two touchdowns. But he threw two interceptions and was under constant pressure from the Jayhawks' pass rush.

After forcing Kansas to punt with 2:16 remaining, Colorado had one more chance. But Hawkins was sacked on first down, fumbled after getting hit on second down (CU's Sanders recovered) and misfired on a fourth-and-18 pass.

"That No. 93 (McClinton) is probably the best defensive tackle we've seen," Cody Hawkins

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said. "He was getting a pretty good push. When a defense can do that, it can put eight guys in coverage. That made it tough."

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The Grades | By Tom Kensler

OFFENSE

C: Colorado outgained Kansas, 353 yards to 333, but two interceptions, a lost fumble deep in KU territory and a failure to come up with a big play on a crucial down ruined CU's chances of knocking off a ranked team.

DEFENSE

C: The Buffs came up with two fumble recoveries and limited Kansas to its lowest point total of the season. But Colorado needed to come up with an interception or two and didn't seem to come close on Todd Reesing's 29 attempts.

SPECIAL TEAMS

C: Led by down-the-field gunner Jalil Brown, the Buffs did an excellent job with their coverage units. But the missed field goal by Kevin Eberhart in the first half kept momentum on Kansas' side.

OVERALL

C: Colorado coach Dan Hawkins reiterated after the game that this young team has "a small margin for error." It's not likely to win many games with an average performance.

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woody paige

Unbeaten Kansas looks like CU, Nebraska of years ago

By Woody Paige
The Denver Post

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BOULDER — Where did Kansas come from, and where did Nebraska and Colorado go to?

The Colorado-Nebraska game on Thanksgiving weekend could have major implications and bowl implications.

But not major bowl implications.

In the old-school era, the Buffs and the ' Husks annually seemed to play for a division or conference championship, a spot in one of the top four postseason games, the torrid interstate title and overweening rights.

In this new-school age, CU and NU are 4-4, are not ranked nationally, are Big 12 stragglers and lost again on Saturday. Woe are they.

However, the Buffaloes' slogan could be: "We're better than the Cornhuskers." Which is not saying a whole lot these days.

At least, the Buffs gave the Kansas Jayhawks all they wanted in a 19-14 defeat.

The Cornhuskers gave Texas A&M everything the Aggies could want, and more, in a 36-14 walloping at home on Saturday.

It was not a day to be a Big Red or a Golden Buff.

And Kansas remains the only unbeaten team in the Big 12. "If you watch the games," Kansas coach Mark Mangino said, "you will see we are for real." CU and NU are surreal.

Wasn't it more when the Buffs and the Huskers were tearing at each other, instead of crying with one another?

Back in the day when Tom Osborne was in charge in Lincoln.

Oh, that's right. Osborne is back in charge in Lincoln.

Can Bill McCartney be far behind in Boulder?

Maybe, on Nov. 23 in Boulder, Osborne and McCartney can be honored at halftime at midfield in tribute to the teams of 1987-91, when Nebraska won twice and Colorado won twice and the teams tied in 1991, 19-19.

Actually, that game could be somewhat meaningful. The winner might wind up with a 6-6 record and qualify for the Texas Bowl at Houston's Reliant Stadium. It's not exactly the Orange Bowl. Nebraska coach Bill

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Callahan likely (definitely) will be appearing in his last Big 12 Conference game on Nov. 23. CU coach Dan Hawkins will be around for a while.

But Colorado and Nebraska are just also-rans in the North to Kansas, which has seven consecutive victories and a walk to the conference championship game.

The Buffs dropped back-to-back games in October to Kansas State and Kansas (as they did in 2006). The Cornhuskers probably will match that feat of defeat in November.

For a while, though, on a nectar-of-the-gods Saturday afternoon in front of a solid crowd of 51,940, the Buffs were positioning themselves to beat Oklahoma and Kansas at home. Colorado overcame the Sooners 27-24, and moved ahead of Jayhawks 7-3 on a nifty fumble-fake by quarterback Cody Hawkins in the third quarter.

But Kansas actually has the superior 5-foot-11, second-year quarterback. Todd Reesing, a sophomore, didn't have the passing numbers of Hawkins (287-153), but he had more impressive rushing numbers than four CU tailbacks (84-82).

Reesing and Hawkins will meet again ... and again.

In the third quarter, on third-and-1 at the Kansas 27, Hawkins acted as if he had fumbled the snap, pulled the ball up and threw for a wide-open touchdown.

In the fourth quarter, on third-and-2 at the Colorado 4, Reesing rolled left, then threw back across the field for a wide-open touchdown.

These Keebler QB Elves are fun.

Perhaps Colorado could have pulled off another upset over a ranked team if there hadn't been a fumble in the opening quarter at the Kansas 13, a missed field goal in the second quarter, an interception just before halftime, a second interception in the third quarter and a couple of fourth-down incompletions in the final quarter.

The Buffs just don't have as many athletes as the Jayhawks, and they're not quite as skillful yet, and many of Coach Hawkins' play-calling decisions on fourth downs are dubious. He and his team are a couple of seasons away.

So are the Big Red-faced Cornhuskers and their next coach.

It's Kansas' turn to hoot.

But the Colorado-Nebraska game - the Gobble-Gobble Bowl - will have consequences.

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cu football notes

Trick play quick way to spark Buffaloes' offense

By Tom Kensler and John Henderson
The Denver Post

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BOULDER — Trailing 3-0 at halftime, Colorado used some trickery early in the third quarter to finally get on the board Saturday against Kansas.

On third-and-1 from the Kansas 27, quarterback Cody Hawkins faked a fumble by holding the ball low to the ground as he ran back in the pocket. That froze Kansas linebackers, and Hawkins found senior tight end Tyson DeVree running alone down the middle for an easy pitch-and-catch touchdown.

Hawkins said the offense practiced that gadget play during the week in practice against the scout team.

"I just drop back and pretend that I fumble by running the ball on the ground," Hawkins explained. "I just had to wait until the safety came up and then dump the ball to Tyson.

"The key was 'Girth' yelling,

'Fumble! Fumble! Fumble!'"

Hawkins added, referring to center Daniel Sanders.

Bufs forced Kansas to run. Kansas had to adjust for Colorado's strategy to stop sophomore quarterback Todd Reesing. Colorado rarely blitzed and dropped its linebackers often. Kansas tailback Jake Sharp gained only 53 yards on 15 carries, but Reesing scrambled for a game-high 84 yards, including a 53-yarder that set up Kansas' opening field goal.

"Colorado came in with the thought that they weren't going to let him throw the ball," Kansas coach Mark Mangino said. "So we ran the football. They lightened the box up. They got into some fronts that we realized they were trying to take away some routes that we've been good at and did a good job with it.

"But they gave us an opportunity to run the ball."

Quotable quote. "I'm not going to say if we're for real or not," Mangino said. "You watch the games. You see if we're for real."

Unquotable quote. Mangino, on the defensive delay-of-game penalty on a punt that gave Colorado a first down and led to its first touchdown for a 7-3 lead: "No comment."

Kansas received a penalty for a defender lining

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directly over the head of Colorado's long snapper.

Footnotes. CU coach Dan Hawkins said his players knew about the death of former Buffs tight end Tennyson McCarty, whose body was found near a vehicle parked in a turnout northeast of Peaceful Valley. He apparently died sometime between Thursday night and Friday afternoon. Police do not suspect foul play. Among his survivors is older brother Eric McCarty, a physician and former Colorado player who serves as CU's director of sports medicine.... Cody Hawkins has now thrown a touchdown in all eight games. The school record is nine, set by Koy Detmer in 1996. ... CU senior tailback Hugh Charles had his string of 100-yard games snapped at four. He netted just 39 yards on 11 carries against Kansas, with a long gain of 11 yards.

Kansas' 19 points were more than 31 less than its season average of 50.33, good for second in the nation. Its 333 yards were 182.83 under its average of 515.83, good for seventh.... This marked the fifth time this season Kansas has shut out its opponent in the first half.

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cu football

Jayhawks find swagger in final quarter

By John Henderson
The Denver Post

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BOULDER — There is a huge difference in this year's Kansas team, and not just because it's one of the nation's five unbeatens, a statement nearly as illogical as the Rockies being in the World Series.

The truth emerged with 2:16 left in Saturday's game against Colorado. The 15th-ranked Jayhawks (7-0, 3-0 Big 12) led 19-14 but had just given up a touchdown and Colorado (4-4, 2-2) had the ball on its own 42. A year ago, this was the trigger that transformed Kansas into your basic folding chair.

Then again, that was a year ago.

"They were confident," Kansas coach Mark Mangino said. "I listened to the coaches talking to them on the headset. ... The kids went out there and when they jogged out on the field, even though they were a little tired, I thought they had a little swagger to them."

Kansas? Swagger? Is this the same school

that's gone 7-43 on the road since 1997? Same school. Different team. Kansas sacked Cody Hawkins, nearly recovered a botched snap and forced two incomplete passes to secure the victory.

Sure, let them swagger. They have plenty to dance about. This marks their first back-to-back road victories in the same season since 1995, the last time they were this highly ranked. This is also the first time Kansas is the last unbeaten team in the conference this late in the season since 1968.

"It happened in camp," tailback Jake Sharp said. "We realized we had enough athletes and good enough schemes, that if we play as well as we can possibly play and we execute, we're a pretty darn good team."

But how good? The nation discarded them in October after roasting a non-conference slate of marshmallows that included winless Florida International, two Mid-American Conference schools and I-AA Southeastern Louisiana. However, no longer can anyone take away a win at Kansas State, fresh off a win at Texas, and then winning at Folsom Field. Oklahoma couldn't do that.

It's more than swagger. It's also talent, primarily at quarterback. In Mangino's previous five years, he's gone through many quarterbacks. But desperate in last year's Colorado game, he took the redshirt off freshman Todd Reesing, who rescued Kansas

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that day.

This season, Reesing has started every game and entered Saturday 14th in the nation in pass efficiency. Going 20-for-29 for 153 yards and a TD in a road win doesn't hurt.

"It's made a major difference," Mangino said. "Our first five years here I can't explain how difficult it was to have a quarterback with all the injuries and problems at that position. It ripped the heart out of us."

Kansas has the inside track on the Big 12 North title. Its only road games left are Texas A&M next week and Oklahoma State on Nov. 10. The Jayhawks sound ready.

"The big difference between this team and last year is the mental maturity of this football team," Mangino said. "We're a lot more mature emotionally, mentally. We're tougher mentally. We haven't had this toughness since 2000."

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No. 15 KU lives up to ranking vs. CU

Buffaloes can't keep Reesing in check

By Kyle Ringo
Sunday, October 21, 2007

Kansas is for real, and it's going to a bowl game.

The non-believers were quieted Saturday in Folsom Field and around the nation when the No. 15 Jayhawks beat Colorado 19-14 behind a strong defense and the play-making of sophomore quarterback Todd Reesing.

There were plenty who doubted the Jayhawks deserved to be ranked so highly prior to Saturday because they were unbeaten against a weak schedule. Coach Mark Mangino's team ignored its detractors and defeated CU for the second straight year. It is the first time the Jayhawks have produced consecutive victories in the series since winning in 1980 and 1981.

Kansas (7-0, 3-0) remains in first place in the Big 12 Conference North Division while Colorado is in a hole two games back with a 4-4 overall record and 2-2 mark in conference play.

"I'm not going to say whether we are for real or not," Mangino said. "If you watch the games, you will see if we are for real."

The loss came on a day in which longtime CU staffers and others close to the program were mourning the death of former Buff and Boulder High tight end Tennyson McCarty, who was found dead near a vehicle on Peak to Peak Highway in the mountains west of Boulder on Friday.

Coach Dan Hawkins said he and his coaching staff were aware of McCarty's death before the game, but players were not told about it. McCarty's brother, Dr. Eric McCarty, serves as the CU team physician and was on the sideline for the game.

The KU victory came three weeks after CU had surprised the nation with a win over then-No. 3 Oklahoma on the same field. But the Buffs have been a different team since that day.

The CU offense was unable to get much of anything working consistently and was held scoreless through the first half. A running game that had produced four consecutive 100-yard performances by senior Hugh Charles was held in check. The Buffs finished with only 66 rushing yards on 33 carries.

"We didn't run the ball like we wanted to or needed to," Hawkins said.

Charles seemed to be off to a decent start again in the first quarter, but he fumbled on the Buffs' second possession of the game after the offense drove to the Kansas 12-yard line. It was one of three turnovers committed by CU. Kansas gave the ball back to the Buffs twice.

"It was third-and-2, it was an effort play, and like I said, it came out," Charles said.

The CU offensive line not only struggled to make holes for runners, it allowed quarterback Cody Hawkins to be sacked three times and hurried on several other occasions. Hawkins endured another difficult day, completing 27 of 45 passes for 287 yards with two interceptions.

With 14 interceptions through the first eight games, Hawkins is now just two shy of tying the single-season record of 16 set by former quarterback John Hessler in 1996.

The Buffs actually needed to simulate a mistake to finally score in the third quarter against a defense ranked fourth in the nation.

CU drove to the Kansas 27-yard line when quarterback Cody Hawkins acted as if he had fumbled a snap on a third-down-and-1 play. With center Daniel Sanders yelling, 'fumble, fumble, fumble,' Hawkins ran backward holding the ball about six inches off the ground. No one covered tight end Tyson Devree on the play and Hawkins connected with the senior for a 27-yard touchdown pass.

The Buffs held the lead for only 90 seconds.

Reesing, who burned the Buffs badly a year ago when he made his career debut, led the Jayhawks 58 yards in five plays and retook the lead on tailback Jake Sharp's one-yard touchdown plunge.

Reesing connected with tight end Derek Fine in the fourth quarter on a four-yard touchdown pass to extent the lead to 20-7. A two-point conversion try failed.

The Buffs pulled within one score with 3 minutes, 42 seconds to play when senior Byron Ellis scored on a 5-yard pass from Hawkins. The defense stuffed Kansas on the next possession and gave the offense the ball back 2:16 remaining.

But Hawkins was sacked on the first play and center Daniel Sanders snapped the ball wildly on the ground on second down. Two incomplete passes followed and Kansas was able to run out the clock with its fans filling the stadium with Rock-Chalk-Jayhawk.

CU defensive tackle George Hypolite said Reesing was the difference. The KU quarterback led his team with 84 yards rushing and completed 20 of 29 passes for 153 yards.

"What hurt us was we couldn't keep that guy contained," Hypolite said. "He scrambled for a lot of yards and when a guy can do that, it's really hard to cover.

"It hurts because up front, that's our job. We did some things and we had a lot of three-man lines and those are all excuses. Point blank, we've got to get that guy to the ground."



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Tight end DeVree's big day still not enough for Buffs

Tight end catches seven passes for 90 yards, one TD

By Ryan Thorburn
Sunday, October 21, 2007

Football is a game of adjustments.

So credit Kansas for figuring out a way to stop Tyson DeVree just in time to get out of Boulder with a victory for the first time in 12 years.

The talented tight end finished Colorado's 19-14 loss to the 15th-ranked Jayhawks on Saturday night at Folsom Field with a game-high seven receptions for 90 yards and a touchdown.

But on third-and-18 with 2:16 remaining, KU free safety Justin Thornton was waiting and nearly intercepted Cody Hawkins' pass to DeVree. The Buffs were also unable to convert on fourth down when a vertical pass down the sideline, something the Jayhawks were prepared for all evening with their cover two defense, fell harmlessly to the ground.

"They started jamming me mid-third quarter. They brought a guy up on me to slow me down a little bit," said DeVree, who was met at the line of scrimmage by a safety throughout the second half. "That helped them out a little bit."

DeVree led the offense with three catches in the first half, but the Buffs failed to score and trailed 3-0. But in the third quarter, CU seized the momentum when the perfect situation arose to call No. 84 again.

On third-and-1 at the KU 27, the visiting safety men walked up to the line of scrimmage right on cue. Hawkins took the snap, pretended to fumble and then completed a touchdown pass to an uncovered DeVree to give the Buffs a 7-3 lead with 9:50 remaining in the quarter.

"The selling point of that play was 'Girthy' yelling, 'Fumble! Fumble! Fumble!' as loud as he could. That was awesome by him," Hawkins said, referring to Daniel Sanders, his 310-pound center. "We worked on it every day in practice and it was a lot of fun for everybody. Basically, Tyson is the only guy going out on the route."

And DeVree was the only guy within 20 yards of the football as it sailed perfectly into his hands for what ended up being a short-lived lead.

"As soon as I saw the safety come down it was there," DeVree said. "And I took off."

DeVree has struggled with concussions this season. He has been held out of a lot of contact drills in

practice and did not suit up for the Baylor game.

But he felt good as preparations for the Jayhawks began, and the coaching staff felt good about his chances to make some big plays.

"One, he's healthy. That's a good matchup. And we obviously know he can catch the football," CU head coach Dan Hawkins said. "Against some of the coverages they did we felt like he'd have a good matchup against those guys."

KU's defensive line played very well on Saturday. The fact that the secondary, led by All-American Aqib Talib, was blanketing the Buffs wide receivers helped.

Josh Smith and Patrick Williams combined for seven catches and 103 yards. Hugh Charles led CU's rushing attack with 39 yards.

"We know Tyson's a great player," Cody Hawkins said. "He's a big body, he can run, he's got great hands, and he's smart and tough. It's awesome to have him out there because he's a great target."

DeVree, to his credit, wasn't very excited about being the go-to-guy in another bitter defeat.

"They're a good team. They played well. It came down to toughness," DeVree said. "We've just got to dig a little deeper next time. We've got to finish in the end zone. We had some bright moments, but we've got to dig deep."



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CU defense can't find answer for QB Reesing

Jayhawk has beaten Buffs two years in a row

By Ryan Thorburn
Sunday, October 21, 2007

Jordon Dizon is so good that he could probably tackle Mark Mangino.

But even Colorado's Butkus Award candidate can't quite seem to bring Todd Reesing down when it matters most.

And he's certainly not the only linebacker in the Big 12 with the problem.

Dizon wanted the blame for CU's 19-14 loss to No. 15 Kansas piled on his shoulder pads, but the entire CU defense seems to have a difficult time figuring out Reesing.

The Jayhawks' sophomore signal-caller completed 20 of 29 passes for 153 yards and a touchdown and led the visitors with 90 yards rushing on seven attempts Saturday at Folsom Field.

"He was a great quarterback and he did what he had to do on the ground and what he had to do to win the game," Dizon said. "My hat's off to him. He's a great quarterback and for the last two years he picked us apart."

Ironically, it was only after the Dizon-led Buffs shut out KU for 30 minutes last season — CU led 9-0 at halftime in Lawrence on three Mason Crosby field goals — when KU head coach Mangino decided to pull the redshirt off his gifted young quarterback.

Reesing threw two touchdowns and ran for another in the second half to lead the Jayhawks to a 20-15 victory over the Buffs on Oct. 28, 2006.

This time:

On third-and-4 at his own 17 in a scoreless game, Reesing broke off a 53-yard run that led to a KU field goal. The visitors led 3-0 at the intermission.

After the Buffs took a 7-3 lead, Reesing calmly and quickly led the Jayhawks on a five-play drive that included completions of 9 and 27 yards pass to Marcus Henry to set up Jake Sharp's 2-yard touchdown run. The swift sequence allowed CU to enjoy its lead for a total of one minute and 23 seconds.

On third-and-9 from the KU 21 in the fourth quarter, Reesing escaped for a 17-yard run. He capped the back-breaking 94-yard drive with a 4-yard touchdown drive to Derek Fine to make the score 19-7 with 10:23 remaining.

"You punt the ball, you get them down there, you're thinking ... what are the chances?" CU head coach Dan Hawkins said. "That's the hallmark of a really good team, a mature team. We score and go ahead and pin them, and they answer. You've got to give them credit. ...

"(Reesing) is a good player, very competitive, and it's hard to keep a guy like that down."

Reesing now has 17 touchdown passes and only four interceptions this season.

"He just gets it done," Mangino said of his quarterback. "He has made a major difference."



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Players remember McCarty

By Kyle Ringo
Sunday, October 21, 2007

Former Colorado tight end Tennyson McCarty's playing career ended 10 years ago, but he remained a beloved figure within the program through the past decade by making an effort to develop relationships with new players and coaches every year.

He often worked out in the Dal Ward Center and visited his brother, Dr. Eric McCarty, who serves as CU's director of sports medicine. He played for CU from 1994 to 1997 and is best remembered for catching a game-winning touchdown pass from John Hessler in 1995 against Texas A&M.

McCarty was found dead on Friday near a vehicle just off Peak to Peak Highway west of Boulder. News of his death stunned everyone at CU on Saturday.

"Our thoughts and prayers and heavy hearts are with the entire McCarty family," athletic director Mike Bohn said. "Their ties to the Boulder community and the Buff program are very deep. I know many associated with the football program are wishing the same to the entire family."

Tennyson McCarty, an accomplished magician, served as a mentor to the Buffs and often spoke to the team, relaying positive and sometimes spiritual messages and life lessons. He also performed magic tricks for them. He did so most recently several weeks ago following practice one day.

Defensive tackle George Hypolite said McCarty stood in the middle of a circle surrounded by the entire team and rubbed a playing card between his hands. The card disappeared. Moments later, McCarty slapped the ground and then pulled the card out of the ground to cheers from players and coaches.

"He was amazing. He did a lot of amazing things," Hypolite said. "The world is missing a good guy right now cause he's a great person."

Senior linebacker Jordon Dizon remembered McCarty as someone who would do anything for anyone. Dizon also said McCarty was deeply religious and was available to players who asked for his guidance.

"He was an awesome guy who was all about the church," Dizon said. "He was always around supporting the guys and he was the type of guy who would do anything for you."

Cody Hawkins remembered McCarty as a familiar face at practices. He said he was used to seeing McCarty standing on the sidelines laughing and joking with trainers, coaches, players and anyone else associated with the team.

"He was an unbelievable person," Hawkins said.

Hypolite said while McCarty's first concern was always the mental and physical health of current players, he never lost his passion for wanting to see the Buffs win. He said McCarty often gave him pep

talks when the two men crossed paths in the weight room or elsewhere on campus.

"He was a great guy. He had a passion for life," Hypolite said. "I would see him working out in the weight room and he'd be like, 'George, you've got to get your team rallied. You've got to keep going. You got to keep pushing because every day is a blessing.' He was a very spiritual guy. It always just seemed like he loved life. His personality was very infectious."



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Woelk: CU fritters away prime opportunity

By Neill Woelk
Sunday, October 21, 2007

All week long, Colorado coaches used one word to describe the Kansas Jayhawks:

Efficient.

Throw "consistent" into the mix, and you have the difference between the two teams' performance Saturday at Folsom Field.

The Jayhawks were efficient, consistent, and took advantage of virtually every opportunity that came their way. The Buffaloes were inconsistent, inefficient — and as a result, incapable of coming away with a much-needed win.

Saturday will prove to be a wasted opportunity that will haunt the Buffs for a long, long time. An opportunity to keep themselves in contention in the Big 12 North, a chance to move one step closer to bowl eligibility and an opportunity to add another ranked team notch on their holsters bounced harmlessly to the Folsom Field turf.

"Our margin of error is small," said CU coach Dan Hawkins. "We just have to play at a little higher level."

While the margin may be small, Saturday's list of errors is a long one.

A first-quarter fumble deep in KU territory to end a potential scoring drive.

A missed field goal in the second quarter.

At least two dropped passes on third down, both of which would have been long enough to keep drives alive.

A batted ball that turned into an interception late in the first half on the KU 25.

At least three missed tackles that turned a near sack into a 53-yard run by KU quarterback Todd Reesing to set up a field goal.

A penalty on a kickoff — just after CU had taken the lead in the second half — that gave Kansas a short field and paved the way for a 58-yard scoring drive to give the Jayhawks the lead for good.

A third-quarter interception thrown by Cody Hawkins.

Plus a half-dozen other batted down passes, dropped balls and missed assignments that stopped CU

drives or kept Kansas marches alive.

Not to take anything away from Kansas. The Jayhawks are one of five unbeaten teams in the nation this morning, and as one CU assistant said, "They're undefeated for a reason."

But the Buffaloes also did their part in helping the cause.

Now, the Buffaloes have a two-game losing streak, a 2-2 record in the Big 12 and a 4-4 record overall, numbers that scream "average." A team that looked to be a good bet for bowl eligibility just two weeks ago is back to square one.

With four games remaining, the only guarantee for the Buffs is that they still have a chance to get better — which means, of course, they also have the chance to squander any opportunity that might come their way.

"We have to continue to push ourselves to a higher level of efficiency," Hawkins said. "It's a question of ironing out things ... and not letting the little things become big things."

Neither efficiency nor consistency have been a Buff trademark for the last three weeks. Colorado's running game, which last week featured a 171-yard day from Hugh Charles, took a major step back on Saturday. Charles, who missed much of the second quarter after his costly fumble, still finished as CU's leading rusher, but had only 39 yards at game's end. Colorado finished with only 66 yards on the ground, and averaged just 2.0 yards per carry.

While those numbers are skewed somewhat by three sacks of QB Cody Hawkins, fact is the Buffs still can't run the ball with anything resembling consistency.

Neither is CU's passing game anything close to a model of efficiency. Once again, Cody Hawkins threw more interceptions than touchdowns, and with 14 interceptions this season, he's just two away from the CU record, with four games left to play. Sooner or later — preferably the former — the Buff freshman will have to stop playing like one.

"I don't question our guys' effort and heart," Dan Hawkins said. "They've shown that time and again, and I don't question that at all.

"But just like all of us every single day in our jobs, you're just trying to get that much closer to perfection."

The Buffs are by no means anywhere close to perfection. And on a team with precious few game-breakers and difference-makers, they have to come as close as possible to that goal to give themselves a chance.

Dead ahead on the schedule is a trip to Texas Tech, a place where the Buffs have never won. Immediately afterward is a visit from Missouri. As one CU observer noted Saturday, after watching the troubles the Buffs had with Reesing, the vision of what MU's Chase Daniel might do to Colorado is not a pretty one.

"That's the nature of the schedule, and it's going to continue to be that way," Hawkins said.

When the season began, the Buffs were a young team with an eye on improving. They matured quickly

and put together a three-game winning streak that raised the bar of expectations. But suddenly, they've begun to flounder, making mistakes they weren't making just a month ago.

With four games remaining, they still have a chance to bump that bar up again.

But the only thing they'll be bumping is their heads if they don't fix the little mistakes that are causing big problems.



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Kansas wins over Colorado 19-14

By By B.G. Brooks, Rocky Mountain News
October 20, 2007

BOULDER - No. 15 Kansas' authenticity still might be debatable in some sectors of college football, but not among the Colorado Buffaloes.

Playing their first game of the season outside their state's borders, the Jayhawks proved they belong among a dwindling number of Division I-A undefeated teams with a gritty 19-14 victory over the Buffs Saturday at Folsom Field.

"I'm not going to say whether we're for real or not," Kansas coach Mark Mangino said. 'If you watch the games, you will see if we're for real. This 2007 team is a new ball club. (It) has a different mentality than it did a year ago.'

Whatever the difference, Kansas improved to 7-0 overall and 3-0 Big 12 Conference, remaining atop the North Division.

Dropping to 4-4 and 2-2, CU now finds itself still two wins shy of bowl eligibility with four games to play.

'We were about three plays away from me coming in here (post-game interview area) with a big, cheesy grin on my face and acting like it was the last day of school,' CU quarterback Cody Hawkins said.

For CU, whose margin for error remains razor thin, the afternoon degenerated into more missed opportunities against a Jayhawks team that made the plays the Buffs couldn't.

'It just comes down to making those plays,' CU linebacker Jordon Dizon said. 'We weren't outcoached, we weren't outplayed . . . We've got to make plays, and I put that on myself as a leader.'

The Buffs were held to their second-lowest rushing total (66 yards) of the season by a Jayhawks defense that played as advertised. Kansas entered the game allowing only 80 rushing yards, 240 total yards and 9.5 points a game.

CU finished with 353 yards in total offense, with 223 gained after halftime. Cody Hawkins completed 27 of his 44 pass attempts for 287 yards and two touchdowns, but was intercepted twice (both balls tipped).

Buffs coach Dan Hawkins said his team's loss was 'not a question of heart, by any means. Kansas is a good team . . . We've played tough teams; it's the nature of our schedule, and it will continue to be that way.'

Hawkins lauded his team's perseverance, but said, 'It's not about being close. I like our guys' heart and all of that.

They've shown that time and time again, and I don't question that at all.

'But just like all of us every single day in our jobs, you're just trying to get that much closer to perfection.'

Kansas led 3-0 after a first half dominated by defense, and it apparently was the kind of game the Jayhawks defense-ranked in the national top eight in four major categories - relishes.

The Buffs made three first-half trips into Kansas territory but had nothing to prove they were there, whereas the Jayhawks got a 48-yard field goal from Scott Webb for their three-point lead at intermission.

CU's abortive marches ended in a lost Hugh Charles fumble (his first of the season) at the Kansas 11-yard line, a badly missed Kevin Eberhart 46-yard field goal attempt and a Cody Hawkins interception - the ball was tipped at the line of scrimmage - that stopped the Buffs at the Jayhawks' 28-yard line.

Complicating things offensively for CU was a pair of dropped passes by the normally sure-handed Dusty Sprague. However, a play after Hawkins' pick, CU linebacker Jeff Smart's fumble recovery gave the Buffs one more shot with 5 seconds left in the half. CU coaches apparently believed a field goal attempt of about 46 yards by Eberhart against a strong wind was not an option.

So on the last play of the half, Cody Hawkins launched a pass for the end zone that was batted down.

The Buffs were held to 130 yards of total offense in the opening half, including only 34 rushing. The Jayhawks, meanwhile, rushed for 80 yards - 53 of that total came on one scramble by quarterback Todd Reesing - and finished the half with 153 yards total.

The diminutive Reesing (5-foot-10, 195 pounds) completed 20 of his 29 pass attempts for 153 yards and a touchdown and ran seven times for 84 yards. His scrambling ability was an afternoon-long problem for the Buffs defense.

CU opened the second half with an 80-yard touchdown drive, scoring on a 27-yard pass from Cody Hawkins to tight end Tyson DeVree highlighted by Hawkins' planned stumble and pratfall that opened the middle of the field to DeVree.

Eberhart's extra point sent the Buffs ahead 7-3, but that lead lasted not quite a minute and half. Bolstered by a 15-yard facemask penalty against CU on the kickoff, Kansas cruised 58 yards in 1:23, scoring on a 2-yard run by Jake Sharp.

With Webb's PAT, the Jayhawks were back in front 10-7 ? and another quick score was on the way after Cody Hawkins suffered a second tipped ball - this one by DeVree ? and interception by Kansas free safety Justin Thornton.

Taking possession at the Buffs? 38, the Jayhawks used four plays and a holding penalty against CU defensive tackle Brandon Nicolas to position Webb for a 35-yard field goal and a 13-7 Kansas lead.

The Jayhawks followed that with a yard-gobbling (94), time-consuming (7:08) scoring drive to open a 19-7 advantage that seemed safe, given the ferocity of the Kansas defense and the inefficiency of the CU offense.

Kansas converted on four third downs during the 15-play drive and finished 7-of-16 in that category while CU was 5-of-17.

The touchdown capping that long march came on a 4-yard pass from Reesing to Derek Fine, who slipped away from the line of scrimmage as his quarterback rolled left and was uncovered in the right side of the end zone.

Reesing's attempt to run for the two-point conversion was foiled, but a 12-point advantage seemed mountainous for the Buffs, who then generated their longest march of the game (80) yards and pulled to 19-14 with 3:42 to play.

Cody Hawkins hit tailback Byron Ellis with a 5-yard scoring pass, Eberhart kicked the PAT and the Buffs defense got the ball back for Hawkins & Co. with 2:16 remaining.

But there would be no miracle finish for CU, which lost 7 yards on its first two downs and failed to convert on a pair of Cody Hawkins passes on third and fourth downs.

Kansas took over with 1:46 to play and let time expire with three consecutive kneel downs.

ETC.: The Buffs play at Texas Tech next Saturday (10 a.m., MDT, KMGH-Channel 7) . . . Cornerback Terrence Wheatley suffered a sprained elbow but is listed as probable . . . The Jayhawks are 7-0 for the first time since 1995 and only the second time in the past 39 seasons . . . Kansas is 6-21 on the road in the Mangino era . . . CU defensive end Alonzo Barrett recorded his first quarterback sack of the season . . . Charles? string of 100-yard rushing games stopped at four.

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