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## Buff's brace for OU

*By Patrick Ridgell  
 The Daily Times-Call*

BOULDER — Colorado coach Dan Hawkins might have figured out a great way to slow down No. 3 Oklahoma: play 12 guys on defense.

"We're trying to go to a Canadian league defense and get another guy on the field," Hawkins said Monday on the Big 12 coaches teleconference. "We're trying to see if we can work that into the equation."

"When I was in high school, if you didn't have enough guys, you'd call the other school by Wednesday and you could play eight-man ball. So I'm thinking maybe we just call coach (Bob) Stoops and say we're going to play 12 guys over there."

Hawkins, obviously, was kidding. But he wasn't kidding Sunday when he called No. 3 Oklahoma the most impressive team he's faced during his time in Boulder. The Buffs open Big 12 play Saturday against the Sooners in Boulder (11:30 a.m., FSR). CU has dropped its past five to Oklahoma, including two Big 12 championship games, and its past 14 against ranked opponents.

When they played in Norman a year ago, the Buffs trailed 10-0 in the fourth quarter before falling, 24-3. That came a week after the Sooners lost all-everything running back Adrian Peterson to a broken collarbone, and several weeks after quarterback Paul Thompson was thrust into the starting job because Rhett Bomar was kicked off the team.

This year's Sooners are third nationally with 562.25 yards a game and first in scoring with an average of 61.5 points per game. Through four weeks, they have had 30 offensive plays go 20 yards or more. Redshirt freshman Sam Bradford, a certified Cherokee Indian, is the nation's second-leading quarterback in passing efficiency.

"He's doing everything well," Stoops said.

Bradford isn't alone. Running back DeMarco Murray is sixth in scoring with 13.5 points per game, and he's probably not as good as Allen Patrick, who ran for 145 yards and two touchdowns Friday against Tulsa. And Juaquin Iglesias is 11th with 111 receiving yards per game and 15th in all-purpose yards, 181.8 per game.

Hawkins described defending the Sooners as a "pick your poison" dilemma. CU's defense has improved steadily in September, but that means little now.

"I think they are doing a nice job," Hawkins said. "Now with that being said, we haven't played anybody like Oklahoma, so that is a whole different animal."

CU quarterback Cody Hawkins said the Buffs gained some confidence last year by hanging with Oklahoma for most of the night. But he repeated his father's sentiment when he said this year's Sooners are different.

"Sam Bradford is a quarterback that can throw the ball down the field," Cody Hawkins said. "They had great receivers, but they didn't necessarily have that vertical threat (last year). And they lost Adrian Peterson the week before we played them, but Allen Patrick is an unbelievable running back and probably one of the best running backs in the



Colorado head coach Dan Hawkins congratulates Hugh Charles in the third quarter after Charles scored against Miami-Ohio at Folsom Field on Saturday. **Times-Call/Joshua Buck**

country.”

Not one to pass up a chance to gush over an opponent, Stoops talked up CU as well.

“Last year, they were one of the better defenses we played all year, and they still are,” he said. “They’re physical, sound fundamentally.

“Offensively, at their quarterback position, coach Hawkins’ son is playing well. He makes them different from a year ago. There’s more to deal with. They have good balance in what they’re trying to do.”

**Extra points:** This weekend is homecoming for CU, and its honorary marshals for the parade include former Buffs Alfred Williams, Kanavis McGhee, Matt Russell and Deon Figures. ... Kickoff for CU’s game at Baylor on Oct. 6 has been set for 5 p.m. It won’t be televised.

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# Rocky Mountain News

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## Local college football notes

By Rocky Mountain News  
September 24, 2007

**CU**

### Trench monsters

Oklahoma's five starting offensive linemen average 6-foot-5 and about 322 pounds — and they bring more than mere size. In the unit rankings of its preseason college football edition, The Sporting News rated the Sooners' O-line as No. 2 nationally, behind Southern California.

Tackle Phil Loadholt, a transfer from Garden City (Kan.) Community College, is Oklahoma's tallest starter ever. The aptly named Loadholt, of Fountain Fort-Carson High School, stands 6-foot-8 and weighs upward of 360 pounds.

Coach Bob Stoops said Loadholt has impressed since first arriving on campus: "He impressed us first during winter conditioning — and that's one of the harder parts of our program. He's a fantastic worker — we saw how well he worked and knew he was going to be good."

### Still the one

Senior linebacker Jordon Dizon wasn't as prolific in the Buffs' 42-0 rout of Miami (Ohio), but he maintained his position as the leading tackler in Division I-A.

Dizon, of Waimea, Hawaii, registered six tackles (three solo, three assists) against the RedHawks, marking the first time in four games he has not reached double figures in total tackles.

Still, he is averaging a nation-leading 13.75 tackles a game, with his 9.5 solo average also the nation's best.

### Etc.

CU's game at Baylor on Oct. 6 will kick off at 5:05 p.m. MDT. It will not be televised.

Homecoming festivities this weekend include a parade Friday in the University Hill area, followed by a pep rally in front of the Fox Theatre on 13th Street. Parade marshals include former players Matt Russell, Alfred Williams, Kanavis McGhee and Deon Figures.

Tickets for Saturday's game are still available. Information: 303-492-8337.

### He said it

*"We used to be able to call coaches at midweek in high school and ask if we could play eight-man football. ... I think maybe I'll call Coach Stoops this week and ask him if we could play with 12."*

**Dan Hawkins, CU coach**, on how to defend Oklahoma, which averages a nation-leading 61.5 points a game.

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college football

## Sooners rolling into Boulder

By Tom Kensler  
Denver Post Staff Writer

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Boulder — Oklahoma looks every bit as good on game films as its No. 3 national ranking would suggest, Colorado football coach Dan Hawkins said earlier today during his weekly media luncheon.

"There're no weaknesses," Hawkins said. "I mean, they can throw it. They can run it. They're big up front. They've got speed.

"Same thing on defense," the coach added. "They are big and fast. And they have a very good kicking game - kickers, punters, returners they are very solid all the way around."

Oklahoma (4-0) must make game-planning against them a challenge.

"They are one of those teams that, when you watch them, you don't look at anybody and say, 'Oh, I bet we can get this on that guy,'" Hawkins explained. "There is none of that here. They are a very complete football team."

**Footnotes Junior linebacker R.J. Brown**

(concussion against Florida State) already has been ruled out for Saturday's game in Folsom Field. Everybody else, including tight ends



Oklahoma head coach Bob Stoops has the Sooners in peak form heading into Boulder for a Saturday game against Colorado. (AP | Sue Ogrocki)

**Riar Geer (knee) and Tyson DeVree (concussion) and wideout Scotty McKnight (concussion) should be ready to play, Hawkins said.**

Backup offensive linemen Kai Maiava and Ryan Miller, true freshmen who made their debuts last Saturday against Miami (Ohio), should get more playing time against Oklahoma, Hawkins said. Hawkins said "I doubt it" when asked if 2006 starting quarterback Bernard Jackson might become academically eligible for this game.

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# Bufs aim to cook up turnovers vs. OU

## Getting Sooners to cough up ball would slow down prolific offense

By Kyle Ringo

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

The recipe for beating No. 3 Oklahoma this week goes something like this for the Colorado football team: Play close to perfect and hope the Sooners are feeling charitable.

CU defensive coordinator Ron Collins directed defenses during his time at Boise State that were known for forcing turnovers. In his first season in Boulder last year, the Buffs made their share of big plays forcing 24 turnovers, but it has been a different story so far this year.

The CU defense has been steadily improving each week and is coming off its first shutout in nearly two years, but it has registered only four take-aways in the process. The Buffs rank 105th in the nation in turnover margin after four games, with the defense nabbing two fumbles and two interceptions but the offense giving it back 10 times.

"The area we need to get better at is obviously turnovers," Collins said. "We had the opportunity (last week) for two interceptions that we didn't get, and we've got to get those.

"I think we're doing a good job in getting teams in third downs, but it would be nice to start forcing some fumbles and getting some picks. Our team needs that."

The Buffs won't need it in any game this season more than they will Saturday.

CU hasn't faced an offense with the explosive capabilities Oklahoma possesses. The Sooners are the highest-scoring team in the nation through the first month of the season, averaging 61.5 points per game.

Yes, some of that damage has come against teams such as North Texas and Utah State, but the Sooners also pounded the Miami Hurricanes 51-13. The same Miami team thumped Texas A&M last week.

CU still lacks the overall offensive talent to go toe-to-toe with the Sooners in a shootout so it must be efficient. Then the defense must force OU mistakes. The Sooners have committed seven turnovers so far this season — five fumbles and two interceptions.

"They are an explosive offense, but if we do our jobs, nothing is impossible," safety Ryan Walters said.

"If we play our game and do what we've got to do, they're definitely beatable," linebacker Jordon Dizon said.

Collins said the Oklahoma offense will be the toughest test the Buffs face all year because it does everything well. The Sooners are the seventh-best rushing offense in the nation, averaging 5.8 yards per carry and 252 yards per game. Their passing game ranks 16th in the nation with 15 touchdowns to its credit and 310 yards per game.

The Sooners already have made 14 plays of 40 yards or more.

"It's just one of those games where you pop a few Tylenol and you go because you know they're coming after you, man," Dizon said. "They never let up. They're just one of those relentless teams that come after you."

## Notable

CU's Nov. 6 game at Baylor will not be televised. Kickoff has been set for 5:05 p.m. MT. ... CU coaches are considering asking a player to switch positions in mid-season to shore up linebacker depth. The most likely candidate might be fullback Maurice Cantrell, who was converted from linebacker to fullback last season. He has played in every game this season but doesn't have a carry and hasn't caught a pass. ... Former Buff greats Deon Figures, Kanavis McGhee, Matt Russell and Alfred Williams will serve as honorary marshals for the annual homecoming parade Friday at 5:15 p.m. in the University Hill area.



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