



# Bufs prepare for up to three FSU quarterbacks

## Bowden has used 3 signal callers in three games

By Kyle Ringo

Monday, September 22, 2008

Film study is always emphasized in the Colorado football program, but it's vital this week considering the Buffs don't know who might be playing quarterback for Florida State in Jacksonville on Saturday.

Legendary FSU coach Bobby Bowden has played three quarterbacks already in the first three games and there is no sign of the merry-go-round stopping. Bowden said Sunday he will evaluate the position this week and decide who gives the team the best chance to win.

Senior Drew Weatherford beat the Buffs last season in Folsom Field with a mediocre performance. He sat last week and watched two younger players lead the Seminoles to no touchdowns and a loss to Wake Forest in the Atlantic Coast Conference opener for both teams.

Sophomores Christian Ponder and D'Vontrey Richardson combined to throw five interceptions against the Demon Deacons. Bowden said he never turned to Weatherford in the game because he was concerned about Weatherford's lack of escapability.

"I have to look and see were those stupid mistakes or were those great plays," Bowden told the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper. "I think a lot of that was great plays out of the secondary."

Colorado defenders are somewhat accustomed to not knowing what to expect this season. Each of their first three opponents has been led by a new coaching staff, which has meant little film has been available. Preparing for three quarterbacks is just another problem to handle.

"We don't know so we might as well prepare for all of them right?" defensive end Jason Brace said.

CU senior Maurice Lucas faced Weatherford last season and said he is surprised the FSU coaching staff has gone away from him.

"It kind of makes you wonder what's going on, but it doesn't really affect us," Lucas said.

Cornerback Gardner McKay said any change in quarterbacks makes a big difference in how the Buffs will play in any given situations. For instance, Richardson is a much bigger threat to make plays on the run. He has three rushing touchdowns this season and two touchdown passes. Ponder has six touchdown passes.

"When they bring in a different quarterback, it's a different way of throwing the ball and different accuracy on the ball," he said. "It makes a big difference."

## Flag day

Colorado and Florida State are two of the most penalized teams in the country after three games. The Buffs and Seminoles are tied at 108th in the nation in penalties this season with 25 each. Cincinnati and Nebraska also have been flagged 25 times.

The Seminoles have committed more "bad" penalties, those that annoy coaches most, such as personal fouls and unsportsmanlike conduct. FSU had four of those calls last week in a loss to Wake Forest.

The Seminoles have been penalized for 242 yards while the Buffs have been tagged for 183 yards.

## Travel party

Colorado had sold about 2,000 tickets for the FSU game at the end of last week. The athletic department will send a small pep band as well as handful of cheerleaders and Chip the mascot. Jacksonville is too far for Ralphie V to travel for a regular-season game, when she has to be back in Folsom Field the following Saturday for the Texas game.

## Notable

Colorado received an oral commitment from defensive lineman Nosa Eguae this weekend according to Internet reports. Eguae, a 6-foot-3, 240-pound product of Arlington Texas, is the fourth recruit to join the 2009 recruiting class. ...

The Buffs earned 39 votes in the Associated Press poll and are four spots out of the top 25. They received 30 points in the coaches poll and are eight spots out of the top-25 there. Five Big 12 Conference teams are ranked in both polls and eight are receiving votes. ...

CU practiced Sunday for about 90 minutes. The Buffs are off today.



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# CU rushers 'I' more yardage

## Stewart, Scott prefer to run I formation

By Kyle Ringo

Monday, September 22, 2008

In 119 years of football at Colorado, only two freshmen have turned in a more impressive rushing performance than what Rodney Stewart accomplished last week against West Virginia.

Stewart said a change to the offense installed in practice before the game played a big part in his success, and he's hoping coaches continue to use the I-formation at least some of the time in the future.

"If you want to be successful at running the ball, you better run out of the I," Stewart said.

Stewart and his fellow running backs say running out of the formation provides better vision of the entire field and a few extra steps to build some speed before contact. Fellow freshman Darrell Scott also prefers it.

"I like it a lot better," Scott said. "You have a leading blocker. It's kind of like high school where you can just read off the fullback and get vertical right away."

Offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich decided to use the I-formation after seeing how East Carolina succeeded with it against West Virginia in a Week 2 upset of the Mountaineers. The Buffs had used the shotgun formation almost exclusively to that point.

Helfrich said he was encouraged by how the team responded to the sudden switch, including Stewart's 166 rushing yards, but it doesn't mean the I-formation will always be a part of the game plan.

"We will always tweak our formations week to week based upon what we think is going to help us," Helfrich said following practice Sunday evening. "I thought more than anything in that game, when everyone in the stadium knew we were going to run the ball, we ran the ball. That was a big step for us."

The Buffs face their toughest task of the season this week against a Florida State team ranked No. 4 in the nation in total defense and rushing defense and No. 2 in scoring defense. The Seminoles have given up only one touchdown in their first three games and are allowing about 43 yards per game on the ground. The unit will get five regular contributors back from suspension on the defensive side of the ball for Bobby Bowden's 500th game as a college coach.

Helfrich just shook his head when asked about the Seminoles. He described the group as gifted athletically, physically and schematically.

"Their defense is outstanding," Helfrich said.

The Buffs struggled badly to sustain drives against FSU last season during a Week 3 loss to the Seminoles at Folsom Field. CU managed only 95 yards rushing on 37 carries in that game and finished the night with 221 yards of total offense.

The Buffs converted only five of 18 third-down situations and kept punter Matt DiLallo busy despite quarterback Cody Hawkins throwing for 306 yards.

"We've got to stay out of third-and-extra-long because those guys get teed up and ready to rush the passer and we don't want to get in a drop-back contest with them."



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# First look: Florida State

By Kyle Ringo

Monday, September 22, 2008

## Game 4

**Matchup:** Colorado (3-0) vs. Florida State (2-1) at Jacksonville.

**Game time:** 1:30 p.m., Saturday at Municipal Stadium (76,877).

**On the air:** KMGH (7). KOA (850 AM).

**Web:**

<http://seminoles.cstv.com>.

## The series

The Seminoles lead 2-0 with victories in 2003 at home in Tallahassee and in Boulder last season. This is the first meeting on a neutral field.

## Last time

Florida State came within four minutes of a shutout in Folsom Field when it visited Boulder last season and won 16-6. The Buffs misfired offensively and relied on their defense to keep them in the game. CU outgained FSU, though both teams were held under 300 yards of offense. The Buffs made 21 first downs to FSU's 10.

## The coach

This will be coach Bobby Bowden's 500th game as an NCAA football coach. He is only the third man to reach the milestone, joining Amos Alonzo Stagg and Joe Paterno. The Seminoles have posted a winning record under Bowden in 31 consecutive years. Bowden is 375-120-4 in his 43rd season as a coach. He is 302-88-4 in 33 years at FSU.

## Numbers game

**6:** The number of points the Colorado offense has scored in two previous games in the series. Former CU wide receiver Jeremy Bloom prevented the Buffs from being shutout when CU traveled to Tallahassee in 2003. The Buffs lost that game 47-7.

## The lowdown

Eight players are scheduled to return from three-game suspensions. The NCAA is considering punishment against the athletic department after it uncovered and admitted to an online cheating scandal involving 61 athletes in 10 sports. A total of 18 football players were originally suspended. ... The Seminoles are ranked fourth in the nation in total defense giving up just 205 yards per game and second in the nation in scoring defense allowing just one touchdown this season. ... The FSU punt team ranks second nationally with a 43.25-yard net average. ... The Seminoles are 105th nationally in turnover margin after committing seven turnovers against Wake Forest. They have given the ball away eight times with just four takeaways. ... On opening day this season, 37 former FSU players were on National Football League rosters, second only to Miami.

### Who to know

**QBs Christian Ponder and D'Vontrey Richardson:** The two sophomores have both seen action in all three games this season. Ponder is the starter and has thrown six touchdown passes. Richardson has thrown for two scores and rushed for three more. Senior **Drew Weatherford** could also play against the Buffs.

**WR Corey Surrency:** The junior college transfer was recruited by CU last year. He scored three touchdowns in his first two games with the Seminoles but was held without a catch in Week 3.

**S Myron Rolle:** The junior will be playing in his 28th consecutive game. He has 159 tackles to his credit in two full seasons and three games this fall.



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cu football

## Unbeaten Buffaloes left out of top 25

By Natalie Meisler  
The Denver Post

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BOULDER — The top 25 poll held two noteworthy news items for Colorado on Sunday. The Buffs (3-0) didn't move in, and Saturday's opponent, previously No. 24 Florida State, moved out.

"I'm not really disappointed," said CU's latest man of the hour, freshman running back Rodney Stewart. "I know we'll get our chance. We play a lot of good, ranked teams. Hopefully we'll get some W's, and we should be ranked pretty soon."

CU coach Dan Hawkins was just happy one team near and dear to his heart, Boise State, cracked the poll at No. 19. The former Broncos coach's younger son, Drew, is a walk-on freshman quarterback there.

The big question for the Buffs entering Saturday's game is how they will handle their gifted running back corps.

### Colorado Football

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- [View](#) slide show of E. Washington-CU football
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- [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
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Stewart is coming off the third-best outing for a freshman in CU history with 166 yards on 28 carries against West Virginia. He admits he's hopeful of taking the Big 12 offensive player of the week honor today, which could go to Texas quarterback Colt McCoy, who passed for 329 yards and four touchdowns against Rice.

Sophomore Demetrius Sumler has started, but Stewart and Darrell Scott draw the chance early to show who's hot. Hawkins said Thursday that if Kevin Moyd ever had a chance, people would wonder why he hasn't played.

"All those guys are so talented, the guy with the hot hand is going to get it," running back coach Darian

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Hagan said. "When you have four guys you believe in, you can't be wrong."

Attitude remains as important as yardage, Hagan said. "The guys just have to cheer each other on, be happy for each other. Somebody's going to get hot; somebody's not going to get hot. The guy that's not in there can't get upset."

Stewart has no disagreement. "When I'm on the sideline and Darrell is doing a good job, I'm not going to get mad. He didn't get mad when I had a good game. . . . We just want to win."

Natalie Meisler: 303-954-1295 or  
[nmeisler@denverpost.com](mailto:nmeisler@denverpost.com)

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cu football

## Eye on ... The Seminoles

Article Launched: 09/22/2008 12:30:00 AM MDT

**Colorado vs. Florida State at Jacksonville, 1:30 p.m., Saturday, KMGH-7**

**For the record:** The Seminoles, who had returned to the top 25 last week but dropped out this week after Saturday's 12-3 home loss to Wake Forest, are 2-1. "We're not where I hoped we were," longtime coach Bobby Bowden said after the game. **Streaking:** Safety Myron Rolle led the Seminoles with nine tackles against Wake, including six solos.

**Who's hot:** Preston Parker returned Saturday from a two-game suspension for an April arrest on weapons and drug charges. Last year's team leader in all-purpose yards with 1,503, the wide receiver had a modest return with 34 yards receiving on three catches and 4 yards rushing on three carries.

**Who's not:** Seminoles quarterbacks threw five interceptions against Wake Forest, three by starter Christian Ponder in the first half and two by backup D'Vontrey Richardson in the second half. They had not thrown an interception in the first two games.

**Key stat:** Against Wake Forest, the Seminoles had 12 penalties for 139 yards. This season, FSU has been flagged 25 times for 242 yards. Last season, they had a total of 108 penalties for 870 yards.

**FYI:** Six FSU players who were suspended three

games because of an academic cheating scandal will return for this game, including a number of defensive starters.

**Coachspeak:** "They are one of the best programs in the history of college football, with one of the best coaches. It's always a big challenge and a thrill at the same time." — CU coach Dan Hawkins, on playing the Seminoles

*Denver Post staff*

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Longmont, Colorado  
Monday, September 22,  
2008



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## Buffs to take show on road

*By Patrick Ridgell*  
*Longmont Times-Call*

BOULDER — Colorado Buffaloes coach Dan Hawkins did watch Saturday's game between Florida State — CU's next opponent — and Wake Forest. His assessment?

"I'm sure neither staff is happy about the way it was played," Hawkins said Sunday.

"I'm sure both staffs were thinking, 'We need to clean up some penalties and some turnovers and a lot of that stuff.'"

If Hawkins sounded unimpressed, he probably wasn't alone in that opinion. In its 12-3 loss, Florida State (2-1) committed seven turnovers and 12 penalties, including two chop blocks by receiver Corey Surrency, a junior college transfer who committed to CU last year before signing with the Seminoles.

Saturday's game in Jacksonville, Fla., might be about the best chance CU could ever hope for at beating Florida State (1:30 p.m., ABC). For that matter, it could be anyone's best chance at beating a proud program that appears a bit off these days. But this is also the first time the Buffs, whom Hawkins called last week still "raw," will take their 2008 show outside of Colorado.

"You have to make sure they're focused," Hawkins said about his players. "You talk to them about what their comportment should be and all of that. I think they'll be decent with that.

"But you also have to coach, just make sure they understand this is a business trip, make good use of your time, don't get caught up in all the extras."

The Buffs expect Municipal Stadium to be as loud and difficult as it would be if the game were being played on Florida State's campus in Tallahassee.

The Jacksonville site offers CU no benefits, Hawkins said.

Buff running back Darrell Scott lived in Tallahassee until he was 13, rooting for the Seminoles. The insight he said he can offer mostly concerns the weather.

"Just hydrate," Scott said. "It's going to be hot, really humid. Every time you shower, you're going to be sweating. We just have to be prepared and be ready."

Florida State coach Bobby Bowden met with reporters Sunday morning at his weekly "Breakfast with Bowden" session. According to the Tallahassee Democrat, he told them, "We shot ourselves in the foot continuously."

"Everything that happened is correctable. It's not like you just are completely out-manned. ... Our success the remainder of the year will be based on how successful we are correcting those mistakes."

### A quick glimpse at CU's next opponent:

**Who:** Florida State (2-1)

**Where:** Jacksonville, Fla., Municipal Stadium

**When:** Saturday, 1:30 p.m., Ch. 7

**Notes:** Florida State beat CU, 16-6, last year in Boulder. The Seminoles also defeated CU in their only other meeting, 47-7, in Tallahassee, Fla., in 2003. ... Sophomore quarterbacks D'Vontrey Richardson and Christian Ponder struggled Saturday for Florida State. When asked whom he thought might start against CU, Buffs coach Dan Hawkins said, "I have no idea." ... Eight Seminoles are expected to return to the team this week after missing the season's first three games due to suspension for academic misconduct.

**-Patrick Ridgell**

Bowden also complimented CU.

“It looks like they’ve strengthened themselves over last year with their recruiting,” Bowden said. “They brought a couple of runners in that are very dangerous. They looked like they are grasping what (Hawkins) wants and they are playing much better.”

Hawkins responded upon hearing Bowden’s words with this: “I like to hear that we’re getting better.”

**EXTRA POINTS:** Florida State was ranked No. 24 last week, but fell out of the polls released Sunday. That means the Buffs are facing four ranked teams over a six-game stretch. ... West Virginia, ranked No. 21 last week, also fell out of the polls following Thursday’s loss at CU. ... The Buffs are not ranked, but received 39 votes in the AP poll and 30 in the USA Today/Coaches poll.



## CU report: Running back happy with winning performance

By B.G. Brooks

Sunday, September 21, 2008

With 166 yards on 28 carries, freshman tailback **Rodney Stewart** captured the spotlight Thursday night in the Buffaloes' 17-14 overtime win against West Virginia.

But Stewart said Sunday that capturing a starting spot when CU faces Florida State on Saturday (1:30 p.m. MDT, Channel 7) in Jacksonville, Fla., is "no big deal . . . we all can play or we wouldn't be here."

Stewart was as exuberant about his fumble-free performance as he was about his yardage, noting in the days preceding the West Virginia game he "did a lot of exaggerated things, like holding the ball higher and tighter" to try to prevent a fumble like he had in the previous game.

His size and running style have reminded some of former Kansas State back **Darren Sproles**, a comparison that expanded Stewart's nearly perpetual smile.

"I guess there's some similar stuff," he said. "He's good, so I don't mind."

### Looking for edge

**Jeff Grimes**, CU's running game coordinator/offensive line coach, expects longtime Florida State defensive coordinator **Mickey Andrews** to "do his deal" against the Buffs.

Here's Andrews' deal, according to Grimes: "He tries to outnumber you. He'll press with his cornerbacks, use his safeties (as run stoppers) and try to not let you run the ball. That's just what he does."

Andrews, in his 25th season at Florida State, expects the return of five former starters this week, but it isn't known how many will be immediately integrated into his lineup.

The five are among 18 football players who were suspended before the Music City Bowl last season after being implicated in a cheating scandal. Most of the 18 players also sat out the first three games this season.

### Remember him?

Florida State junior receiver **Corey Surrency** had CU high on his list of colleges, and Buffs coaches believed they had a good chance of landing him. Turns out, the 6-foot-5, 210-pound Surrency, a Miami native who attended El Camino (Calif.) Community College, grew up a Seminoles fan and couldn't be

swayed.

In a 12-3 loss to now-No. 16 Wake Forest on Saturday night, Surrency was flagged for two first-half chop blocks and had no receptions in the game.

### **Soon to be ranked?**

The Buffs haven't been ranked since Nov. 6, 2005, when The Associated Press positioned them No. 21. After beating then-No. 21 West Virginia 17-14 on Thursday night, they received 39 votes from the AP electorate this week - fourth among "others receiving votes," or No. 29.

Ranked No. 24 last week, Florida State fell out of the top 25 as a result of its 12-3 loss to Wake Forest. They received two AP votes.

### **Davis punching it**

Freshman kicking specialist **Jameson Davis** is proving his worth on kickoffs - and then some. He has kicked off in only three games, but he already has surpassed CU's 2007 total in touchbacks (six). Last season, the Buffs had only six touchbacks in 63 kickoffs.

Davis, a 2005 Boise State enrollee who never played there, has seven touchbacks in 16 kickoffs this season.

### **Numbers game**

12 **penalties** for 139 yards weren't Florida State's only unsightly numbers against Wake Forest. The Seminoles also committed seven turnovers - five interceptions, two lost fumbles.

### **He said it**

*"Defensively we played about as good as their defense. We self-destructed (on offense). . . . If our defense had not been playing good, that score would have been awful."*

**Bobby Bowden**, Florida State's coach, on the Seminoles' loss to Wake Forest

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