



# First Look: No. 25 West Virginia

By Kyle Ringo

Monday, September 8, 2008

## Game 3

**Matchup:** No. 25 West Virginia (1-1) at Colorado (2-0).

**Game time:** 6:30 p.m., Sept. 18 at Folsom Field (53,750)

**On the air:** ESPN; KOA (850 AM).

**Web:** [www.msnsportsnet.com](http://www.msnsportsnet.com)

## The series

This is the first meeting between the programs.

## Last time out

The Mountaineers are coming off a 24-3 loss to East Carolina in Week 2. CU is coming off a 31-24 victory over Eastern Washington.

## The coach

Bill Stewart coached at nine different colleges over a 31-year career, spending most of that time as an assistant coach. He spent four years (1990-93) at the Air Force Academy. Stewart is 10-26 as a college head coach, including three seasons at Virginia Military Institute.

## Numbers game

**20/20:** Mountaineers quarterback Pat White has recorded more than 20 runs and 20 passes of 30 yards or more in his career. He has 10 runs of 47 yards or more and 10 passes of 49 yards or more.

## The lowdown

The Mountaineers fell from No. 8 to No. 25 after losing to ECU. ... West Virginia is 34-6 over the past 40 games, including just three road losses. ... There are 15 fifth-year seniors on the roster. ... The Mountaineers have finished on the plus side of the turnover-ratio for six consecutive seasons. ... WVU is one of four schools to finish each of the past three seasons ranked among the top-10 teams in the nation. The others are LSU, USC and Ohio State. ... The Mountaineers have averaged more than 200 yards rushing per game in each of the past six season and have averaged 30 or more points per game for four straight years.

## Who to know

**QB Pat White:** One of the best players in college football. He has started 31 games and is a threat to run and pass. Is fourth on the NCAA career rushing list for quarterbacks with 3,666 yards. The Mountaineers are 27-5 with White as the starting quarterback.

**RB Noel Devine:** A speedy sophomore who became the starter this season. He averaged 8.6 yards per carry as a freshman, and is a threat in the passing and kicking games as well.

**S Quinton Andrews:** Plays the bandit position in the WVU defensive secondary. The junior was fifth on the team in tackles last season with 51 and has made seven stops in each of the first two games this fall.



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## CU report: Head will have to earn gig

By B.G. Brooks

Sunday, September 7, 2008

University of Colorado junior left guard **Devin Head**, who started in the opener, will have to compete this week and early next to regain his position for the West Virginia game Sept. 18 (6:30 p.m., Folsom Field, ESPN).

Head, suspended for one game after violating an undisclosed team rule, was told by offensive line coach **Jeff Grimes** there were "no guarantees" to return to the starting lineup.

"He told me I'd have to show him and the rest of the coaches that I mean business," Head said. "But that's the way it should be. I can't wait to start practice on Tuesday."

By being suspended, he said he let his teammates down and called standing in front of them a week ago today and telling them his infraction "one of the toughest things I've had to do . . . but I fessed up and took responsibility."

Also expected to return for West Virginia are tight end **Riar Geer**, who underwent arthroscopic knee surgery before the opener, and cornerback **Jimmy Smith**, who has been out because of a back ailment.

Coach **Dan Hawkins** said corner **Anthony Wright** (high ankle sprain) remained questionable, but linebacker **Shaun Mohler**, who left the game late in the third quarter with what later was diagnosed as a bruised shoulder, is expected to be available.

### LIFE ON THE EDGE

On every touch, **Josh Smith** is a threat - to someone.

The sophomore receiver/return specialist leads the Big 12 Conference in kick returns (50.0 yards per return) and is second in punt returns (19.0). He returned a kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown in the opener, then took a punt back 51 yards to set up a score Saturday in the 31-24 comeback win against Eastern Washington.

But Smith also has lost a fumble on a return in each of the first two games.

After his first-half bobble Saturday, Hawkins said he "looked over at 'Rid' (special teams coach **Kent Riddle**) and said, 'Get him out.' " And then it was a long, long time before we had another punt return, so my temperature had gone back down."

Riddle made a case for Smith to stay in the return role, and Smith delivered his critical return to help ignite the Buffaloes' comeback. Smith kept his focus after the fumble, saying it was early in the game

and he believed "they've got to continue to punt me the ball. The next time . . . I'm going to make sure they never want to punt me the ball again. That's all I was thinking."

### **WRONG ROUTE, SO WHAT?**

Smith, aka "J-Fly," also made his first collegiate touchdown reception Saturday, a 9-yard leaping catch that allowed a demonstration of his athleticism.

But he conceded afterward that he ran a fade route rather than the post route quarterback **Cody Hawkins** was expecting. Nevertheless, Hawkins adjusted and hit Smith for the score.

Smith called it "great looking on Cody's part. . . . He stuck with me. We've got to make sure those things don't happen - even though it was a score."

### **ETC.**

\* Senior safety **Ryan Walters** is the Big 12's leading tackler (19 total, 9.5 a game) among defensive backs.

\* Junior fullback **Jake Behrens** has two career receptions, one last season at Kansas State, one Saturday. Both went for touchdowns.

\* Cody Hawkins is ninth in the league in passing (237.5 yards a game); **Scotty McKnight** is 10th in receiving (78.5).

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