



Bufs left kicking themselves

Second-half collapse, controversial call lead to crucial loss

By Kyle Ringo
Sunday, November 11, 2007

AMES, Iowa — Last week, Colorado football coach Dan Hawkins said he was out-coached by Missouri's Gary Pinkel. This week, Hawkins out-smarted himself in 31-28 defeat at Iowa State.

With his team comfortably ahead by three touchdowns early in the second half at Jack Trice Stadium on Saturday, Hawkins couldn't resist the temptation from the bold little devil on his shoulder to go for it on fourth-down-and-1 from the CU 43-yard line.

Tailback Demetrius Sumler was stuffed on an off-tackle play and momentum completely changed as quickly as the shifty Midwestern wind.

The Cyclones came storming back to take a 10-point lead with 31 unanswered points. It was the largest lead given up by the Buffs in more than 25 years, according to longtime CU sports information director Dave Plati.

The Buffs finally were resuscitated late in the fourth quarter. CU cut the lead to three and got the ball back with less than a minute remaining in the game.

Quarterback Cody Hawkins led the Buffs to the Iowa State 33-yard line when the offense sprinted off the field and the field-goal team dashed in for a tying attempt from 50 yards out. Place-kicker Kevin Eberhart, who had missed earlier in the contest, made the kick, but it was nullified by officials who said the ball was snapped before it had been declared ready for play.

The delay-of-game penalty moved the ball back 5 yards, making Eberhart's second attempt a 55-yard blast. He made it, too, with the wind at his back, but officials waved it off after a brief conference during which they concluded the ball was not snapped on time after it was ruled ready for play and the clock started.

Several CU players were so angry they had to be restrained by teammates as Iowa State fans stormed the field, just like CU fans did a year earlier when the Buffs beat the Cyclones in Folsom Field.

"You really can't talk about what happened on that last play or that last series because we had plenty of opportunities to win this football game," defensive tackle George Hypolite said. "... This game shouldn't have come down to a last-second field goal."

Dan Hawkins said it was one of the two most bizarre endings he has been a part of and he said he didn't completely understand the ruling that ended the game. He said he would seek clarification from the Big 12 Conference today.

Hawkins said he believed long-snapper Justin Drescher snapped the ball appropriately for both field goals at the end. Drescher believed he had beaten the clock as well.

Colorado practices the exact situation on a weekly basis during every Friday's walkthrough for both home and away games. They did so Friday in Ames, practicing running onto the field and attempting a field goal as the clock winds down.

Bufs left kicking themselves

Referee Clete Blakeman explained the end of the game this way in quotes provided by the Iowa State sports information department.

"First of all, we determined the clock status to have one second on the clock, and once the penalty was marked off, ready for play is going to be signaled and then I'm going to start the clock," Blakeman said. "So that was done, the whistle was blown, I started the clock and Colorado did not get the snap off prior to the clock expiring. Because they only had one second."

In explaining the penalty during the game over the public address system, Blakeman said the delay of game was a dead-ball foul. Dead ball fouls against the offense do not prevent the clock from being started when the ball is set because teams could use such penalties as an unfair way to stop the clock late in close games.

But, CU may also have an argument with Blakeman's interpretation of the rule. According to Rule 3, Section 2, Article 5, Subarticle A-4 of the NCAA rulebook, there is an exception to the rule "After a delay foul by Team A while in scrimmage-kick formation."

In that case, the clock should start on the snap.

But in the end, CU fell below the .500 mark for the first time since mid-September (5-6, 3-4 Big 12). The Cyclones won on senior day, sending veterans such as quarterback Bret Meyer and wide receiver Todd Blythe off in style.

Meyer and Blythe connected on a pair of third-quarter touchdown passes that started the Cyclones' rally. CU was outscored 21-0 in the quarter, adding to a season-long trend that now has the Buffs being outscored 123-59 in the quarter.

The loss might have put a serious crimp in the Buffs' bowl hopes. It sets up a showdown in the regular-season finale with Nebraska, which will also be hoping to earn its sixth victory and become bowl-eligible.

But the Buffs understandably weren't ready to turn their attention toward the Cornhuskers so quickly Saturday after such a devastating defeat. It was the second consecutive such loss suffered here in the middle of Iowa in a stadium that has become the Buffs' House of Horrors. The 2005 team also fell apart in the second half that year, beginning a slide that led to a coaching change.

Dan Hawkins didn't totally dismiss the idea that he might have robbed his team of momentum by choosing to go for it on fourth down when many would have been more than happy to punt. But he correctly pointed out there was a lot of football played after the decision.

"In this game there are a lot of guys who can sit there on Sunday and go, 'Yeah, I would have done that differently.' We had a good play, and coulda, woulda, shoulda."

Hawkins later described the state of his team, which lost by 45 last week before losing their game of beat the clock this week.

"They're stunned and everybody is," he said. "You can play it safe and never put yourself in a position to fail or you can decide to jump right in with both feet and you're going to have some of those. You're not going to have the highs and lows if you don't choose to do that. You can stand outside and live a pretty happy average life and not have any pain, but that's part of living and growing and that's part of the whole experience."



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.



First look: Nebraska

By Kyle Ringo

Sunday, November 11, 2007

Game 12

Matchup: Nebraska (5-6, 2-5) at Colorado (5-6, 3-4).

Game time: Nov. 23, 10 a.m. at Folsom Field (53,750)

On the air: ABC; KOA (850 AM).

Web site: www.huskers.com **Last time**

Nebraska broke a 14-14 tie late in the third quarter last season in Lincoln with a 2-yard touchdown run. The Cornhuskers proceeded to score 23 unanswered points to win 37-14. Nebraska used a slew of trick plays in the game including a fake field goal and halfback pass. NU quarterback Zac Taylor threw for 249 yards and two touchdowns.

The series

This is the 66th meeting in a series that began Nov. 17, 1898, with a Nebraska victory in Boulder. The Cornhuskers lead the series 46-17-2, including a 22-9-2 mark in Boulder. The teams have split the past six meetings.

The coach

Bill Callahan is 27-21 in his fourth season at Nebraska. This has been a disappointing season in Lincoln, Neb., and it is believed Callahan could be fired at the end of the season.

The lowdown

The Cornhuskers are coming off a 73-31 win over Kansas State after losing the week before to Kansas 76-39. ... The Cornhuskers are last in the Big 12 and 115th in the nation in rushing defense, allowing 228 yards per game and 5.2 yards per carry. The NU defense is also last in the Big 12 and 105th nationally in points allowed, giving up 35.5 points per game. They have allowed 30 or more points seven times this season. ... The Cornhuskers are 114th in the nation in turnover margin. ... The Nebraska offense is 12th in the nation in passing and 18th overall. It is averaging 32 points.

Who to know

QB Joe Ganz: In his second career start against Kansas State last week, Ganz established school records with 528 yards in total offense, 510 yards passing and seven touchdown passes. The junior completed 30-of-40 passes and did not throw an interception.

WR Marlon Lucky: One of the most talented runners in the Big 12 who has been the definition of inconsistent this season. He has five 100-yard games to his credit this season but he has gained fewer than 30 yards in two of the past four games.

LB Bo Ruud: A fifth-year senior captain considered the heart of the defense. He has struggled to stay healthy and has made just four tackles in the past three games in which he has played. When he is healthy he can be a playmaker.



Now, CU-Nebraska game a 'playoff' for bowl eligibility

By Kyle Ringo

Sunday, November 11, 2007

AMES, Iowa — Big Red looms and it's once again a game with meaning.

Just a week ago most Big 12 Conference football fans expected Colorado to win enough games to qualify for a bowl and Nebraska to fire its coach and slink off to the offseason to begin rebuilding a once proud program.

The Cornhuskers are still likely to change coaches when the season is over, but they might be doing so following a bowl appearance if they are able to come to Boulder and win the day after Thanksgiving.

After Nebraska's stunning victory over Kansas State and the Buffs' big-time meltdown at Iowa State on Saturday, the bitter rivals are left with five wins each and one victory shy of bowl eligibility. It's a good bet whoever wins their Nov. 23 showdown in Folsom Field will advance to the postseason.

The rivalry never needs any extra fuel on the fire but both programs have the chance to end the other's season and accomplish a team goal by earning a another chance to play in the process.

It will be CU quarterback Cody Hawkins' first game against the Cornhuskers. He knows the rivalry is significant and was able to set his sights on it even in the aftermath of what he called the most painful loss of the season Saturday.

"We're still trying to fight and we know in the Big 12 it's a tough league, but if you're bowl eligible, you're likely to get picked," Hawkins said. "We've got a lot to play for. It's going to be a tough two weeks, very painful, but we've just got to bounce back and get ready for the Cornhuskers.

"That's like a playoff for a bowl game. It's definitely going to be a huge game. It always is. ...We've got to bring it the day after Thanksgiving if we want to keep playing."

CU has played in a bowl game in 17 of the past 22 seasons. The last time the Buffs were bowl eligible and did not receive an invitation came in 1987, when they finished 7-4.

Defensive tackle George Hypolite has lost to the Cornhuskers in embarrassing fashion in his first two games against them. The Buffs were blown out at home 30-3 two years ago when Hypolite was a true freshman and they lost 37-14 in Lincoln last season.

"It's sudden death and I like it that way," CU defensive tackle George Hypolite said. "The Big Red is coming to Folsom Field and last time they were in Folsom they embarrassed us. So guys like me, who played a lot that game as a true freshman, you know that kind of stuff has been sticking with me for two years. And I have yet to beat Nebraska. It adds more fuel to the fire. You could say that."

Fourth-down magic

Plenty of people will be pointing to coach Dan Hawkins' decision early in the second half Saturday to go for it on fourth down on his own side of the field as the moment momentum changed. Hawkins also succeeded on a fourth-down call in the first half.

Cody Hawkins rolled out in the final minute of the first half and passed to tight end Riar Geer in the flat. Geer snared the pass and rumbled into the end zone on a 28-yard score. It was the fifth time this season Hawkins has connected with

a tight end for a touchdown on a fourth-down play.

The sight of Geer running so well had to be a good sign for CU fans. Geer led the team in receptions and receiving yards in 2006 but has been slowed much of this fall by a knee injury.

Big-play back

CU freshman tailback Brian Lockridge darted through a large gap on the right side late in the first half and picked up 47 yards. It was the longest run of the season for the Buffs.

Lockridge also had the previous long run, a 43-yard dash for a touchdown against Miami (Ohio). He also had a 56-yard run against Miami called back because of penalty. Lockridge hadn't seen much action prior to Saturday since failing to report a concussion in a timely fashion in the week leading up to the Oklahoma game.

Third-down man

Linebacker Jordon Dizon tied the school record for third-down stops in one season at 18 on Saturday. He recorded 12 total tackles and three third-down stops.

Dizon's 18 third-down stops this season give him 47 for his career, which ties the school record held by former linebacker Greg Biekert. Dizon, a finalist for the Dick Butkus Award, now has 131 total tackles this season, according to NCAA statistics.

Notable

Cody Hawkins has passed for 2,452 yards in his first season as the starter at CU. It is the sixth highest single-season passing total in program history. He has thrown 17 touchdown passes, now the fifth-highest total for a Buff quarterback. ... Hypolite increased his team-leading sack total to six with a pair Saturday. He also made a third tackle for loss. ... Wide receiver Dusty Sprague became the ninth player in CU history to catch 100 passes in his career. He has caught 102 passes for 1,239 yards. ... Four freshmen started for CU in the game, giving the program 45 combined starts by freshmen this season, a new school record. ... Saturday's game was the 500th road game in CU history. The Buffs are now 255-227-18 on the road. ... The announced attendance was 45,487.



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.



CU defense crumbles in third quarter

With Wheatley, Walters out, secondary struggles

By Kyle Ringo

Sunday, November 11, 2007

AMES, Iowa — Colorado cornerback Terrence Wheatley stood on the sidelines at Jack Trice Stadium on Saturday with his left foot in a protective boot unable to play for the first time in two years.

Safety Ryan Walters was there with him, still suffering some lingering effects of a concussion that forced him to be taken off the field last week on a stretcher and loaded into the back of an ambulance for a ride to the hospital, where he stayed overnight.

The two defensive starters didn't appear to be missed through the entire first half of a game in which the CU defense hoped to re-establish some footing after a nightmare performance against Missouri. But Wheatley and Walters were clearly needed in a disastrous third quarter that ultimately cost the Buffs a win over Iowa State.

The Buffs gave up three touchdowns and their 21-0 halftime lead in the quarter. Iowa State quarterback Bret Meyer, the most experienced signal-caller in the country, connected with wide receiver Todd Blythe on scoring strikes of 12 and 55 yards in the quarter. The Cyclones also scored on another drive when running back Alexander Robinson scored on a 13-yard run through several missed tackles.

CU safety D.J. Dykes said Wheatley and Walters are the sort of players who can singlehandedly turn momentum back in CU's favor when an opponent begins to get on a run.

"You always like a big player or a leader to step up when the momentum starts shifting and it's just something we didn't do today," Dykes said.

But there are plenty of other play-makers on the defensive side of the ball for CU who were healthy and on the field. Players couldn't put their finger on what changed so drastically from the first half to the second.

The Buffs shut out the Cyclones and held them to 106 yards total offense in the first half, but the floodgates opened after halftime and CU surrendered the lead and 191 yards in the third quarter.

"We definitely came out flat. I don't know why," linebacker Jordon Dizon said. "Maybe it was leadership. Maybe I didn't get the defense up for it. Whatever it was, we need to fix it because we can't have that happen any more. A team coming out and scoring 21 points in the third quarter is unacceptable."

Cornerbacks Ben Burney and Jimmy Smith were both beaten badly in the second half on long pass plays, but the defense also was put in a bad situations by a ill-advised fourth-down try called by coach Dan Hawkins and by an offense that was unable to get a first down.

Players pointed to the momentum shift after the failed fourth-down try as a turning point. Dykes referred to it as a "pretty big time."

"Momentum is kind of a weird thing," defensive tackle George Hypolite said. "You never know what it takes to get a team fired up."

The Cyclones ran for 169 yards, including 127 from Robinson who scored twice. It was the fourth time in the past five games CU has given up at least 160 rushing yards.

"I couldn't tell you what ignited them," Hypolite said. "They came out with pride. They came out with passion. They came out ready to play and we've got to respect them for that because we came out flat."



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.



Woelk: Don't stop gambling now, Hawk

By Neill Woelk

Sunday, November 11, 2007

Might as well put these cards on the table right away:

Count yours truly among the folks who love Dan Hawkins' fourth-down gambles.

Yes, had Hawkins played it safe Saturday afternoon, Iowa State would have had to go 80 yards for its first score instead of 43 in the second half.

Odds are, that's exactly what would have happened. In case you didn't notice, CU's secondary got worked in the third quarter. If you think for a second those plays wouldn't have been successful had Hawk punted on fourth-and-1, logic and common sense left your nest long ago.

One decision did not give up 31 points in the second half. One decision did not leave Todd Blythe wide open for a 55-yard touchdown pass. One decision did not cause a missed field goal, it did not cause CU receivers to drop a half-dozen passes, and it didn't cause those costly penalties and a fumble in the fourth quarter (which set up what proved to be ISU's winning touchdown).

Did Hawkins' decision contribute to what might be one of the most epic meltdowns in CU history?

Sure it did. Hawk knows it. After the game, he told KOA radio, "I kind of let the dam break. ... Maybe I just need to grow up and smarten up and start playing it by the book. Maybe I need to quit being so bullheaded."

Here's one vote against that sentiment. What happened Saturday was an across-the-board meltdown, a complete system failure: offense, defense, special teams and coaches.

Besides, had Hawk played it safe in the second quarter, Colorado would have led 14-0 at the half instead of 21-0 and ISU may still have scored 31 in the second half.

And, since we're on the topic, had Hawk subscribed to conventional wisdom against Oklahoma, CU's second touchdown that day would have been a field goal instead. Colorado then quite likely would never have been in position to win the game.

That being said, there are a few lessons to be learned from Saturday afternoon's events.

One, Hawk still needs some work on his "when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em" strategy.

There's no set formula, no established equation, no black and white — just instinct. The guess here is he'll continue to refine that instinct, and we'll see him become a little more selective with his gambles.

Then there's the simple matter of talent.

The folks who are screaming that Hawkins' strategies won't work in the Big 12 are half-right.

Hawkins' gambles regularly worked at Boise State because more often than not, Hawkins had better players.

That's not the case at Colorado, at least not yet. Hawkins has to realize that he doesn't yet have the horses to gamble at every possible opportunity, and must learn to pick his spots a little more discriminately. When he gets those players — and he will — look out.

But the bigger question today is how Saturday's loss will affect CU in the long run.

Certainly it won't help ticket sales for the season finale against Nebraska, although NU's big win over K-State on Saturday may also convince more Husker folk to attend the game.

Also in grave danger are CU's bowl hopes. The Buffs must now defeat NU to be eligible, and also hope there are enough open spots at season's end.

Neither can Saturday's loss, Colorado's fourth in its last five games, be anything but a detriment to ticket sales for next season. Fans like momentum. They like reason to be optimistic.

Saturday's loss certainly won't inspire confidence in any of those areas.

Now, the Buffs will have one last chance to salvage some positive feelings from this season.

Here's hoping it comes down to a fourth-and-2.

Just for the fun of it.



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.



Longmont, Colorado
Monday, November 12,
2007

DAILY TIMES-CALL

Publish Date: 11/11/2007

Confusion, Cyclones reign at finish

*By Patrick Ridgell
Longmont Times-Call*

AMES, Iowa — In Colorado football history, what happened Saturday against the Iowa State Cyclones will never be forgotten.

CU staged one of its biggest collapses ever, and in the same afternoon, responded with a comeback that would have been the stuff of legend had the Buffs completed it. But when things ended, CU lost, 31-28, as confusion swirled through Jack Trice Stadium at the end of a long, strange and windy day.

CU, losers of two straight and four of its past five, fell to 5-6, 3-4 in the Big 12, and will play Nebraska in Boulder on Nov. 23 in a season finale that'll make the winner bowl eligible.

This is not the scenario CU envisioned unfolding when it won at Texas Tech two weeks ago. But losses to Missouri and Iowa State have placed a once-promising season in danger of ending without a postseason.

The Buffs blew a 21-0 halftime lead, fell behind 31-21 and had a chance to tie it at the end. But referees disallowed two successful Kevin Eberhart field goals — one from 50 yards and the second from 55 yards — in what would have been regulation's last second.

They waved off the first when they ruled deep snapper Justin Drescher snapped the ball before it was set, costing CU five yards for delay of game. After the ball was re-spotted, they ruled Drescher failed to snap it on the second try before time expired, and Eberhart's 55-yarder was inconsequential.

Not until referee Clete Blakeman turned on his microphone and informed the entire stadium that time had run out before Drescher's snap did anyone know what had happened.

Several minutes later, when CU coach Dan Hawkins held his post-game news conference, he remained confused.

"They were saying 'Put 3 seconds back on the clock,' of which there was 1 second on there," Hawkins said. "He snapped it before the clock went down to 0. I don't know what their interpretation is of how it went down.

"He (Blakeman) said 'Put 3-point-whatever seconds back on the clock,' which didn't happen.

"I kept looking at the clock and there was 1 second, and I was going, 'As soon as he marks it, we have to snap it.' We snapped it. I don't know what the interpretation is. Either way, it didn't go to 0. We snapped it before it went to 0."

Hawkins said he would seek an explanation from the conference.

According to quotations from Blakeman, provided by Iowa State's sports information department, the referee called delay of game on CU because Drescher snapped the ball on the first kick, "prior to the referee's ready for placing."

Blakeman described the events surrounding the second kick like this:

"First of all, we determined the clock status to have 1 second on the clock, and once the penalty was marked off, ready for play is going to be signaled, and then I'm going to start the clock," he said. "So that was done, the whistle was blown, I started the clock, and Colorado did not get the snap off prior to the clock expiring because they only had 1 second."

Drescher was clearly angry on the field immediately after Blakeman made his call, and Blakeman and the other referees left without



Iowa State's Todd Blythe, right, hauls in a touchdown pass as Colorado's safety Daniel Dykes defends during the third quarter Saturday at Ames, Iowa. **Steve Pope/AP**

addressing CU coaches.

Drescher was composed later.

“Really and truly, I really didn’t know what was the deal,” Drescher said. “I think everyone was a little confused, and everyone really didn’t know what was happening. I heard the whistle, and I snapped it. I guess it was just a second too late.”

The late-game developments did not overshadow CU’s colossal collapse. Sports information director Dave Plati said it was unknown where blowing a 21-point lead ranked in program history, but it’s presumed to be among the largest leads ever blown.

It was the largest comeback by either program in their series history.

Iowa State scored three touchdowns and gained 191 of its 351 yards in the third quarter.

CU dominated the first half and sought total control early in the third when it tried to convert a fourth-and-1 at its 43. The Cyclones stopped running back Demetrius Sumler, and three plays later, Iowa State’s Alexander Robinson scored from 13 yards out to pull the Cyclones within 21-7.

More importantly, that series of events ignited ISU.

“This game shouldn’t have come down to a last-second field goal,” CU defensive tackle George Hypolite said. “We had plenty of opportunities to win.”

Said Hawkins: “In this game, there are a lot of guys who can sit there on Sunday and go, ‘Yeah, I would have done that differently.’ We had a good play, and we could’ve, would’ve, should’ve.”

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

Iowa state 31, colorado 28

One gamble, no FGs

A fourth-down play fails, setting up Iowa State's comeback and a bizarre finish

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 11/11/2007 12:05:31 AM MST

AMES, IOWA — Dan Hawkins ranks among the nation's biggest risk-takers when it comes to going for it on fourth down. The Colorado coach no doubt would like to have at least one of his gambles back Saturday after losing 31-28 to Iowa State.

Colorado led 21-0 early in the third quarter when a failed fourth-down conversion dramatically reversed the momentum. Hawkins declined to punt on fourth-and-1 from the Buffaloes' 43-yard line. After the Cyclones' defense stopped Demetrius Sumler for no gain on a run off right tackle, a crowd of 45,487 watched Iowa State race 43 yards in three plays for its first score.

By the end of the third quarter, Iowa State (3-8, 2-5 Big 12) had tied the score at 21. Ultimately, the Cyclones tallied 31 straight points in a game with a bizarre finish.

Game officials made decisions that nullified two apparent field goals by CU's Kevin Eberhart with the scoreboard showing 1 second remaining.



CU linebacker Jordon Dizon takes a breather during a wild fourth quarter. (The Des Moines Register / Christopher Gannon)

The first play was explained as a delay-of-game penalty because the ball had been snapped prior to an official placing it for play to begin.

In quotes provided by the Iowa State sports information department, referee Clete Blakeman explained the lone second then expired before CU snapped the ball for the second kick. Both Eberhart attempts, which were with a 20-mph

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture

OfficeLiquidators.com
Shop online with free statewide delivery. Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart.

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

wind at his back, sailed through the uprights, the second from 55 yards.

Colorado 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

"I don't know if I have an explanation," Hawkins said of the calls, adding he did not talk to the officials.

The loss leaves Colorado (5-6, 3-4 Big 12) needing a win Nov. 23 over Nebraska at Folsom Field to become bowl eligible. The Huskers (5-6, 2-5) also could become bowl eligible that day and will be coming off their most impressive win of the season, a 73-31 crushing of Kansas State on Saturday in Lincoln.

"It's sudden death. That's the way I like it," CU junior defensive tackle George Hypolite said. "The Big Red is coming to Folsom Field. Last time they did that, they embarrassed us (30-3 in 2005). That has been sticking with me for two years."

Colorado appeared on its way to become bowl eligible Saturday after a 28-yard touchdown pass from Cody Hawkins to tight end Riar Geer earned a 21-0 lead with 25 seconds remaining before

halftime. Iowa State had shown little life on offense to that point. The Cyclones managed just 106 yards and six first downs during the first 30 minutes.

But the Cyclones, with 19 seniors playing in their final home game, appeared to get fired up when ISU took over on downs after the failed conversion attempt early in the third quarter.

"We came out flat in the first half," Iowa State cornerback Allen

Audio

- Listen to referee Clete Blakeman's explanation of the rulings on CU's two field goals at the end of the game that were not allowed

Bell said. "Coach (Gene) Chizik gave us a little halftime speech, kind of riled everybody up, and we just came out ready."

Two of the ISU seniors making their final appearance in Jack Trice Stadium, quarterback Bret Meyer and wide receiver Todd Blythe, hooked up for touchdown passes of 12 and 55 yards in the third-quarter blitz. Both are four-year starters and graduates of Iowa high schools.

"I was just happy for our team to go out with a win," Blythe said of the home finale.

Always explaining his penchant for fourth-down

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture



OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

conversions by saying he "plays to win," Dan Hawkins called three more Saturday. The Buffs were successful twice, making it 13-of-26 for the season.

But the failed fourth-down try Saturday turned the game. Iowa State players and the crowd seemed to feed off it.

"It was pretty big; it changed the game obviously," CU safety Daniel Dykes said.

Hawkins said he's not one to play it safe. Even, apparently, with a 21-0 lead.

"We had a good play (called) and it's woulda, coulda, shoulda," Hawkins said of the pivotal fourth-down gamble. "The players are stunned. We all are."

"You can play it safe and never put yourself in a position to fail. Or you can decide to jump right in with both feet. ... You can stand outside with a pretty happy, average life and not have any pain. But (taking risks) is part of living."

Colorado coaches and players said they couldn't explain the officials' calls that wiped out two would-be field goals and prevented the Buffs from sending the game into overtime.

"But the game shouldn't have come down to the last play," Hypolite said. "We had plenty of opportunities to win."

Too soon, too late

A look at the Buffs' wild final second of the 31-28 loss in Ames:

Final drive: With no timeouts, Buffs start final drive at their 28-yard line with 46 seconds to play and drive to the ISU 33 with 11 seconds to play after Tyson DeVree's 1-yard catch.

First field-goal attempt: Kevin Eberhart hits 50-yard field goal, but Buffs are called for delay of game for snapping the ball "prior to the referee's (being) ready for placing," referee Clete Blakeman said.

Second field-goal attempt: Eberhart then makes a 55-yarder, but officials rule CU did not snap the ball before the time expired. Said Blakeman: "The whistle was blown (to start play), and Colorado did not get the snap off prior to the clock expiring."

The Grades | By Tom Kensler

OFFENSE

C: The Buffaloes outgained Iowa State by 419 yards to 351. But Colorado aided the Cyclones' third-quarter spurt by failing to get a single first down on four consecutive possessions.

DEFENSE

C: A tale of two halves. Without two starters in the secondary, the Buffs held Iowa State scoreless during the first 30 minutes but gave up 31 straight points in the second half.

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture



OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

SPECIAL TEAMS

C: Just Kevin Eberhart's luck. He missed a 44-yard field goal midway through the fourth quarter that would have tied the game. Then he had two 3-pointers nullified at the end of the game.

OVERALL

C: Statistically, it was a decent road effort. But blowing a three-touchdown lead and losing for the fourth time in five games is what CU will remember most.

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

Advertisement



Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY
OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase.
One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

cu football notes

Quick call, quick exit for officiating crew

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 11/10/2007 11:43:33 PM MST



The Buffs' Hugh Charles tries to break away from Iowa State's Chris Brown during the first half Saturday in Ames, Iowa. Charles finished with 83 yards rushing. (AP / Steve Pope)

AMES, IOWA — Not able to talk to the officials after the game, Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said Saturday he would contact the Big 12 Conference office in an attempt to get an explanation about two penalties that cost CU would-be field goals at game's end.

"The officials were out of there," Hawkins said.

That's what officials are trained to do on game-ending plays that require a ruling - make a call and not mill around afterward.

In quotes provided to the Iowa State sports information department afterward, referee Clete Blakeman said the first call was for delay of game, nullifying a 50-yard field-goal attempt by Kevin Eberhart that split the uprights.

"The foul is for the offense snapping the ball prior to the referee's (being) ready for placing," Blakeman said.

The scoreboard showed no time remaining after the first miss. But after huddling, officials ruled that one second be put on the clock.

Eberhart again kicked what appeared to be a game-tying 3-pointer, this time from 55 yards. But after another huddle, officials ruled the snap from CU's Justin Drescher occurred after the 1 second had expired.

"Once the penalty was marked off, ready for play was going to be signaled, and then I'm going to start the clock," Blakeman said.

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture

OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

"So that was done, the whistle was blown (to start play), and Colorado did not get the snap off prior to the clock expiring - because they had only one second."

Drescher, a sophomore who only gets on the field as a deep snapper, said there was a lot of confusion on the field but he tried to snap the ball as quickly as he could after hearing the whistle begin play.

"I heard the whistle and I snapped it," Drescher said. "The officials made the call. We have to live with it and move on."

Hawkins said he thought CU had enough time to get off the first field goal without a problem.

"We always practice the hurry-up field goals on Fridays," Hawkins said. "Typically, if you have eight seconds you can get it off. There was more than that. There was about 11."

Footnotes . Iowa State's 21-point comeback is the largest by either team in the 62-game series that began in 1946. ... CU's defense missed two starters in the secondary. Lionel Harris, a senior who was a starter in 2006, filled in for junior Ryan Walters (concussion). Junior cornerback Gardner McKay started in place of senior Terrence Wheatley (sprained foot). Harris had a first-half interception and strong safety Daniel Dykes said the new starters played well but added, "T-Wheat and Ryan are two guys that step up when times are tough." ... CU senior tailback Hugh Charles on his fourth-quarter fumble: "That should never happen. I have a

burden in the back of my mind that it always happens at the wrong time." ... CU had won 10 straight games in Ames before dropping the past two.

Say what?

Confusion abounds about the referee starting the clock, which was reset to one second, on Colorado's second field-goal attempt Saturday after calling a dead-ball penalty. The questions and possible answer:

The questions

Can the referee start the clock after a dead-ball penalty? Or, does the clock start on the referee's whistle after an offensive penalty so the offensive team cannot gain a clock stoppage by committing a penalty? Why put one second on a clock knowing a ball cannot be snapped that quickly?

The rule

2007 NCAA Football Rules book for Rule 3, Section 2, Article 5, subarticle a4: "When the clock has been stopped, the referee shall declare the ball ready for play and the clock shall start on the snap unless it was stopped because one of the following situations: 4. To complete a penalty (Exception: After a delay foul by Team A while in scrimmage-kick formation)."

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture



OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™