

WEEK TWELVE

UTAH AT COLORADO

No. 21 Utah handles slow start, snow and Colorado 30-7

BOULDER, Colo. -- Jason Shelley threw for 221 yards and two touchdowns in the snow, leading No. 21 Utah to a 30-7 win over Colorado on Saturday and slinging the Utes closer to their first Pac-12 title game appearance.

The Utes (8-3, 6-3) can clinch their first Pac-12 South title if Arizona State loses at Oregon later Saturday or if the Sun Devils lose to Arizona next week.

A sixth consecutive loss for the Buffaloes (5-6, 2-6) capped a week in which athletic director Rick George said he hadn't made any decisions regarding coach Mike MacIntyre's employment amid a news report that his job was in jeopardy.

MacIntyre brought a photo of a bison heading into a storm into his weekly news conference, a metaphor that was both apt and prescient -- freezing drizzle ahead of a snowstorm turned the first half of the 500th game played at Folsom Field into a sloppy mess that resulted in a 7-7 first-half yawner.

While the Buffs continue to stagger through their worst injury epidemic in 33 years, the Utes won for the second straight week after losing QB Tyler Huntley and star running back Zack Moss to season-ending injuries.

"Jason Shelley, another solid performance, showed a lot of poise again," Utes coach Kyle Whittingham said. "Just a very confident kid."

Colorado, which started out 5-0, fell to 0-9 over the last two years when playing for bowl eligibility.

Despite losing star defender Chase Hansen on a targeting call in the first quarter, the Utes stymied Colorado's offense even as quarterback Steven Montez had his full complement of receivers available for the first time in two months.

The Buffs managed just 19 yards in the third quarter, when the Utes took control with a 17-0 run.

"It was just better execution," Whittingham said. "We did have some guys change cleats in the second half. ... But, no, nothing major, nothing drastic as far as wholesale change."

Matt Gay gave Utah its first lead with a 33-yard field goal, Shelley threw a 47-yard TD to fellow freshman Jaylen Dixon and Armand Shyne ran it in from a yard out to make it 24-7.

"We just couldn't make a tackle," Buffaloes linebacker Rick Gamboa said.

Shyne's 55 yards on 17 carries led a Utah ground game that outpaced Colorado's 169 yards to 34.

Travon McMillian gave the Buffaloes a 7-0 lead with a 13-yard touchdown run on the same drive Hansen was ejected for a helmet-to-helmet hit on Montez -- a ruling that surprised players, coaches and Pac-12 Network broadcasters.

Strong safety Marquise Blair's interception on Colorado's next drive turned momentum and four plays later, Shelley hit Samson Nacua from 10 yards out to tie it at 7.

Held to 84 yards on 13-of-22 passing, Montez left the game in the second half with a sprained right ankle.

THE TAKEAWAY

Utah: After a slow start, the Utes flexed their muscles in the snow and rallied around the loss of Hansen to win for the second straight week behind backups at QB and RB.

Colorado: Fast starts have not been the problem for Colorado; it's crumbling after the break. They've managed just one field goal in the fourth quarters of their last five games. Yet they can still salvage their season and maybe MacIntyre's job with a win at Cal next weekend.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

The Utes are a dangerous, deep team that will stay in the AP Top 25 as they continue rolling toward their 13th bowl under Whittingham, whose 11-1 bowl record is the best in NCAA history.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
UTAH	0	7	17	6	30
COLO	7	0	0	0	7

Scoring Summary -----

	UTAH	COLO
FIRST QUARTER		
COLO TD 2:04 Travon McMillian 13 Yd Run (James Stefanou Kick)	0	7
7 plays, 70 yards, 2:43		
second Quarter		
UTAH TD 9:54 Samson Nacua 10 Yd pass from Jason Shelley (Matt Gay Kick)	7	7
4 plays, 80 yards, 1:09		
third Quarter		
UTAH FG 7:37 Matt Gay 33 Yd Field Goal	10	7
13 plays, 63 yards, 5:29		
UTAH TD 4:57 Jaylen Dixon 47 Yd pass from Jason Shelley (Matt Gay Kick)	17	7
2 plays, 59 yards, 0:36		
UTAH TD 0:50 Armand Shyne 1 Yd Run (Matt Gay Kick)	24	7
7 plays, 53 yards, 2:27		
fourth Quarter		
UTAH FG 12:43 Matt Gay 31 Yd Field Goal	27	7
6 plays, 15 yards, 2:24		
UTAH FG 8:09 Matt Gay 51 Yd Field Goal	30	7
4 plays, 2 yards, 1:39		

	UTAH	COLO
Team Stats		
First Downs	19	14
Total Yards	390	196
Total Plays	70	67
Avg Gain Per Play	5.6	2.9
Net Yards Rushing	169	34
Rushes	47	34
Yards Per Rush	3.6	1.0
Net Yards Passing	221	162
Comp-Att	11-23	21-33
Yards Per Pass	9.6	4.9
Times Sacked	1	6
Yds Lost To Sacks	-6	-38
Interceptions	0	2
Punts	7	7
Punt Average	37.6	41.3
Penalties	5	4
Penalty Yards	64	38
Fumbles	2	4
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Possession	30:49	29:11

Individual Stats

RUSHING

UTAH	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
6 Armand Shyne	17	55	3.2	20	1
4 TJ Green	9	43	4.8	12	0
18 Britain Covey	4	35	8.8	12	0
15 Jason Shelley	9	29	3.2	23	0
22 Devin Brumfield	4	7	1.8	8	0
27 Mason Woodward	1	3	3.0	3	0
12 Drew Lisk	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
32 Joey Wood	2	-2	-1.0	1	0

COLO

	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
34 Travon McMillian	13	41	3.2	13	1
1 Donovan Lee	2	9	4.5	5	0
21 Kyle Evans	4	2	0.5	4	0
2 Laviska Shenault Jr.	1	0	0.0	0	0
38 Brady Russell	1	0	0.0	0	0
12 Steven Montez	7	-2	-0.3	9	0
14 Jay MacIntyre	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0
7 Tyler Lytle	4	-14	-3.5	8	0

PASSING

UTAH	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
15 Jason Shelley	11	23	221	9.6	2	0	157.2
COLO	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
12 Steven Montez	13	22	84	3.8	0	1	82.1
7 Tyler Lytle	4	5	55	11.0	0	1	132.4
4 Sam Noyer	4	6	23	3.8	0	0	98.9

RECEIVING

UTAH	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
25 Jaylen Dixon	4	125	31.3	61	1
89 Cole Fotheringham	2	37	18.5	19	0
18 Britain Covey	1	19	19.0	19	0
8 Siaoisi Mariner	1	15	15.0	15	0
45 Samson Nacua	1	10	10.0	10	1
7 Demari Simpkins	1	8	8.0	8	0
22 Devin Brumfield	1	7	7.0	7	0
COLO	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Laviska Shenault Jr.	9	64	7.1	19	0
9 Juwann Winfree	3	54	18.0	33	0
3 K.D. Nixon	3	19	6.3	13	0
17 Kabion Ento	2	10	5.0	7	0
14 Jay MacIntyre	2	8	4.0	11	0
34 Travon McMillian	2	7	3.5	8	0