

JOHNNY MAJORS--HEAD COACH, UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

"We're excited about this year's schedule, which is one of the toughest in the nation. We are also preparing for what is a very special year for the University of Tennessee. This marks our 100th year of football at the university. We are calling it "100 Years of Volunteers."

"Colorado is a very exciting team, certainly one of the best our team will face all season. They have a dynamite offense and a great offensive line. Eight of their players are preseason All-Americans." They have tremendous team speed and their quarterback is one of the most exciting players in college football."

"This presents a terrific challenge for our team. It is easily the most difficult team we have ever faced in the first game of the season."

"The Colorado defense doesn't get quite the ink that the offense does, but they are good. They are a solid unit, they don't gamble much and they blitz only occasionally. And they have a lot of good athletes."

"Their kicking game is one of the best in the nation. They led the country in punting, net punting, kickoff returns and were second in punt returns. We at Tennessee take pride in our special teams. It will be a challenge we are looking forward to."

"It's hard to tell exactly where we are right now. Our overall time has been limited because of the wishbone of Colorado. We must be disciplined on defense or it could be a long day for our troops. They will come after us play after play, down after down."

"We have approached this game just like any other first game on our schedule. There is no change in our preparation. Only a few distractions, like attending Disneyland, varies our routine."



BILL MCCARTNEY

"I feel good about our team. We've had very solid practices. We are deep at some positions and others we are not. Some positions we cannot afford to lose a player.

"Since we have gone to our single practices, we have had exceptional practices. We feel our team is coming together as a unit.

"Tennessee's offense is very explosive. They are experienced and prepared and never appear to be out of control.

"Chuck Webb reminds me alot of Barry Sanders. He should have a great impact in both the college and the pros. He has all the tools. He possesses instincts and the speed to be a great back. His offensive line is well schooled and prepared.

"Last year Tennessee didn't look that great against Colorado State University in their opener, but they grew as a team. Cobb, Webb and Pickens all came into their own as the season progressed and by the end of the year, they were a very good team.

"For an opening game, this is the most difficult prospect I've ever faced. We have to keep Tennessee offense off the field as much as we can. Johnny Majors is as good a coach as there is and you can bet he will have his team ready for this game. And you can expect a few twists.

"We are very excited about coming to California since we have 30 some odd kids from the area. They are all excited to be here and being selected to come out is a tremendous honor. As a university, we would have given anything a few years back to be chosen for a game like this and now that we have the chance to play in this game, we take it with great pride. It is important for us to represent the Big 8 and perform well.

"I don't know if we can recapture what we had last year, but 23 seniors are returning and some are three and four year starters. They take pride in playing well and are goal oriented. I'm looking for them to help make us a tight knit group, but I'll find out on Sunday. With our quarterback being ill last year and then dying, we used it as a positive step to bring us together.

2-2-2

Bill McCartney

"There are so many unknowns at the beginning of the season. We graduated 10 starters off of last year's squad and we do not have the services of Eric Bieniemy, who is being held out of the game. I don't know how we will perform, but our work ethic is good and our coaching staff is intact from last season.

"This game has big stakes potential on a national level. The winner will put themselves in a good position to be at the top at the end of the year. The loser will pay a serious price.

"We still have 40 hours until the game and that is when I'll try to get our first time starters in the proper frame of mind. I believe you have to make them think positively and figure out how to win.

"One day of distractions is not alot for us to deal with. We will get back to our work ethic tomorrow (Saturday), so it shouldn't have any effect on us.

"Our schedule is very difficult this year, especially on the road. We have the opportunity to be a better football team this year, but it will take a lot of luck. Last year, we only lost one guy to injury and all the dropped balls seemed to go our way. If everything does go our way, we should be okay.

"This game is paramount for exposure on a national level. It will certainly give us a tremendous boost as far as recruiting goes. If we can accept the challenge and play well, it will be a big help to our program.

"We have to prove ourselves to the entire country again this year in order to establish respect. We need to stay on top of the situation at hand, but it is the intangibles that make up the great program. That will be the key for us."



COLORADO OG JOE GARTEN:

"We've had a lot of things to look forward to. Playing in the Pigskin Classic is a great motivator. We're missing two starters from last year's team...Both of our replacements (Russ Heasley and Ariel Solomon) are physically rugged and capable of doing a lot of things. It was a long campaign (fall drills). I think the timing is there. We have a lot of talent in the backfield. We have a lot of confidence in the guys who are playing running back. It's going to be exciting to play in this game. We haven't had the best of luck in Anaheim... and to play in the Pigskin Classic is a great challenge.

COLORADO OLB ALFRED WILLIAMS:

"Tennessee has a talented offense, they have a guy (Chuck Webb) who can make his own plays. Webb must be a pretty good back if Coach Mac compared him to Barry Sanders. The thing I'm most worried about is his lateral movement, he goes east, west then he's gone right up the field. He can move sideways with out even breaking speed. Last year was no fluke for us, I would not want to be at any other university in the country right now, knowing what we are capable of. This is one of the biggest games of my career, and I don't want to let my fans down this season.



CHUCK WEBB

"When the player got hurt, I stepped in and did the best I could. All I could do was come in and give 100 per cent.

"We've worked hard in the off-season in preparing for this season. Colorado has a very aggressive defense that will challenge us greatly. We have to come out and attack.

"We have a very good team and a very good offense. We have to come out and give it our all. If we execute, we'll win.

"We have to come out and get in synch early and play to our potential. We have to collectively come together.

"The game against UCLA last year was a definite high point. We were the underdog and we came out and played mistake free football and came away with a very big win.

"Only time will tell if we are ready for this game or not. My teammates don't hit as hard as our opponent will.

"The spotlight is not just on me, but on all of us. However, if I do well, I think we can have a good year. It still comes down to all of us playing well.

"The Heisman Trophy is very important to me. I have to go out and do my best and hope it is good enough. More importantly I have to help my team win.

"I look forward to becoming a big part of the passing attack this year. It should open up our offense alot and the defenses will not be able to key on me as they have in the past.

QUARTERBACK ANDY KELLY

"We realize that Colorado is a tough challenge. We really haven't changed anything in our preparation plans. Over the last week and a half, we've put in our plan for Colorado. We have a lot of players returning, but that's just not going to do it. We are going to have to go out and prove it. Overall, we have a chance for the top 10 if we take these games one at a time, work hard and put things together.

"As far as our game plan, we will need to control the ball, keep their offense off the field as much as possible. They have a really strong offense and they are a dangerous team. It's going to be our challenge to control the ball, move it and score points whenever possible. That's our goal everyweek. but it is especially true this week..

(Assess the defense from last year to this year) Last spring, we did what we wanted to do against our defense. From last spring to this fall, they've given us a little trouble. I think that's a positive. It is a sign they are getting better and they have improved.

"Last season, it was easy. After starting off 0-6, we had something to prove. This year, it will be the fact that we liked what we did last year and we want to get back to where we were. It was alot more fun last season than the season before. Everyone is striving to get back to the level we were at last year...or better.

"It is going to be my job to get those guys in the right place at the right time. It's not going to be my job to press and make big plays happen. If one comes my way, I need to jump on it and let it happen. I'll take advantage of it.

"I'm more confident this year. I think I've gotten better physically and mentally. The longer I play, the more I understand. Every player is that way. They get better with the more playing time they get. I got more confidence last season as the season went on and I'd like to build on it this year.

(Started last year in Alabama game) "It was frustrating before that game. I wanted to play more and get a chance to get in there and play. I prepared myself every week as if I was going to be the starter. I think it paid off. I was ready when my chance came.

"Colorado really doesn't have any glaring weaknesses on their defense. They have a couple of defense ends that are really big and really good. Our challenge to work our game plan and find things as the game goes on.

2-2-2

Andy Kelly

"We'll have a few more jitters in our first game. We'll get rid of those and pick up from last season. We are as hungry or more hungry than last year. Our off-season work has proved that.

"Our wide receivers have great speed and great hands. They rate with some of the best receivers in Tennessee history. If I get the ball close to them, they'll come down with it.

"This is the best my arm has felt in college. I feel stronger. Last year I got tired at the conclusion of two-a-days, but not this year.

"Whoever wins, this will be a good boost for their team. Any loss, a team has to be ready to bounce back and learn from their mistakes and try to improve on it. That's what we'll do if we lose, but we're not planning on doing that.

"Colorado- doesn't do a lot of disguising. They show you exactly what they are planning to do. They do it well and they are very disciplined. They are a very sound football team.

(When you weren't name the starter last year, did anything go through your mind like what happened with Bret Johnson (UCLA)). A lot of things went through my mind when he was named the starter. I thought about the fact that he has two years left and I had three. But I decided to work hard and not worry. I wanted to think that good things would happen and they did. I felt I had a commitment at Tennessee. I signed and I would do the best for the team. I talked with the coaches. They need two quarterbacks every game. I knew I would get the chance.

(What do you think about handing the ball off to somebody that has got a million dollar life insurance policy) I just hope he doesn't have to use it. Webb is a great part of our offense and he's going to carry the ball a lot. I think we have other weapons as well. If he was to go down or get hurt, we would just have to go and pick up the pieces like we lost Reggie last year. Just pick it up and go without him. Hopefully we will stay away from injuries at any position. If somebody goes down, we'll just get together and pick up the slack."

ORANGE COUNTY

SPORTS ASSOCIATION

TENNESSEE LB DARRYL HARDY:

"We've got some good athletes in the secondary. Last year, our pass defense was terrible. We play well against the run. We want Colorado to pass. Darian Hagan is a great athlete. Playing an option team, you have to have discipline. As far as quickness, Hagan is probably the best quarterback we'll face this year. We're more confident going into this season (compared to last). We've just got to take it one game at a time."

TENNESSEE OT ANTONE DAVIS:

"(Kanavis McGhee and Alfred Williams) should be great to play against. I'm looking forward to it. They've made good names for themselves and they intend to live up to it and so do I. So it will be a great challenge. It's great to block for a great player for Chuck Webb. It's good to know that even if you miss your block, he may still get through and score. I'm looking forward to playing. I'm just going to play the way I've been coached."

