



Missouri QB picks apart CU in rout

By Kyle Ringo

Sunday, November 4, 2007

Missouri quarterback Chase Daniel was drooling in public last week. Anyone who saw him carve up the Colorado pass defense Saturday at Folsom Field now knows why.

Daniel figured there would be a lot of plays to be made down the field against a CU defense that often uses man-to-man coverage. He said so to reporters. And Saturday he gave a demonstration.

The potent Missouri attack abused the Buffs, who had looked tough a week earlier against a similar scheme at Texas Tech. The No. 9 Tigers sent fans home early by running away with a 55-10 win that ended any hope of the Buffs making a miracle run to the Big 12 Championship game.

"They beat us hands down," CU linebacker Jordon Dizon said. "You've just got to tip your hat to them."

CU remains one win shy of bowl eligibility at 5-5 overall and 3-3 in conference play with two winnable games remaining in the regular season, against Iowa State and Nebraska. Missouri (8-1, 4-1) moved a step closer to its first trip to the conference title game.

The Tigers overcame an early CU lead and a lot of negative history in the month of November to earn the win. An offense that had been averaging more than 40 points a game scored the most points of any visitor to Folsom Field since Missouri scored 59 against the Buffs in 1983.

The Tigers rolled up 598 yards of total offense against a CU defense that hadn't given up as much as 500 yards in a game in 41 consecutive outings. The last time CU gave up more than 500 yards of offense in a game came in overtime at Texas A&M in 2004.

The loss was also the third worst at home in school history.

"They run a little bit of a unique system," coach Dan Hawkins said. "They totally understand how to operate it. They've got really good players, and then they've got experience. They've got the full complement of what you want."

It starts with Daniel, who overcame an interception on the second play from scrimmage to lead his team to 48 consecutive points in the second, third and fourth quarters.

The junior from Texas completed 27 of 45 passes for 428 yards and five touchdowns. He connected on throws of 72 and 46 yards to wide receivers Will Franklin and Jeremy Maclin and also hit tight end Chase Coffman who appeared to be tackle-proof from CU defenders.

Colorado took a 10-7 advantage after an early interception by defensive tackle George Hypolite and a blocked punt by defensive end Alonzo Barrett gave the offense the ball deep in Missouri territory. But after Kevin Eberhart drilled a 24-yard field goal, the CU offense went nowhere.

CU quarterback Cody Hawkins fumbled on the Buffs' next possession and then led his team to four consecutive three-and-out drives. Punter Matt DiLallo punted a career-high 11 times.

Senior tailback Hugh Charles said the Missouri defense did more blitzing and stunting than the Buffs were prepared for and the offensive line struggled to account for everyone. Charles finished the game with 55 yards rushing.

"It seemed like after every series we went back to the drawing board and there was a mistake by the offensive line like somebody didn't know who to get or whatever," Charles said. "I think that's what happened and it happened throughout the whole game."

Cody Hawkins finished the day with a very pedestrian statistical line. He completed 12 of 25 passes for 100 yards and an interception. His streak of nine games with a touchdown pass came to an end, and he has now thrown an interception in nine of the first 10 games of his career.

"We're a good football team that played an awful game tonight," Cody Hawkins said.

Colorado picked up four first downs in the first quarter and then managed only three the rest of the game. The Buffs fumbled five times and lost two, giving them three total turnovers in the game. CU is now minus-seven this season in turnover ratio.

CU is 1-3 in games played against teams currently ranked among the top 10 this season. The Buffs only win in those games came against Oklahoma, but that victory seemed long ago by the time the Buffs walked off the field Saturday.

"It's part of the process," Dan Hawkins said. "It's not always going to be Oklahoma and it's not always going to be Missouri. You've just got to keep working in an upward fashion."



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Daniel, Tigers light up Buffs secondary

Missouri makes big plays while racking up 429 yards passing

By Ryan Thorburn
Sunday, November 4, 2007

From disrespected to dominated.

That was the story for the Colorado secondary during Saturday night's humbling and painful 55-10 loss to No. 9 Missouri at Folsom Field.

Leading up to the game, the Buffs bristled when told about the statements Tigers quarterback Chase Daniel had been making to the media.

"It lights our eyes up to see Cover 1," Daniel told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, referring to CU's man-to-man coverage. "We haven't seen that very often. A lot of (teams) just play Cover 4 and say, 'Hey, dink and dunk us,' which we have been doing.

"That's why we haven't thrown for many yards in the last two weeks. You look at (CU), there's some big plays to be made down the field if we can make them."

CU's response: Prove it.

And, to their credit, Daniel and the boys from the Show-Me State backed up the talk by passing for 429 yards and five touchdowns.

"Which one?" Buffs head coach Dan Hawkins said when asked about Daniel's big plays in the passing game. "I wouldn't say necessarily it was surprising. We just needed to be a little more efficient there with alignments, eyes, footwork, hand placement, landmarks. They're really good. He does a good job getting the ball to them, and they've got the talent to get open."

After a slow start — Daniel's second pass was intercepted by defensive tackle George Hypolite, and CU cashed the turnover in for a quick 7-0 lead — the smooth signal-caller tested his theory with a 72-yard completion down the sideline to William Franklin.

The Buffs' best cornerback, Terrence Wheatley, was beaten on the play that led to a game-tying score.

"We expected them to go deep like every other team," Jordon Dizon said after CU gave up more than 50 points at Folsom Field for the first time since a 59-20 loss to Missouri on Oct. 8, 1983. "If you're sitting in man, teams are going to go deep on you no matter what."

After the game, Wheatley was receiving treatment for a foot sprain and what teammates said was a nasty elbow injury. Safety Ryan Walters stayed the night at Boulder Community Hospital for observation after

sustaining a concussion.

"T-Wheat, his elbow is a huge melon right now. If you could even see it you would be disgusted," Dizon said. "He's struggling up there. ... He did his best."

The Buffs were enjoying a 10-7 lead and had the Tigers in a third-and-4 situation when Daniel connected with Jeremy Maclin on a 46-yard touchdown pass. He got behind freshman safety Jalil Brown on the way to the end zone.

Daniel hit Jared Perry for 45 yards to set up a field goal to give Missouri a 17-10 lead on its next possession. Franklin got loose for a 37-yard catch to set up another Tigers touchdown to make the score 24-10.

On a third-and-7, tight end Chase Coffman caught a 25-yard touchdown reception to give the visitors a 31-10 lead just before the intermission.

"We knew their cornerbacks were going to try and press us and we were able to take advantage of that," Coffman said. "It's great to have lots of people making plays on offense, and Chase had time to put it where he wanted."

Coffman would jump over Walters and break a couple of tackles on his way to the end zone for a 23-yard touchdown reception in the third quarter and added a third scoring catch just before the fourth quarter started to make the score 48-10.

"He's a great quarterback and a great athlete," Dizon said of Daniel, who completed 26 of 44 passes with the one interception and five touchdowns. "He did what he had to do. Hat's off to him. He picked our defense apart in the end."

After giving up a combined 47 points in wins over Oklahoma and Baylor, CU allowed 47 points in a loss at Kansas State. Then the Buffs defense held Kansas to 19 points (the Jayhawks scored 76 on Nebraska on Saturday) and Texas Tech's pass-happy offense to 26 in a key road win.

And now the banged up CU secondary will try and regroup once again with another chance to get that elusive sixth win next Saturday at Iowa State.

"You can't get too high with Oklahoma. You can't get too low like with K-state or this game," junior cornerback Benjamin Burney said. "You've got to stay even keel and keep playing the game. That's what happens in football and life."



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Hawkins vows to help Buffs rebound

QB throws for 100 yards, no TDs vs. Missouri

By Ryan Thorburn
Sunday, November 4, 2007

The only numbers Cody Hawkins cares about were on the scoreboard.

Missouri 55, Colorado 10.

But the statistical comparison between the young Buff quarterback and his talented counterpart were just as lopsided on a long Saturday night at Folsom Field.

Hawkins finished the game having completed 12 of 25 passes for 100 yards with no touchdowns and one interception. He also lost a fumble and was replaced in the fourth quarter by backup Nick Nelson (2-for-3, 12 yards) when the game was out of hand.

Missouri's Chase Daniel set up CU's only touchdown with an early interception but regrouped in a big way to finish the evening 26-for-44 passing for 421 yards and five touchdowns. He watched from the sideline down the stretch after getting relieved by backup Chase Patton (1-for-1, 8 yards).

"If we're going to bounce back from a loss like this then it has to start with me," Hawkins said after the Buffs dropped to 5-5. "I have to stay positive with these guys and I've just got to work harder and do things that I haven't done before. Whether that's watching more film or being a better leader, we've just got to pick things up."

The Buffs led 10-7 after the first quarter but didn't pick up another first down until there was 8:36 remaining in the third quarter. Mizzou was leading 28-10 by that point, and Hawkins threw his pick on the next snap to set up another score for the visitors.

"They did an awesome job mixing up stuff and doing different looks that we either hadn't seen on film or didn't expect in those certain situations," Hawkins said. "They just kind of outplayed us. ... After starting so hot it was definitely a bummer when we couldn't get anything clicking the rest of the game."

Hawkins, a redshirt freshman, is only 10 games into what looks to be a bright career at CU. A lot of the teammates he is counting on — wide receivers Scotty McKnight and Josh Smith, left guard Kai Maiava and right tackle Ryan Miller — are also freshmen.

But, to his credit, the coach's son didn't make any excuses for Saturday's performance. Hawkins wants to turn the page and help seniors like Tyler Polumbus, Dusty Sprague, Byron Ellis and Hugh Charles get bowl eligible.

"I think the guys on our team just have to grow up," Hawkins said. "We have to keep maturing and keep

following the leaders. ... We're a good football team that played an awful game today. We definitely can still end the season on a good note."

After facing three top-10 teams (Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri) at Folsom Field, the Buffs will try to get their sixth victory next Saturday at Iowa State before hosting the train wreck that is Nebraska on Nov. 23.

"They're an awesome team and they've got a shot to play for the national title and they definitely showed it today," Hawkins said of the Tigers. "It definitely wasn't an effort question. It was just tough getting things clicking, whether they were miscommunications or just missed assignments. We're a good team and we've got to get better."



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Woelk: Schizophrenic Buffs need a strong finish

By Neill Woelk

Sunday, November 4, 2007

Games to remember are played in November?

This is one the Colorado Buffaloes would love to forget.

But the guess here is that Dan Hawkins won't allow them that luxury, at least not until they've looked closely at the mistakes that led to a 55-10 whipping by Missouri on Saturday at Folsom Field.

Hawkins, however, also won't let the Buffs wallow in their misery. The man who treated a win over Oklahoma as simply a solid step forward for his program displayed virtually the exact same demeanor after his team's worst loss in his two years at Colorado.

Never too high, never too low.

"It's part of the process," Hawkins said. "It's not always going to be Oklahoma, and it's not always going to be Missouri. The question is whether we can get our guys to put it in the right context. Can we make sure our guys take the pain and manifest it into future success?"

If they can, there's a lot of success in the future. Saturday was certainly painful. The Tigers rang up nearly 600 yards in total offense while scoring the most points by an opponent at Folsom Field in 24 years (Since you asked, a 59-20 Missouri win in 1983, Bill McCartney's second year with the Buffs).

Meanwhile, the Missouri defense — believed by some to be the Tigers' "weak spot" — held Colorado to 196 yardstotal offense, CU's lowest total of the year, while also holding the Buffs scoreless over the last three quarters of the game.

"We're a good football team that played an awful game today," said CU quarterback Cody Hawkins, who had his streak of consecutive games with a touchdown halted at nine by the Tigers. "We have to be able to bounce back."

Most perplexing is how quickly the Buffs fell apart. Colorado actually led, 10-7, after the first quarter. A crowd of 51,000-plus sniffed an upset. By the fourth quarter, however, the Folsom was almost empty, with the hint of an upset replaced by the reality of a thorough Buff kicking.

The Buffs have been good at times this year, but Saturday, they looked thoroughly overmatched on both sides of the ball. As Hawk said, the Tigers have the complete package: good personnel, good scheme and the experience to run it.

The Buffs couldn't match them in any category. And, to compound the problem, the Buffs also committed the litany of football sins that have contributed to each of their other four losses this year: three turnovers, a season-high 12 penalties and an abysmal 3-for-17 effort on third-down conversions. In

a year in which they have shown fairly steady improvement, they played maybe the worst game of the Hawkins era in the 10th week of the season.

Thus, CU fans everywhere will have one request this morning: Will real Colorado Buffaloes stand up?

Certainly, it's hard to remember a more roller-coaster season for any Colorado team. The same Buffs that beat No. 3 Oklahoma and won on the road at Texas Tech have looked equally befuddled in losses to Kansas State and Missouri.

Weird stat of the day? This year, the Buffs actually led Arizona State and Missouri after one quarter, and Kansas early in the third quarter. Those three teams all entered Saturday ranked in the top 10, and have a combined record of 25-2 this morning.

Now, the Buffs have to remember that there is still a carrot at the end of the stick. With two games remaining — at Iowa State next Saturday and home against Nebraska on Nov. 23 — Colorado can guarantee bowl eligibility with one more win and put itself squarely in the bowl picture with two more victories.

"You can't let yourself be defined by one win or one loss," said Buff defensive tackle George Hypolite. "We still have a lot to play for."

But whether the Buffs can bounce back from Saturday's pratfall remains to be seen. A team that has measured progress with two steps forward for every step back took a major tumble in a game they believed they had a chance to win.

It will be yet one more test for a coaching staff that has coaxed plenty out of a team whose talent level from top to bottom has not been a match for their opponent more often than not. Now, they'll have to quickly rebuild a team's confidence.

Games to remember are played in November?

The Buffs have two games left this month. If they're going to remember it fondly, they'd better learn how to bounce back in a hurry.



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missouri 55, colorado 10

Never in the Chase

Bufs can't keep up with Mizzou quarterback Daniel in rout

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

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Missouri tight end Chase Coffman takes the scoring plunge for the third time Saturday, this time on a 5-yard catch. (Post / Kathryn Scott Osler)

BOULDER — Colorado cornerback Benjamin Burney sounded like he had been caught in a bad hailstorm with nowhere to hide. Missouri quarterback Chase Daniel continually pelted the CU secondary with long passes Saturday in a 55-10 pasting of the Buffaloes.

"I didn't know they'd keep doing it, keep doing it," Burney said.

Winning in Boulder for the first time in 10 years, ninth-ranked Missouri (8-1, 4-1 Big 12) piled up 598 yards and put the game away in the second quarter with 24 unanswered points.

Bufs fans among a Folsom Field crowd of 51,483 couldn't have felt more helpless than the CU defensive backs. Daniel threw for 421 yards and five touchdowns. In the first half alone, he connected on five

Colorado Football

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throws of 25 yards or longer. Each led to points, three of them touchdowns.

That included a 72-yarder down the left sideline to William Franklin that set up Missouri's first touchdown, a 46-yard touchdown pass to Jeremy Maclin and a 25-yard score to tight end Chase Coffman.

Coffman, a 6-foot-6, 245-pound junior, finished with three touchdowns - including a 23-yarder in the third quarter in which he hurdled a CU defender near the goal line.

Choosing from among at least four athletic receivers on every snap in the spread offense,

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Daniel had a blast. He picked apart a Colorado secondary that had performed so well a week earlier against Texas Tech, which also employs the spread.

"(Daniel) is pretty darn good," CU coach Dan Hawkins said. "They have a good team, good personnel and a good scheme. It's very efficient. You really have to dot your I's and cross your T's to have a chance against a team like that."

Daniel already had 288 yards passing by halftime, including three touchdown passes. The junior from Southlake, Texas, said earlier in the week that, after watching film of Colorado, he thought he could exploit the Buffaloes with long passes.

He backed it up.

"It was good to come out here and get the ball downfield," Daniel said. "That's what I like to do, that's what our receivers like to do - it keeps them more involved and it keeps them excited about the offense."

Said CU linebacker Jordon Dizon, "We knew if we played man (defense) they're going to go deep."

Colorado (5-5, 3-3) had not allowed this many points at home since 1983, when Missouri won 59-20.

Cody Hawkins, a redshirt freshman, failed to throw a touchdown for the first time in his career

and finished with just 100 yards passing.

"If we're going to bounce back from this loss, it's got to start with me," the quarterback said.

CU remained one game shy of becoming bowl-eligible. The Buffs play Saturday at Iowa State (2-8, 1-5) before completing the regular season at home with the annual day-after-Thanksgiving game against Nebraska. Iowa State no longer looks like easy pickings after its victory Saturday over Kansas State.

"We've still got a lot to play for," CU senior wideout Dusty Sprague said. "We have to take this game in stride and come back with a new spirit."

Missouri stayed on course for a Nov. 24 showdown with No. 8 Kansas at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City. The Tigers ended years of frustrating visits to the Front Range. Missouri had lost four in a row in Boulder and 10 of the past 11. The last Tigers' win here had been in 1997.

Missouri's quick-strike offense has become a given each Saturday, but the Tigers' defense also did its part.

"We got a lot of three-and-outs," Missouri coach Gary Pinkel said. "When we do that, we're hard to beat."

The book on Daniel

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After giving up an interception on his first attempt Saturday night, Missouri quarterback Chase Daniel, who was pulled early in the fourth



Colorado tailback Hugh Charles works for yardage against an ambush of Tigers in the first quarter Saturday. (Post / Kathryn Scott Osler)

quarter, picked apart the Colorado defense:

(Quarter Cmp Att Yds TD Int)

First 4 14 95 1 1

Second 10 14 193 2 0

Third 9 13 109 2 0

Fourth 3 3 24 0 0

- Totals 26 44 421 5 1

The Grades | By Tom Kensler

OFFENSE

F: From late in the first quarter to early in the third, Colorado failed to make a first down on

seven consecutive possessions. That's not the way to make a game of it.

DEFENSE

F: Missouri gained 598 yards, ending a streak of 41 consecutive games in which Colorado had limited a team to fewer than 500. That streak had been the nation's sixth-longest.

SPECIAL TEAMS

C: The only semi-bright spot for the Buffaloes. Defensive end Alonzo Barrett recorded Colorado's first blocked kick since the 2005 Champs Sports Bowl by getting a hand on a first-quarter punt.

OVERALL

F: It will be difficult for Colorado's coaches grading the game film today to determine which unit played worse - the offense or the defense.

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terry frei

Tigers deep-six dazed Buffaloes

By Terry Frei
The Denver Post

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BOULDER — One of the problems with the "cover-two" scheme, leaving the two safeties deep and each responsible for "halves," is that it can be vulnerable to a tight end getting open deep, down the middle.

That takes some explaining, perhaps with a marker board and some X's and O's.

This doesn't: A "cover nobody deep" leads to considerable angst and embarrassment.

And while it certainly wasn't by the CU coaching staff's design, that was the defensive approach the Buffaloes often seemed to be forced into Saturday at Folsom Field.

Missouri junior quarterback Chase Daniel - mobile, opportunistic, savvy and strong-armed - threw for 421 yards and five touchdown passes in the Tigers' 55-10 romp ... one that for students of sports history in this state could summon appropriate memories of Joe Montana

dissecting the Broncos, by the same score, in Super Bowl XXIV.

In the first half alone, Daniel completed passes of 72, 46, 45 and 37 yards (to three different receivers), and victimized several CU defensive backs, albeit while often displaying the ability to avoid pressure and keep the play alive until he could unload the ball.

Ultimately, three of Daniel's TD passes came to tight end Chase Coffman - perhaps someday, when they're both in the NFL, Chase and Coffman could do bank commercials together - and Coffman's tackle-breaking ability added to the Buffs' frustration.

CU cornerback Benjamin Burney said Daniels "really tore us apart. He read our coverages well. . . After the first quarter, you knew what they were going to do - keep attacking us deep. We have to be able to step up. We can't accept the ball going over our heads like that."

CU linebacker Jordon Dizon said the Tigers "did what they had to do" to get deep. "Sometimes it was great coverage and sometimes it was bad coverage," he said. "But even when it was great coverage, they still caught the ball, with miraculous catches, and I have to give it to them for making those catches."

By the middle of the third quarter, most of the CU students had abandoned their once-full sections to head for Norlin Library to study.

(OK, maybe a few ventured to The Hill.)

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In the turned-on-its-head Big 12 North, where the traditional basketball powers have taken over, Kansas and Missouri combined to score 131 points Saturday against Nebraska and Colorado.

The Cornhuskers are so bad, their detractors no longer should feel compelled to send mass e-mails to friends with a long-winded, perhaps "insensitive" joke about child custody that finally skewers NU in the punch line.

By now, just circulating the latest Nebraska score ("76-39 ... pass it on to all your friends") is enough.

But Mizzou made CU look almost as awful, underscoring the reality that while there has been significant progress during Dan Hawkins' second season, there still is a long way to go before the Buffaloes again are threats to win the division. Plus, in this transition season, the Buffs have been one of the more schizoid teams in the country, capable of beating Oklahoma and not having it seem like a fluke, and then being so thoroughly embarrassed on the same home turf by Missouri.

This has nothing to do with "mercy" or "class," but with pragmatism: The worst move Missouri made all night was when coach Gary Pinkel kept Daniel in the game (and throwing) through the first offensive series of the fourth quarter, with the Tigers leading 48-10.

If Daniel - who took a 12-yard sack on the series - suffered a significant injury for the sake of style points and stats, whether in the BCS or

Heisman Watches or anything else, Pinkel should have been forced to take off his headset and begin walking to Denver International Airport.

Blogs

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- Visit [All Things Avs to which Frei contributes](#)

But even those who left the stadium early almost certainly walked away thinking that Missouri is head and shoulders better than Kansas, and that they had seen one of the best quarterbacks in the nation put on a show.

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cu football notes

Walters' status indefinite after concussion

By Tom Kensler and John Henderson
The Denver Post

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The view isn't all that great from the Colorado sideline, where coach Dan Hawkins watches Missouri score with 45 seconds left in the third quarter Saturday night. (Post / Kathryn Scott Osler)

BOULDER — Colorado safety Ryan Walters was taken to a Boulder hospital on a stretcher late in Saturday's loss to Missouri after suffering the effects of an apparent concussion.

Colorado spokesman Dave Plati said after the game that tests on Walters were negative but the junior from Aurora would remain hospitalized

overnight for precautionary reasons.

"He went out of the game in the third quarter, and it looked like he was passing out on the bench," CU cornerback Benjamin Burney said.

Walters' status for Saturday's game at Iowa State will be determined this week, Plati said.

Cornerback Terrence Wheatley missed some plays with a sprained foot but returned to the lineup. Linebacker Brad Jones suffered a concussion and is listed as day-to-day.

Good start. At least Colorado gave its fans something to cheer about early.

Taking advantage of a Missouri turnover, Colorado got on the board first. CU junior defensive tackle George Hypolite grabbed a deflected pass for his first career interception on Missouri's second play from scrimmage and returned it 6 yards to the Missouri 11.

Senior tailback Byron Ellis scored on a 2-yard run for a 7-0 lead.

"It was a big boost for our team," Hypolite said. "But obviously it didn't last."

Coffman the hurdler. Chase Coffman caught three touchdown passes to up his career total to 19, breaking Justin Gage's school record (1999-2002). But it was Coffman's second TD, in which he leaped over a Colorado defender and broke through two Buffaloes into the end

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zone, that will end up on NFL scouting directors' desks.

"I've been doing that because I'm tired of people diving at my knees," the junior said.

Said Missouri coach Gary Pinkel when he saw it: "I'm thinking, 'I played tight end.' Looking at him I should've played guard."

Talk about deep at tight end. Missouri's other tight end, Martin Tucker, caught six passes for 60 yards for the season, breaking Coffman's school mark of 58 set last season.

Oh, yes, Missouri is good at wide receiver, too. Jeremy Maclin had 108 yards receiving and 67 yards on returns for 1,670 all-purpose yards for the year, breaking tailback Devin West's 1998 school mark of 1,621.

Even Pinkel is impressed. Why is Missouri 8-1? It's simple: speed.

"This is the most perimeter athleticism I've ever had in coaching," said Pinkel, in his 34th year in the profession. "And I'm talking about Washington when we went to Rose Bowls."

Holding Charles. Colorado tailback Hugh Charles gained only 55 yards on 14 carries because Missouri had seen a pattern to his running.

"We knew Hugh Charles was a track guy and he was really fast," linebacker Van Alexander said. "But we knew that he liked to bounce it to the

outside and avoid tackles. As a defense we stressed to keep our leverage and keep everything contained, and I think it worked out well for us."

Footnotes. Not a good sign: CU's Matt DiLallo had a career-high 11 punts. ... Missouri came 2 yards shy of becoming the first team to get 600 yards in offense against CU since the Tigers did it in 1984 (639). ... The 1983 Tigers (59-20) had been the last opponent to score 50 points against CU in Boulder.

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DAILY TIMES-CALL

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QB, Tigers true to word

Daniel-guided Mizzou shreds Buffs' defense

By Patrick Ridgell

Longmont Times-Call

The Missouri quarterback spoke candidly last week when he said there were big plays for the Tigers to make on Colorado's defense. Daniel clearly knew what he was talking about, and CU couldn't do a thing about it Saturday.

No. 9 Missouri whipped the Buffs, 55-10, and hung the most points by a visitor at Folsom Field since October 1983, when Missouri scored 59. It was the Buffs' third-worst home loss in program history.

Several visiting recruits witnessed this mess, including Darrell Scott, rated the nation's top prep running back. Many of the 51,483 fans in attendance left at halftime.

While Daniel's comments applied to, and accurately predicted, how Missouri would attack CU, the Buffs' offense was as inept as its defensive counterpart. CU lost three turnovers and recorded six straight three-and-out possessions over one stretch. Missouri outgained the Buffs 598 yards to 196.

Things were ugly, indeed.

"We weren't ourselves tonight," CU linebacker Jordon Dizon said. "We were for a little bit. But the defense struggled, the offense struggled. We couldn't get anything going tonight.

"We have to find a way to get ourselves up for every single game, game in and game out. It's a 12-game season. Everyone has to realize that. With the (youth) of our team, a lot of guys don't realize that yet."

The lopsided loss eliminated CU (5-5, 3-3 Big 12) from the North division race. CU also failed to reach its sixth win and bowl eligibility.

The Buffs will try again next Saturday at Iowa State (10:30 a.m.), where the Cyclones upset Kansas State on Saturday.

While Missouri (8-1, 4-1) exposed many weaknesses, what might be most sobering for the Buffs is their belief they can play with anyone appears unjustified.

Missouri was their fourth opponent ranked in this week's top 10, but CU beat Oklahoma, almost beat Kansas and weren't embarrassed by Arizona State anything like Saturday's loss. Reality beckoned Saturday night, and this young team looked like its miles behind the Big 12's elite.

CU players disputed that.

"The belief is still there," running back Hugh Charles said. "It was a bad night for us. "We lost. Missouri is a good team. We give them all the respect. We were outcoached and they outplayed us. You have to give them respect, they're a really good team. But we're a good team, too, and you can't look down on that."



Missouri tight end Chase Coffman dives into the end zone for his first of two touchdowns of the third quarter at Folsom Field on Saturday. After CU took an early 10-7 lead, the Tigers reeled off 48 unanswered points over the final three quarters to post a 55-10 win.

Joshua Buck / Times-Call

Sparks abounded on the other side. Daniel completed passes for 72, 46, 45 and 37 yards in the first half. All were deep throws to receivers who got behind CU coverage. And each completion, either directly or indirectly, led to a Tigers score.

The Buffs provided conflicting answers about whether they expected Missouri to throw deep. Cornerback Ben Burney seemed to have a pretty good grasp of why the Tigers didn't stop throwing.

"We couldn't take care of the deep ball ... so they kept attacking us deep," he said.

Meanwhile, Missouri's defenders overwhelmed CU's offense. Byron Ellis scored on a two-yard run in the first quarter after defensive tackle George Hypolite intercepted Daniel to put the Buffs at the Tigers' 11.

From there, the Buffs committed 12 penalties, fumbled five times and generally looked lost.

Were they? Answers suggest they were.

"It seemed like after every series we'd go back to the drawing board and there was a mistake by the offensive line, somebody didn't know who to hit, or whatever," Charles said. "It happened throughout the football game."

Said freshman receiver Josh Smith: "It was strange to me. We're never that disorganized as a team. We never have that many penalties out there and stuff like that.

"Personally, I feel like we didn't get a lot of the looks we thought we were going to get from the defense. Like, plays where we thought we were going to get certain coverages, they would actually change up at the last minute.

"With us being really young, we have to learn from that. When they change something up, we still have to make something happen out there."