

COLORADO FOOTBALL / Postgame Notes & Quotes

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Colorado Head Coach Bill McCartney

"I think that was an outstanding football team we beat. I'm real proud of our guys. Somehow through the bounce of the ball we came out with the victory. The yards were hard to find. There were so many plays in the game we could talk about, but the offense's ability to grind out chunks of real estate when we needed it was extremely important. At the end of the half to get three points helped and in the second half we got some big plays that also helped. Then we seemed to get just enough offense after that when we needed it."

"I thought the defensive effort we got was tremendous. We played hard and tried to get pressure anyway we could. We mixed our defenses more this game than we had in the past and we showed them different fronts to try and confuse them. At the end of the game it looked like they dropped a couple of passes that could have won it for them and then we got a great play from (Deon) Figures at the end to win the game."

"Hagan did a great job and so did Johnson when he was in there. When you consider the kind of pressure Hagan was under, he played remarkably well. He got hit on every option play and took tremendous punishment today. We all love CJ (Johnson) here because he's so unselfish and never complains. He always is in a subordinate role and when he came in and performed the way he did, it was great."

"We normally don't like to do it that way (using the pass to set up the run) but you have to give their guys credit. I think this game gives us significant momentum going into the Big Eight portion of our schedule. Missouri's win didn't surprise me. I told our coaching staff before the game they would win. So I think this win helps us going into Columbia next week."

"I was ready to use the fake punt a couple of times during the game. I thought it would have worked last year against them. We couldn't run it a couple of other times earlier because we were either at midfield or had a fourth and long situation. We used it because we thought it would work."

"I thought Washington was a real good team and I think the polls will recognize that. I can't say enough about Washington. They have superb athletes and I think they'll have a great season. I think we were very fortunate to come out of here today with a win."

"I thought our secondary really came off the ball well and mixed coverages well. I saw a lot of improvement from them today. The only criticism I have is the missed tackles that led to 40-yard gains. There were times we tried to take a guy's head off when we should have been going for an important tackle. That happened on a few occasions."

Colorado Players, continued

TB Eric Bieniemy

"We knew it was going to be a tough game. Washington was just playing really tough "D", on us. We came out in the second half and just started wearing them down a bit."

ON CU DEFENSE'S GOAL LINE STAND—"There is nothing you can do but trust your players. I trust our defense and I know when it comes down to winning, we're going to win."

GENERAL—"We're ready for the Big Eight. We take on week at a time, and we'll celebrate this one then start thinking about Missouri."

ON HIS FUMBLE—"I'm just glad the defense played as well as they did. They saved us. I hate to put the defense in that position. They trusted in me and I blew it. But the defense made up for it."

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Washington Head Coach Don James

On the last drive:

"We considered a draw, it was the one thing but with two time outs, and not having 3 down there, we thought we might have taken a run out of there. I think realistically we felt like for us to win the game we thought we'd probably have to throw it."

On the emotion of the game:

"It was two pretty good football teams. We had it, they had it. We got it back a little bit. They got it back. It was a good college football game. There was a lot of hitting. It was as physical as any game we've been in this year. There were a lot of good athletes out there."

On CU's offense:

"It started right before the half. They put together a little drive. They seemed to do a little more out of their I (formation) and not try so much option. They had a couple of real key passes off of that (final series of first half) series. Earlier, it looked like we were really jamming up the inside. We were trying to force them outside. They recognized that, and went to the option. Bienemy, one on one out in the open field is kind of a mismatch."

On Washington's play:

"They played a heck of a game. They played a good football team. They're (Washington) one of the better teams in the country. They played on the road and played well. We gave ourselves an opportunity to win it right to the end."

On this year's game compared to last year:

"A year ago we didn't even compare with this team. I'm not ready to say that they were as good as they were last year. They were a great team last year. Probably, a little bit ahead (of this year). But, I felt like they could get to where they were last year. I think they have enough talent. They're a good team."

On Washington's running attack:

"I was a little disappointed in our running game. I thought we should have been able to run it a little better, a little more consistently."

On Charles Johnson's play:

"He's a pretty good player. He looks a lot like Darian. He made a real key pass completion right on the money. Our coverage was about as good as it could be, too."

On CU's punt fake:

"We have a guy who's supposed to look for it. He didn't see it. He left. That was a big play. We were out of that drive twice. That's not very alert football."

On the play of Mark Brunell:

"He overthrew a couple early, but came back, settled down. One thing about it, they've got two gigantic book end defensive lineman, and they were in his face a couple times. More than a couple times."

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Colorado Players

WR MIKE PRITCHARD

"They were pressuring us; we figured if we could hit them with a couple of passes, we could loosen them up. We also had great protection."

"The line protection was the key in the second half; we were able to run the ball like we wanted to towards the end of the game."

"Charles Johnson stepped in and did the things that Hagan would have. We always have confidence in Charles."

OLB KANAVIS MCGHEE

"It was a real big game for us to get a win, with them being 12 and us 20. This is the point where we can start our season like new, continue to work harder each week and get better and better."

"We were able to get good pressure on him (Brunnel). We got our hands in his face, and he wasn't able to make the throws. We didn't get any sacks, but sacks are just a bonus. We got good pressure and did our job."

On the goal line stand: "It was time for us to suck it up. We knew that if we could stop them on third down, they would have to throw on fourth. We were able to get good pressure on him, and he made a poor throw, and Deon was able to pull it down."

P TOM ROUEN

On the fake punt: "I thought it was great, I've always wanted to throw the ball, and I finally got my opportunity. I'm just glad it worked the way it did."

"No, he didn't touch the ball, I kicked it right over his hand and he crushed my foot. I don't know how the referee could have missed it."

RCB DEON FIGURES

"The last drive was critical for us. We had to bear down and keep them out of the end zone. We knew that we probably wouldn't have a chance to get the ball again."

On the interception: "On third down he tried to run inside, but on fourth down he lined up outside. I had a feeling they were going to try to throw the fade, I just watched his eyes, and when I turned around the ball was right there."

SS TIM JAMES

"We knew we just had to keep them out of the end zone, We had to suck it up, and make the plays. We really had to work hard, because we were dead tired. It was gut check time. It came down to if they score, we lose."

On the last drive: "We had a couple of busted coverages. We just made the wrong call, and they were able to split us. Some of the plays really crossed us up, but we were able to recover and keep them out of the end zone."

QB DARIAN HAGAN

"It was really tough for me to stand on the sidelines and watch, I really wanted to be out there. I guess the good Lord just wanted me to be on the sidelines, but He was with us, and we pulled it out."

"It was a tough break, but it's only a minor sprain, hopefully I'll be back in a week."

"It was a big win because they were No. 12, it gave us the chance to get back where we belong. Now it's time for us to look ahead and play the way we know how."

QB CHARLES JOHNSON

"I get a great deal of reps with the first team, so coach (McCartney) has me prepared well. Thank God things turned out the way they did."

"The offense has a lot of confidence in me, so I have a lot of confidence in them."

"The first down play (in the fourth quarter) was a double option. The cornerback split Bieniemy and me, so I cut in and got the first down."

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Washington Players

SE MARIO BAILEY

"We've got to be happy with the effort. With a victory, we would have been in contention for the National Championship, not just the Rose Bowl."

"He (Tim James) hit my neck and my Adams Apple. I had to catch my breath and let him know that he couldn't take me out of the game."

"This let's us know that we can play with anyone. We want to go to the Rose Bowl, and this will pump us up."

TB GREG LEWIS

"We did a decent job, but we had mistakes inside the 20 yardline and we came away empty."

"It is a disappointing loss, but we still have a Pac-10 championship to win."

C ED CUNNINGHAM

"When you get inside their 30 that many times, you just have to come away with points and we obviously didn't. I am real disappointed in that. When you get that close against a good defense you have to put sevens on the board. I am very frustrated, and I'm sure that is something we will work on this week."

QB MARK BRUNELL - ON THE FINAL DRIVE

"They were all good plays and we just could not come up with it. The last throw was a bad ball and it was picked by a guy in the end zone. Those are things you learn from and you get better from and next week we are going to have to capitalize on those mistakes and come out a better football team. I considered running when I got outside on all of the plays but the receivers were open. We just did not complete it."

DT STEVE ENTMAN - ON THE FAKE PUNT, INT/ FUMBLE

"It takes all the air out of you. That was three times in a row that we went out and then came right back in."

"The game was about as close as they come, they just got more breaks. We had a great game, it just comes down to a few big plays. Give them credit, it is a good ball club that we played today."

MG TYRONE ROGERS - ON THE FAKE PUNT

"We made a big mistake on special teams when they faked the punt and got the first down. When we made mistakes they capitalized on them, and that is why they ended up on top."

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Colorado-Washington Postgame Notes

- The opening scoring drive by Washington was their longest, time-wise, of the season, as 15 plays consumed 8:30 on the clock. The previous was 6:44 against Purdue.
- Today's attendance of 52,868 is the ninth largest crowd in Folsom Field history, and the third largest since the expansion of the teamhouse in 1979 and the elimination of the northeast bleachers in 1982. It is also the largest attendance in Folsom Field history against a non-Big Eight opponent.
- Colorado now has opened the year with two 50,000-plus crowds at home for the first time since 1974 (and only the third time ever). The Buffs are averaging 51,769 after two games, a figure if which holds up would break CU's record for attendance per game for a season (51,174 in 1972). With CU sold out for the year, the only tickets that will be for sale for the remainder of the four home games are those returned by opponents.
- Colorado has now trailed at the onset of all five games this season. The Buffaloes scored after spotting leads to Tennessee (0-7), Stanford (0-14), Illinois (0-3), Texas (0-7) and now Washington (0-7). Only Illinois and Washington scored on their first possessions.
- The last time Colorado trailed in a game at home after it held a lead was the Oklahoma game in 1988 (CU led 14-7 before succumbing, 17-14). The Buffs had played nine in a row at Folsom without trailing after taking a lead until today.
- Tom Rouen's 24-yard pass to Paul Rose on the fake punt was the first passing attempt by a CU punter since Barry Helton attempted one against Stanford in 1987 (he was intercepted). CU punters are now three of their last four, as Helton hit Mickey Pruitt for a 17-yard gainer against Missouri in 1986, to go with a 31-yard touchdown pass to Jon Embree in the 1985 Freedom Bowl against Washington. Thus, CU punters have completed two straight against the Huskies.
- The last time CU had three different players complete passes in a game was in 1988 against Oklahoma State. In a 41-21 loss, Sal Aunese (five completions), Darian Hagan (two) and Marc Walters (one) all completed throws. Today, Hagan, Charles Johnson and Tom Rouen did it (the last time three quarterbacks did it was against Notre Dame in 1984... Steve Vogel, Craig Keenan and Chuck Page).
- Colorado has now won 10 straight games at home, in the process snapping a four-game road winning streak by Washington. The Buffs are now 8-0 on the new turf at Folsom, and the 10 game streak is the longest since a similar streak between 1970 and 1972. The all-time mark is 12.
- Tim James' interception, his fourth of the season, gives him 11 for his career and he now stands all alone in third place on the CU interception list. Only John Stearns (16) and Dick Anderson (14) are ahead of him.
- **COLORADO INJURY REPORT:** QB Darian Hagan (left shoulder sprain; probable for Missouri); OT Joe Garten (left knee sprain; returned to play) DT Leonard Renfro (left knee sprain; probable) LB Greg Biekert (mild concussion, reinjured left shoulder; probable) CB David Gibbs (mild concussion, definite for Missouri).
- The defense thrived on first downs today... Washington held Colorado to two yards or less on 20 of 33 first down plays, while CU held UW 17 of 27 times. Colorado averaged 4.5 for the game on first down, while Washington averaged 3.0.
- Washington was 6-of-6 on third and three or less, but was 1-8 on third and four or more, and was 1-7 passing on third downs.
- Washington scored on only two of five penetrations of the CU 20 (TD, TD, FGA, INT, INT).
- Darian Hagan is now tied for 15th on CU's all-time scoring chart (126 points). The two touchdowns today were his first scores of the year.
- Eric Bieniemy now has 2,830 career rushing yards, and he is now in position to break the all-time record as early as next week. He needs just 129 to pass Charlie Davis' total of 2,958 set between 1971-73.