

October 1 - Roughriders at Stampeders

Written by Administrator
Saturday, 01 October 2011 03:38

I have a feeling this is going to be really tough to do in a couple of weeks. I think we've blown our shot at a playoff with that last "game" against the Lions.

We now need to see a team that has gone 4-8 need to suddenly go 5-1 to end the year.

Even if we keep up what we've done under Miller, the team will be around 4-2 to end the season, and that won't be enough.

The Riders now come into Calgary to play a team, where if we look at the entire month of September instead of one game, is playing worse than the Riders.

Something has to give this week.

Offense

Quarterbacks:

Darian and Hank are having similar seasons. Lots of ups and downs. Lots of criticisms from their own fan base and media.

The stats are very similar too, right down to having the exact same number of yards.

Both guys are capable of big plays and are at their best when then they use their legs.

Both guys also have a tendency to turn the ball over too much for their level of experience.

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Going back to last week, I can't see why Darian went to the wide side out so much, especially with Ryan Phillips playing out there.

Even

Running backs:

There are more similarities at this position with both teams as well. Since 2009, the debate has raged in Saskatchewan on whether Wes Cates should be our starting running back anymore.

My thoughts are that at best he should be splitting time in the backfield.

Calgary's Joffrey Reynolds appears to have hit that wall that some running backs who have been workhorses do and have his production fall off dramatically.

The best recent example of this is Charles Roberts.

Roberts won't play again this week so it will be Calgary's biggest [rf.com](#) supporter Jon Cornish starting, backed up by Larry Coker.

Edge Stampeders

Receivers:

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It's really indicative of the way this season has gone for the Riders. We get Andy Fantuz back, and in his second game when he should really be finding his groove, he suffers an ankle sprain.

It sounds like he will be out again this week.

The only reason I can think of for Brian Robinson to still be considered in the mix has to be because Dallas Baker is a little banged up as well.

The other receivers will be the usual:

Dressler, Getzlaf,

Koch, Hill, and Clermont.

Koch will be back at his short side wr spot that he played down the stretch last year.

Dressler and Getzlaf will man the middle with Robinson outside.

It's a case of good news / bad news for the Calgary receivers.

The good news is Nik Lewis near the top of the standings as usual and the emergence of John Forzani and Jabari Arthur as Canadian receivers.

The bad news is until last week, Rombi Bryant and Hank haven't been able to get on the same page.

This would have been different if Andy was in.

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Offensive line:

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This is an area where at this point in the year, unless something is going terribly wrong, there isn't a whole lot to say. The only comment is that we've seen some bad snaps this year, but for the first time we got disastrously hurt by it. I think that play was the turning point against the Lions.

We had survived two long Lions drives and it was only 6-0, and the Riders had driven to midfield.

Instead of cutting the gap

or taking the lead, suddenly the Lions were in position to go up 13-0 and that's what they did.

As Greg Estabrooks would say "game over".

Calgary's line has been unsettled all year due to injuries. They do have Edwin Harrison back at tackle after missing most of the first part of the year.

Dimitri Tsoumpas is their anchor at guard.

Centre Jon Gott missed practice and is questionable for Saturday.

Backup Tim O'Neill has played their before.

Edge Riders

Defense

Defensive line:

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Again, there's not a lot here to rehash. For better or worse it looks like Willis had beat out Lemon at one DE spot. Really the only question is any of the new recruits going to get some playing time later in the year?

Joffrey Reynolds was not the only Stampeders veteran who sat out last week.

DT DeVone Claybrooks sat as well. The Stamps seem to be doing a line by committee.

For the most part, Charleston Hughes has been a fixture at end, with Justin Philips and Junior Turner filling in.

We've been pretty upset with our line's production, but have you seen Calgary's numbers?

They actually have less sacks than us and roughly the same ave per rush against.

Even

Linebackers:

Despite a scare earlier in practice, Freeman is good to go this week. I also heard that Chris Graham was getting a lot of reps at outside and middle linebacker.

I would love to see him get some action, but I am guessing it won't happen until, well, you know.

Whether we see Lucas or Patrick at the other LB spot will depend on Lance Frazier's health.

Due to some injuries, Juwan Simpson hasn't had the same kind of year that he did last year. I don't believe the Riders saw him in either game in August. Malik Jackson is more of a hitter at one OLB spot with Brandon Isaac more of a cover guy.

Due to some uncertainty at who will line up for the Riders,

Slight Edge Stampeders

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Secondary:

We were in bad enough shape missing a startling member of our secondary with Frazier out last week. It's never a good time to get tossed from a game, but under those circumstances, it was unforgivable for Nick Graham to lose his cool and let that happen. Unfortunately the one big play the Lions hit was on James Patrick playing out of position in Frazier's spot. Lance is questionable so Patrick may have to fill in there again, unless the Riders give Eddie Russ a shot.

Whether it's due to doing a good job of replacing guys or Chris Jones's system, the Stampeders have replaced Anderson and Browner more than adequately with Tisdale and Fassitt. Keon Raymond is one of the league leaders in picks while Brandon Isaac usually draws the best slot on the opposition. This is a feast or famine group. The Stamps can lock you down with their aggressive play, but they can also beat your over the top.

Slight Edge

Stampeders

Special teams

Return game:

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It's nice to see other teams struggling more in this area than the Riders. The Stamps gave up a TD to Thigpen last week off a missed FG.

As Stronson pointed out on the site, the Riders are near the top of the league in giving up return yards and our ave per return has been getting better and better.

Taylor is probably out again for the Stamps with Cocker playing in his place.

I figure West and Jackson will handle our returns again.

Edge Riders

Placekicking:

After assuming he'd be back by Banjo Bowl, Luca is nowhere to be found. I guess the practice goers would have a better idea on whether he's actually ready and not being given the chance or still hurt. One

small piece of good news, Milo went one for one last week.

One of these days we will have to take the training wheels off and let him try a 45-50 yard kick.

After a great start Rene Paredes's numbers have come down to under 80%.

I am kind of surprised that Rob Maver hasn't been given a chance to get in a game and win his job back.

Even

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Punting:

I continue to be impressed by Milo's punting. Along with getting more distance that I thought he could on his kicks, he's also proven to be very good at placing the ball inside the 20.

The bad news last week was after pinning the Lions deep we promptly let them go 100 yards in one play.

Burke Dales continues to hum along with a 47 yard average.

Nothing new to say about him.

Edge Stampeders

When the Riders have the ball

The good news is that it won't take much to improve on last week's performance. It was a nice story for a few weeks that we were functioning with an "offensive coordinator by committee".

It was good that Darian had to take on more responsibility and the offense was functioning better than for the first 8 games.

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But the reality is that this is a stop-gap measure.

The reality is we need an offensive coordinator, and in my opinion a QB coach as well.

My kingdom for a fast start to a game offensively. Disclaimer...if we score an offensive TD on the first series, I don't have an actual kingdom to trade.

The last two times I can think of where we had good starts were in Edmonton in October (where we lost anyway so maybe it's overrated) and in Toronto last year.

Maybe we are already doing this, but scripting our first 10 play etc would be a pretty good idea.

Hugh Charles had a couple of good games against the Stamps earlier this year. Based on that I would think either him or Brandon West could have some success.

I shouldn't be unfair to Wes Cates and assume only the speedy backs will have success.

Cates missed the summer games.

We should try and get him the ball on swing passes vs slamming him between the tackles all game, which is pretty much setting us up in second and long.

We have seen the Chris Jones defense enough to know what the Stamps like to do. They play tight on receivers and bring pressure.

Our receivers have to be prepared to fight through that coverage, and we have to be willing to take some shots down the field.

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The Stamps are big on taking away your main receiver. I expect them to focus on Dressler.

That should leave room for Getlaf in the middle.

We've had success with Calgary in the past against their blitz by using the quick hitch passes.

Carey Koch had success with those plays from the short side WR spot.

That play could be big if we can even get one good block.

The last few times we've played the Stamps, they've paid extra attention to Darian's running. Look for one of the linebacker to spy him.

When the Stampeders have the ball

Want to know why the Stamps are sitting at 7-5 despite putting up some decent offensive numbers? The Stamps are as bad as the Riders in turnover differential. Now take turnovers on loss of down out, since we have a lot more of those due to playing from behind. Just looking at fumbles and interceptions, the Stamps have turned the ball over more than the Riders.

Of course this didn't happen in the two games this summer in Regina.

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We will see a different type of running game from the Stamps. Cornish and Cocker are faster / slasher type runners that Reynolds.

I can see a lot of pitch type plays designed to go to the outside.

This might mean less of the search play that Burris and Reynolds have run so well in the past.

Our linebacker and ends are going to have to be fast to outflank the Stamps blockers and backs to turn that play back inside.

We'll also need decent run support from our corners on those plays.

Going back to the first matchup, Hank made a living off us with short routes. It seemed like the Stamps were forever in 2

nd

and 3, 2 etc.

I expect them to come out and do the same thing again, especially with the team struggling as of late.

We also have an issue with Lance Frazier's health.

You can bet the Stamps will go after that spot with Lewis and Rambo, even if Frazier is in to see if he is healthy.

We can't forget Jabari Arthur either who burned us earlier this year in Regina.

Tackling will be a key on those short routes as we can't let those plays turn into big gains by taking wrong angles or whiffing.

The key is Hank. We have to keep him from getting outside where he can really make plays. We need to spy him in the middle to as he will call his own number and take off up the middle too. If we can get in his face, he still remains the same old Hank and will put the ball up for grabs.

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Outlook

There really isn't any reason to expect a win in this game. The Riders have to go on the road the week after a deflating loss in a big home game. Calgary should be coming out desperate after a couple of bad games in a row.

We've seen this scenario play out before and Calgary has had a knack of taking it out on us when they were on a downswing.

So here's what you do since the odds are stacked against this team, and I don't see them winning. Go out there and play a sports select ticket picking the Riders to win.

My score: Stampeders 27 Roughriders 23

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Но никто ему "[Ю олеша три толстяка краткое содержание](#) "больше не верил,
даже он сам.

Обезумев, они атаковали лишь с помощью своих кривых сабель.

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