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COLORADO FOOTBALL: 2007 LETTER-OF-INTENT DAY NOTES & BIOS / INFORMATION

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QUICKLY

It's the 2007 edition of national letter-of-intent day, as high school seniors around the nation were allowed to sign on the dotted line starting at 7:00 a.m. local time on Wednesday, February 7... The signed letters are express mailed in, but can be confirmed by FAX... The full team total cannot exceed 85 scholarships at any point, or a maximum 25 qualifiers any single year... The NCAA maximum is 56 recruiting visits allowed; the Buffs "banked" two from last year, so of the 58 Colorado had for the 2007 class, the Buffs have utilized 50 to date... The list of signees and their biographies are later in this packet.

NAMES & NUMBERS

Here's a look at the preliminary roster numbers when taking a look at the 2007 University of Colorado football roster:

Lettermen Returning: 41 (19 offense, 19 defense, 3 specialists)

Lettermen Lost: 27 (12 offense, 13 defense, 2 specialist)

Starters Returning (16)—Offense 9: WR Alvin Barnett (9/8), FB Maurice Cantrell (5/5), TB Hugh Charles (19/7), TE Riar Geer (9/9), OG Edwin Harrison (16/9), QB Bernard Jackson (11/11), OT Tyler Polumbus (15/12), OG Daniel Sanders (15/11), WR Patrick Williams (7/7). **Defense 7:** ILB Jordon Dizon (34/11), SS Lionel Harris (6/6), DT George Hypolite (8/8), OLB Brad Jones (11/11), NT Brandon Nicolas (11/11), FS Ryan Walters (10/10), CB Terrence Wheatley (19/12). (*Career/2006 starts in parenthesis; calculated by those with six-plus starts or starting at the end of 2006.*)

Others Returning With Significant Starting Experience (6; min. 3 career starts)— CB Cha'pelle Brown (4/4), WR Cody Crawford (3/3), TE Tyson DeVree (3/3), TB Byron Ellis (5/4), DE Maurice Lucas (7/1), WR Dusty Sprague (13/2).

Others Returning With Significant Position Game Experience (10; two or fewer career starts)—WR DE Alonzo Barrett, DT Jason Brace, FS Benjamin Burney, ILB Marcus Burton, FB Samson Jagoras, DT Taj Kaynor, WR Chase McBride, WR Stephone Robinson, ILB Joe Sanders, ILB Michael Sipili.

Starters Lost (9)—Offense 3: OG Brian Daniels (45/12), C Mark Fenton (31/5), C Bryce MacMartin (7/7). **Defense 6:** S J.J. Billingsley (37/6), DE Walter Boye-Doe (15/12), CB Lorenzo Sims (31/6), CB Terry Washington (9/6), ILB Thaddeus Washington (31/8), DE Abraham Wright (27/11).

Others Lost With Significant Starting/Playing Experience (9)—S Dominique Brooks (13/0), QB James Cox (19/3), TE Paul Creighton (2/2), TE Dan Goettsch (4/4), TB Mell Holliday (1/1), WR/H Nick Holz (2/2), DE Alex Ligon (20/9), WR Blake Mackey (3/0), OG Jack Tipton (6/2).

Specialists Returning (3)—PK Kevin Eberhart, KR Stephone Robinson, SN Justin Drescher.

Specialists Lost (2)—PK Mason Crosby, H Nick Holz.

Base Spring Roster (78 players/58 scholarship)—17 seniors, 23 juniors, 18 sophomores, 20 freshmen (17 redshirt/3 true).

HONOR CANDIDATES TO WATCH

Looking ahead to this fall, there are a few Colorado players who should be in the mix for some individual honors. Heading the list are **CB Terrence Wheatley**, a likely *Thorpe Award* candidate, and **ILB Jordon Dizon**, expected to be in the hunt for the *Butkus Award*. Both should be on most preseason All-America lists as well. **TB Hugh Charles**, on the official watch list for the *Doak Walker Award* in 2006, should again be on that list in 2007. Players like **TE Riar Geer**, **OL Edwin Harrison**, **DT George Hypolite**, **QB Bernard Jackson**, **OLB Brad Jones**, **NT Brandon Nicolas**, **OT Tyler Polumbus**, **OG Daniel Sanders** and **FS Ryan Walters**, among others, could emerge as All-Big 12 Conference candidates (or even All-America) with breakout seasons.

2007 SCHEDULE

series

S 1	Colorado State (Denver)	57-19-2
S 8	at Arizona State	0-1-0
S 15	FLORIDA STATE	0-1-0
S 22	MIAMI-OHIO	0-0-0
S 29	*OKLAHOMA (Homecoming)	16-39-2
O 6	*at Baylor	8-6-0
O 13	*at Kansas State	43-18-1
O 20	*KANSAS (Family Weekend)	41-22-3
O 27	*at Texas Tech	4-4-0
N 3	*MISSOURI	31-37-3
N 10	*at Iowa State	47-13-1
N 23	*NEBRASKA (ABC, 10:00 a.m.)	17-46-2
D 1	Big 12 Championship (at San Antonio, Texas)	
*—Big 12 Conference game; OPEN WEEK: Nov. 17.		

2006 RESULTS

(Won 2, Lost 10; 2-6 Big 12)

S 2	MONTANA STATE	L 10-19	45,513
S 9	Colorado State (Denver)	L 10-14	65,701
S 16	ARIZONA STATE	L 3-21	47,723
S 23	at Georgia	L 13-14	92,746
S 30	*at Missouri	L 13-28	57,824
O 7	*BAYLOR (Homecoming) (3 OT)	L 31-34	47,065
O 14	*TEXAS TECH (Family Weekend)	W 30-6	50,233
O 21	*at Oklahoma	L 3-24	84,443
O 28	*at Kansas	L 15-20	39,313
N 4	*KANSAS STATE	L 21-34	42,696
N 11	*IOWA STATE	W 33-16	43,056
N 24	*at Nebraska	L 14-37	85,800
*—Big 12 Conference game.			

RECRUITING REVIEW

Over the past 35 years, the bulk of CU's recruits have come primarily from three states: Colorado (218), California (187) and Texas (100). Here is a look at CU's **high school only** recruiting numbers since 1973, the year students were again able to participate as freshmen. It includes signed recruits who might not have reported to campus for whatever reason, unless that player signed again and counted toward a subsequent class; this prevents double counting. (*—denotes how many members of the class were future NFL draft picks; 1 in every 5.6 CU recruits since 1973 has been drafted into the pros):

Year	Coach On Signing Day	Total	Colo.	Calif.	Texas	Other States	JC	NDP*
2007	Dan Hawkins	23 (1)	4	7	0	2—Florida, Hawai'i, Pennsylvania, Tennessee; 1—Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana	4	—
2006	Dan Hawkins	20	4	6	2	2—Hawaii; 1—Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, New Jersey, Washington (1—Samoa)	2	—
2005	Gary Barnett	21 (1)	9	6	1	2—Florida; 1—Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska	4	—
2004	Gary Barnett	17 (1)	2	4	2	3—Michigan; 2—Hawaii; 1—Alabama, Iowa, Louisiana, Oklahoma	1	—
2003	Gary Barnett	23 (1)	5	4	8	2—Tennessee; 1—Alabama, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma	2	—
2002	Gary Barnett	28 (2)	7	6	10	3—Louisiana; 2—Illinois; 1—Kansas, Wisconsin	2	2
2001	Gary Barnett	13	7	1	3	1—Hawai'i (1—Canada)	4	2
2000	Gary Barnett	19	8	3	2	1—Arizona, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana (2—Canada)	5	2
1999	Gary Barnett	16	6	3	1	1—Arkansas, Hawai'i, Idaho, Illinois, Washington, Wisconsin	2	0
1998	Rick Neuheisel	20	1	9	5	1—Alaska, Florida, Hawai'i, Oregon, Washington	1	5
1997	Rick Neuheisel	22	5	9	3	2—Arizona, Washington; 1—Missouri	1	5
1996	Rick Neuheisel	21	3	9	3	1—Arizona, Hawai'i, Maryland, Ohio, South Dakota, Washington	0	3
1995	Rick Neuheisel	22	5	10	5	1—Arizona, Tennessee	0	2
1994	Bill McCartney	18	3	6	2	3—Michigan; 1—Florida, Illinois, Oklahoma, Tennessee	0	1
1993	Bill McCartney	20	7	2	2	2—Louisiana; 1—D.C., Ga., Hawai'i, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada (1—Samoa)	0	5
1992	Bill McCartney	25	5	4	4	3—Louisiana; 1—Arizona, Hawai'i, Illinois, Mich., Minn., Mo., Ohio, Wyo. (1—Samoa)	1	10
1991	Bill McCartney	20	4	3	5	2—Louisiana; 1—Arizona, Florida, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, Utah	2	9
1990	Bill McCartney	20	6	5	4	3—Louisiana; 1—Michigan (1—Canada)	3	7
1989	Bill McCartney	20 (1)	8	7	1	2—Michigan; 1—Mississippi, Ohio	1	4
1988	Bill McCartney	22	3	8	2	2—Idaho; 1—Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, Washington	4	5
1987	Bill McCartney	12	1	5	3	2—Nevada; 1—Missouri	0	6
1986	Bill McCartney	23	7	12	2	2—Missouri	0	6
1985	Bill McCartney	23	9	6	2	3—Missouri; 2—Nevada; 1—Kansas	0	0
1984	Bill McCartney	22	12	6	2	1—Illinois, Nebraska	7	1
1983	Bill McCartney	24	11	3	0	3—Missouri; 2—Florida, 1—Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio	3	4
1982	Chuck Fairbanks	13	10	1	0	1—Arizona, Nevada	15	1
1981	Chuck Fairbanks	24	3	8	8	2—North Carolina, Pennsylvania; 1—Oklahoma	3	2
1980	Chuck Fairbanks	25	6	7	0	2—Illinois, Pennsylvania; 1—Florida, Idaho, Michigan, Missouri, N.C., N.M., Oregon, Wash.	3	5
1979	*Bob Cortese	24	9	4	2	2—New York; 1—Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington	5	0
1978	Bill Mallory	28	5	3	1	7—Florida; 3—Illinois; 2—Oklahoma, Washington; 1—Mo., Neb., Nevada, N.M., Ohio	2	0
1977	Bill Mallory	21	10	5	0	2—Illinois; 1—Arizona, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio	1	3
1976	Bill Mallory	23	2	4	4	5—Illinois, 4—Washington, 1—Kansas, Oklahoma, Oregon, Wyoming	2	9
1975	Bill Mallory	21	10	5	2	2—Illinois; 1—Oregon, 1—Washington	3	5
1974	Bill Mallory	23	9	1	6	2—Ohio, Washington; 1—Hawai'i, Kansas, New Mexico	2	3
1973	Eddie Crowder	35	12	5	3	2—Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, New Jersey; 1—HI, NE, NM, OH, OK, WA (1—Canada)	3	4
Totals		751	218	187	100	Illinois 23, Florida 22, Louisiana 19, Washington 19, Missouri 16, Hawai'i 14, Michigan 13, Arizona 12, Ohio 9, Kansas 8, Nevada 7, Nebraska 6, Tennessee 6, New Mexico 5, Oklahoma 5, Oregon 5.	88	111

*—Fairbanks did not become head coach until April 4, 1979; Cortese coordinated recruiting in the interim. In this time frame, 29 percent of all Buffalo high school recruits have come from Colorado, with 25 percent from California and 13 percent from Texas. (#)—denotes (HS) players that counted toward previous class.

RECRUITING POSITION BREAKDOWNS

Listed below are the position breakdowns of Colorado's recruiting classes since 1982. Counts include high school and junior college signees; fullbacks counted in running back totals; outside linebackers count either under defensive ends or linebackers, depending on where they eventually played:

Year	Total	Offense						Defense					
		OL	QB	RB	TE	WR		DE	DT	LB	DB	PK/P	
2007	28	8	2	2	1	3		2	3	2	5	0	
2006	22	5	1	3	3	1		1	2	3	3	0	
2005	25	3	2	3	1	3		3	4	1	4	1	
2004	19	2	1	2	0	3		3	2	4	2	0	
2003	25	4	2	2	1	2		2	2	2	6	2	
2002	30	6	1	2	1	3		3	2	5	7	0	
2001	17	3	2	2	0	2		1	5	1	1	0	
2000	24	5	2	2	2	0		3	2	3	4	1	
1999	18	4	1	1	1	2		1	2	3	3	0	
1998	21	2	3	1	0	2		2	3	3	4	1	
1997	23	5	0	4	2	2		2	1	3	4	0	
1996	23	3	1	1	1	4		2	1	3	7	0	
1995	22	6	0	4	3	1		1	2	2	2	1	

Year	Total	Offense						Defense					
		OL	QB	RB	TE	WR		DE	DT	LB	DB	PK/P	
1994	17	2	0	5	1	2		0	2	3	2	0	
1993	19	3	2	0	1	2		1	5	4	0	1	
1992	25	6	1	2	1	4		1	1	4	5	0	
1991	23	5	1	4	1	1		2	3	3	2	1	
1990	23	6	1	4	2	2		0	2	3	2	1	
1989	21	1	2	5	1	0		1	6	3	2	0	
1988	26	5	2	3	3	1		0	4	2	5	1	
1987	12	3	0	3	0	0		3	1	1	0	1	
1986	23	3	3	5	1	0		1	3	5	2	0	
1985	23	6	0	4	2	1		1	4	4	1	0	
1984	29	6	4	3	1	3		1	1	5	4	1	
1983	27	6	2	3	2	3		0	5	1	4	1	
1982	28	13	0	4	1	1		0	2	5	2	0	

CHAMPIONSHIP RINGS

Several members of the 2007 recruiting class have some experience winning the top prize, as seven of the players won state (or section in Calif.) titles during their prep careers: **OL Ethan Adkins**, **OL Blake Behrens**, **OG Shawn Daniels**, **TB P.T. Gates**, **OL Ryan Miller**, **DL Chris Perri** and **CB Lamont Smith**. And **DE Lagrone Shields** owns a state title in basketball.

STATE-BY-STATE

The below chart indicates the last time a player from each state was on the CU roster (includes transfers and walk-ons; had to suit for at least one game). Rosters were available back to 1928; going into 2007, only two states, Rhode Island and Vermont, have never produced a CU player, with eight not having a prep recruit. A state-by-state look (**a**—last year a prep recruit signed from that state; **b**—last year a player from that state, recruit, walk-on or transfer, was on the roster):

State	a-Year	b-Year	State	a-Year	b-Year	State	a-Year	b-Year	State	a-Year	b-Year	State	a-Year	b-Year
Alabama	2004	2006	Hawaii	2006	2006	Michigan	2004	2006	North Carolina	1981	2001	Utah	1991	1995
Alaska	1998	2002	Idaho	2006	2006	Minnesota	2005	2006	North Dakota	1968	1978	Vermont	.....	.....
Arizona	2000	2006	Illinois	2002	2006	Mississippi	1989	1993	Ohio	1996	1999	Virginia	.....	1969
Arkansas	1999	2003	Indiana	1972	2001	Missouri	2005	2006	Oklahoma	2005	2006	Washington	2006	2006
California	2006	2006	Iowa	2004	2006	Montana	1991	1994	Oregon	1998	2005	West Virginia	.....	1970
COLORADO	2006	2006	Kansas	2005	2005	Nebraska	2005	2006	Pennsylvania	1981	1999	Wisconsin	2002	2003
Connecticut	1968	2005	Kentucky	2006	2006	Nevada	1993	1997	Rhode Island	.....	.....	Wyoming	1992	1996
Delaware	.....	2001	Louisiana	2004	2006	New Hampshire	.....	2002	South Carolina	.....	2001	AMER. SAMOA	2006	1996
Dist. of Columbia	1993	2006	Maine	.....	1988	New Jersey	2006	1989	South Dakota	1996	2000	CANADA	2001	2005
Florida	2006	2006	Maryland	1996	1998	New Mexico	1991	1997	Tennessee	2003	2006	ENGLAND	.....	1964
Georgia	1993	1996	Massachusetts	1983	2003	New York	1979	2006	Texas	2006	2006			

CLASS NOTES

Colorado signed three of the five offensive linemen on the All-Colorado team by both the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post*: **Ethan Adkins**, **Shawn Daniels** and **Ryan Miller**... Colorado inked players from 11 states, the most since 12 were represented in the '92 class (the '93 class was made up from nine states and the District of Columbia)... For the first time since 1983, Colorado did not sign a recruit from the state of Texas... Here are some quick tidbits about the 28 members of this year's recruiting class:

OL Ethan Adkins will join former teammate Eric Lawson at CU, as the two celebrated the Colorado state 5A title together at Douglas County High School in 2005... **ILB Tyler Ahles** is also an accomplished wrestler; he won a league championship in the 275-lb. heavyweight division at some 50-plus pounds under that weight... **OL Matt Bahr** starred at two different California high schools, Santa Margarita and Mission Viejo... **QB Matt Ballenger** had an uncle who played with Jim Plunkett at Stanford in the early 1970s... **OL Blake Behrens** will be the second in his family to try to play for the Buffaloes; his father tried out one spring when he was in school at CU but was injured in spring ball... **WR Kevin Celestine** will be nearer to some family, as his uncle, Myron Guillory, is an assistant basketball coach at Colorado State... **OG Shawn Daniels** is the younger brother of recent four-year starter Brian; should he somehow work his way into the starting lineup as a freshman, it could be possible that the same position would be manned for eight straight years by the same family, something that's never been done at Colorado (though the Andersons and Irwins came close)...

TB P.T. Gates is one of the few in the game who has experienced a 2,000-yard rushing season, just edging over the number with 2,005 his senior season at Marion Catholic... **DE Eugene Goree** lists one of his hobbies as watching game films with his 10-year old brother, Anfernee... **ILB Josh Hartigan** is the son of Sterling Palmer, the former Florida State Seminole and Washington Redskin linebacker/defensive end... **CB Jonathan Hawkins** officially signed in the 2006 class but delayed enrollment until this semester; he did come to Boulder last fall and worked a part-time job before enrolling... **OL Mike Ittis** has some "guns" as they say; he was the runner-up in the Florida state meet last spring in the shot put with a heave of 55 feet, 9 inches... **TE/H-Back Devan Johnson** and **DB Lamont Smith** both hail from (western) Pennsylvania; they are the first players to sign with CU from the state since 1981, when three inked letters: **OG Lee Dudick** (Wilkes-Barre), **NT Donald Muncie** (Washington) and **DB Chris Yurkow** (Philadelphia)... **TB Brian Lockridge** taught himself as a 5-year old to play the piano and guitar; he has since learned how to write and play his own music...

C Kai Maiava, who has wrestling bloodlines with "Prince" Maiava and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson (his grandfather and uncle, respectively), had nicknames of "Smoochie" and "Baby" growing up. The former because "he used to go around kissing everybody" and the latter because he is the youngest of four... **OL Ryan Miller** was the only player from Colorado on USA Today's All-America (first) team, and the first one CU secured since 2000. When pressed for something few know about him, he responded, "I love to fly kites. I've done it since I was three or four years old..." **DE Conrad Obi** is the first Georgian to sign with the Buffs since DT Stacy Patterson (Macon) did so in 1993; they're the only pair in the last 25 years... **WR Anthony Perkins** attended Community Christian High School in Northglenn, but through a special co-op program, he was able to play for nearby Northglenn High; he was also the first player to commit in the 2007 class (doing so in April, 2006)... **DL Chris Perri** was an accomplished baseball player as a teen; he was on the U.S. Junior National Team that went to Japan when he was 15... **DE Lagrone Shields** was the top defensive player for Ridgeway in Memphis, as his team went 24-2-1 his junior and senior years, but lost in the semifinals and the second round, respectively, in the state playoffs; but he did win a title as forward on the basketball team as a sophomore...

WR Markques Simas is CU's first high school All-American wide receiver recruit since Blake Mackey signed in 2002... **WR Josh Smith** might have the most effervescent personality of the entire class; he has designs on his own clothing and shoe lines—and he's already named them: Josh Fly and PF Fly's... **CB Lamont Smith** was the second player to commit to CU in this class, the first from out of state (May 2006)... **OL Sione Tau** is another musician in the class, and he can play five instruments: guitar, bass guitar, piano, drums and the ukulele... **DB Nate Vaionounga** recently took up rugby and loves it, adding it to the unique trio of sports he lettered in as a prep: football, volleyball and wrestling... **DB Anthony Wright** has a cousin with a Super Bowl ring: Michael Richardson was a defensive back on the 1985 Chicago Bears, meaning Richardson was a teammate of CU linebacker coach Brian Cabral, who the special teams captain on that team.

HISTORY AND THE "EXPERTS"

Recruiting services can provide a barometer outline in assessing talent and grading the various schools; however, remember most of recruiting is what coaches spot in their own evaluations, either from video or in person in summer camps, not to mention how well players are coached once in college. Here's a look back at all of Colorado's first-team Big Eight/12 performers (or better) over the past 17 years and the top honor each earned in their prep careers. The Buffs have had good success in both areas; CU has signed **166** high school all-Americans (prior to this year), and has nurtured several others into prominent careers. Of the **63** players listed below, **34** (or 54 percent) were high school all-Americans by the various services, meaning **29**, or 46 percent, were not:

POS	PLAYER	H.S. ALL-AMERICAN	HIGHEST PREP HONOR (FIRST-TEAM UNLESS NOTED): NOTES
DT	JUSTIN BANNAN	YES	all-Big 12 as a senior in 2001
OT	JUSTIN BATES	YES	All-America, all-Big 12 as a senior in 2002
OG	BRAD BEDELL	YES (H.M.)	all-region, second-team all-state
OT	TONY BERTI	NO	Second-team all-state (preseason all-American)
LB	GREG BIEKERT	NO	all-state (eventual Butkus semifinalist an 10-year pro)
TB	ERIC BIENIEMY	YES	Best-In-West Member (CU's all-time leading rusher)
CB	RONNIE BRADFORD	YES (H.M.)	Owens biggest blocked kick in school history ('91 Orange Bowl)
DE	TYLER BRAYTON	NO	third-team All-America as a senior ('02)
LB	CHAD BROWN	NO	all-state, all-CIF ('96 Pittsburgh Steelers All-Pro)
WR	RAE CARRUTH	YES	CU's second all-time leading receiver (yards)
DT	SHANNON CLAVELLE	YES	Opted for NFL after junior year; 'Super Bowl ring with Green Bay
PK	MASON CROSBY	NO	all-district, all-Midlands; CU's first All-American placekicker
QB	KOY DETMER	YES	CU's second all-time leading passer
TE	CHRISTIAN FAURIA	NO	all-CIF, all-time CU tight end reception leader
C	MARK FENTON	NO	all-district, all-city; finalist for 2005 Rimington Award
CB	DEON FIGURES	NO	all-CIF; 1992 Thorpe Award winner
PK	JEREMY FLORES	NO	all-Big 12 in 2001
OG	JOE GARTEN	NO	all-CIF, all-Orange County
TE	DANIEL GRAHAM	YES	Mackey Award winner in 2001 (best TE); top 10 at CU in catches & yards
C	ANDRE GURUDE	YES	AP All-American in 2001
QB	DARIAN HAGAN	YES	Unanimous Best-In-West, led CU to 1990 national title
SS	ERIC HAMILTON	NO	all-CIF
OT	JIM HANSEN	NO	all-league; Rhodes Scholar at Colorado
NT	KERRY HICKS	YES	Three-year starter at defensive tackle
WR	ROMAN HOLLOWELL	YES	first-team All-American in 2001 (at kick returner)
DT	GARRY HOWE	NO	all-league, honorable mention all-state
CB	CHRIS HUDSON	NO	all-region, all-state; 1994 Thorpe Award winner
OG	HEATH IRWIN	YES	AP All-American in 1995
FS	TIM JAMES	NO	all-CIF
OT	RYAN JOHANNINGMEIER	YES	played three offensive line positions in 1998
WR	CHARLES JOHNSON	YES	Third all-time receiver at Colorado (yards)
TB	CORTLEN JOHNSON	YES	all-Big 12; only CU player to ever have 100 yard rush & receiving in same game
LB	TED JOHNSON	NO	all-CIF; 1994 Butkus Award runner-up
CB	BEN KELLY	YES	all-state
TE	JOE KLOPFENSTEIN	YES	SuperPrep only one to honor him as AA; set CU record for TDs by a tight end
C	JAY LEEUWENBURG	NO	all-league (eventual All-American and Orange Bowl Legend Team member)
SS	MICHAEL LEWIS	YES	third-team All-American, Thorpe semifinalist in 2001
CB	DAVE MCCLOUGHAN	NO	all-state
P	MARK MARISCAL	YES	2002 Ray Guy Award winner, consensus All-America
LB	KANAVIS MCGHEE	NO	all-district
OG	CHRIS NAEOLE	YES	1996 Consensus All-American
NT	RYAN OLSON	YES	all-Big 12; Academic All-American
WR	MIKE PRITCHARD	YES	Nevada Player-of-the-Year
DT	LEONARD RENFRO	NO	all-state; opted for NFL draft as a junior
OT	VICTOR ROGERS	YES	all-Big 12, second-team All-American (lesser services) in 2001
FS	STEVE ROSGA	YES (H.M.)	third-team Associated Press All-American
LB	MATT RUSSELL	YES	1996 Butkus Award winner, Consensus All-American
TB	RASHAAN SALAAM	YES	1994 Heisman Trophy winner; 2,000 yard rusher
WR	PHIL SAVOY	YES	CU's second all-time leading receiver (receptions; fourth in yards)
NT	JOEL STEED	NO	all-state ('97 all-pro with Pittsburgh in NFL)
QB	KORDELL STEWART	YES	All-time Big Eight total offense leader
C	BRYAN STOLTENBERG	NO	all-district, honorable mention all-state
FS	RYAN SUTTER	NO	first-team all-league as a prep; first-team all-Big 12
LB	JASHON SYKES	YES	CU team MVP as a sophomore
P	JOHN TORP	NO	all-conference; set CU record for punts, 50-plus kicks and inside-the-20 punts
OT	MARK VANDER POEL	NO	all-valley, all-league, Best-In-West team
PK	NEIL VOSKERITCHIAN	NO	none; CU's second all-time kick scorer
WR	MICHAEL WESTBROOK	NO	all-metro, all-region; CU's all-time reception leader
CB	TERRENCE WHEATLEY	NO	all-state (honorable mention, all-district)
CB	DAMEN WHEELER	YES	Thorpe Award watch list member in '98
LB	ALFRED WILLIAMS	YES	1990 Butkus Award winner; '96 Denver Broncos All-Pro
LB	RON WOOLFORK	YES (H.M.)	second all-time in QB sacks at CU (moved from QB to OLB)
DE	ABRAHAM WRIGHT	NO	all-district; first player at CU since Woolfork in '93 to record 10-plus sacks in a season

In this same time frame (since 1989), CU has recruited **95** others with All-America honors who have completed their CU careers that never earned first-team all-league (though **55** of the **95** started at least one season). In this same span, **46** players who were not high school All-Americans have earned all-Big Eight/12 or better, with **126** such players earning starting positions. CU has four league titles and three other division titles in these 17 seasons.

ANNUAL HISTORY LESSON

The most players a Division I school can have on scholarship is **85**; it had been 95 for several years, until a four-year reduction that started in 1988 for Title IX purposes by the NCAA scaled it down to the current 85 over a four-year period (ending in 1992). At one time, there was no limit on the number of scholarships a school could offer (40 recruits were the norm back in the 1970s). Though with attrition, the average number of players on scholarship in Division I-A has hovered around 80, according to the AFCA figures. Colorado has **58** players on scholarship at present.

POSITION CHANGES / NON-RETURNEES

As of now, there are two position changes planned for spring drills: **Cha'pelle Brown** will move from cornerback to wide receiver, and **Joe Sanders** will switch back to tight end from outside linebacker. Sanders started his career at tight end but two weeks into his first spring practice moved to inside linebacker (he missed the fall of his freshman year after undergoing shoulder surgery).

Nine players will not return from the 2006 squad for assorted reasons: **OL Paul Backowski**, **OL Quinton Borders**, **S Dominique Brooks**, **WR Clayton Cammon**, **TE Steve Fendry**, **P/PK Isaac Garden**, **C Tom Grubin**, **OL Jeremy Hauck** and **WR Reggie Joseph**. Cammon, Garden and Grubin were walk-ons, with Garden opting to graduate in May and pursue non-football endeavors.

SPRING PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Spring practice will begin Monday, March 12, and end with the spring game on Saturday, April 14. The tentative dates are as follows: **March 12-13-15-17-19-20-22; April 2-3-5-6-9-10-12-14**. A high school coaches clinic is set for March 16-17 (with CU's annual pro-timing day for last year's seniors one of the feature events on the second day). The team is allowed 15 practices over 29 days; this is the second straight year spring ball will have a format where two weeks occur prior to spring break with the drills concluding following the off time. How the practice sessions will break down, per NCAA rules: three in shorts (no contact), four in pads (no tackling), four in pads (tackling allowed 50 percent or less of the time), four in pads (tackling allowed throughout).

COMBINE

The National Football League combine is this month at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis (February 21-27), with three Colorado Buffaloes (among 324 players) having currently been invited to participate: **PK Mason Crosby** (one of five placekickers), **C Mark Fenton** (one of 10 centers) and **DE Abraham Wright** (one of 28 defensive ends). Other CU seniors will be showcased in CU's own pro timing day on March 17; Colorado was one of the first to host their own, starting in the late 1980s. Now most schools do it.

PRO TIMING DAY

Colorado's annual pro-timing day is set for **Saturday, March 17**, when around 40-plus scouts from most, if not all, of the 32 National Football League teams visit Boulder. They test CU's seniors from last fall in an assortment of drills. The schedule for the day is not finalized (they usually convene at 9 a.m. that morning for the traditional bench press and speed and agility tests (40-yard dash, shuttles, vertical jumps, etc.); testing will be done in the weight room and in Balch Fieldhouse. CU had 29 alums in the NFL last year, the second most in the Big 12 and tied for the 17th most in the nation. The current members of the CU team will go through similar workouts on Tuesday, April 17, three days after the completion of spring ball. It is not to open to the public, as all scouts must register with the football office; media can attend but must wear their 2006-07 CU Athletics credential.

INJURY UPDATE

The injury picture for the Buffaloes a month ahead of spring practice:

Pos	Player	Injury	Notes	Status/Spring Practice
ILB	Marcus Burton	fractured tibia	suffered in practice (Oct. 31), missed remainder of season	FULL GO
OL	Erick Faatagi	knee surgery	sat out entire 2006 season	LIMITED
WR	Michael Kachmer	knee surgery	sat out entire 2006 season	FULL GO
WR	Chase McBride	shoulder surgery	surgery was postseason to mend chronic problem	LIMITED
TE	Devin Shanahan	knee surgery	sat out entire 2006 season	LIMITED
CB	Terrence Wheatley	wrist surgery	surgery was postseason to help correct chronic pain	FULL GO

NOTE: Injuries are reported in conjunction with the HIPAA laws. CU releases player name, body part (but no right or left ID's), the general nature and playing status when it comes to reporting injuries. Status will be listed as either OUT, DOUBTFUL, QUESTIONABLE, DAY-TO-DAY or PROBABLE (or LIMITED if for spring or camp sessions).

TV LAND

Colorado has had **137** of its last **208** games dating back to 1990 broadcast nationally or regionally (66 percent). That included seven games this year, 10 games in 2005, nine games in 2004, seven games in 2003, 12 in 2002, 10 games in 2001, plus 7 in 2000, 9 in both 1998 and 1999, 10 in 1996 and 1997. Since 1996, when the Big 12 began, **100** of CU's **135** games have been either nationally or regionally televised, an impressive 74 percent (the second most in the Big 12 Conference in that time frame). In addition, CU has had **21** of its last **25** non-conference games televised on a national or regional basis.

SCHOLLIES

Colorado will have 58 players on scholarship for spring practice; no walk-ons from last season have yet to be placed on scholarship but Hawkins did not rule out the possibility of awarding one or more before the end of the spring semester.

HEAD COACH DAN HAWKINS

Dan Hawkins has completed one season as head coach of the Colorado program, his sixth year as a Division I-A head coach, and his 11th season as a collegiate head coach. He owns a **2-10** record at Colorado, along with a **55-21** record in the Division I-A ranks (53-11 at Boise State) and an overall career mark of **94-33-1** including five years at NAIA Willamette (Ore.) College. In his final year at Willamette (1997), his team posted a 13-1 record, falling in the NAIA Championship game, before moving on to Boise State where he was assistant head coach, coaching the tight ends and special teams while coordinating recruiting. When Dirk Koetter left BSU for Arizona State after the 2000 season, Hawkins was promoted to head coach. He took the Broncos to four bowl games in five years, with his 2004 team compiling an 11-0 regular season mark and ascending to No. 10 in the national polls; in the most anticipated non-BCS bowl game to date, Boise dropped a thriller to No. 7 Louisville (44-40). In the modern history of Division I-A football, only three coaches won more games in their first five seasons than Hawkins (53: bested by Bob Pruett, Marshall; Bob Stoops, Oklahoma; and Pete Carroll, USC). **Hawk's Handiwork:**

	Overall	Home	Road	Neutral	Ranked	Unranked	Non-league	Big 12	Bowls
Hawkins at Colorado.....	2-10	2- 4	0- 5	0- 1	0- 5	2- 5	0- 4	2- 6	0- 0
Career (NCAA I-A).....	55-21	33- 6	21-13	1- 2	2-10	53-11	16-12	3- 6	2- 2

- ◆ **Hawkins** has been a head coach for **128** games (94-33-1), with that record and 73.8 winning percentage eighth in the nation for active coaches with 100 or more games coached for their career.
- ◆ In 11 seasons as a head coach, Hawkins' teams have never been shutout, and had never dropped more than two games in a row in the same season (which happened just three times) until this year and had won at least eight games seven times (10-plus four times).
- ◆ A sample of what **Hawkins** tells his players: "You're in America, you're going to college, you live in Colorado. You have it better than 90 percent of the people in the world."
- ◆ Hawkins has used the term "conflama" when referring to some people's desire for conflict and drama (i.e., the reason someone like Jerry Springer and that lot is even on the air). He references the term when people on the outside of a program choose to look at the negative without choosing to understand why something may very well be the way it is.
- ◆ Hawk on depth charts: "To be honest, we really don't pay too much attention to depth charts, we run a lot of personnel in and out of there at several positions. For example, I view the defensive line like hockey; they're playing in shifts as we want them fresh." As a result, especially on offense at receiver, tight end and in the backfield, CU utilizes different "groupings" as opposed to following a depth chart.
- ◆ Hawk's response about potential for disaster after the 0-3 start: "There's always potential. When you get in your car and get out on the freeway, there's potential for disaster. I knew when I left Boise State there was potential for disaster. That doesn't scare me... there's also the potential for greatness. So you can hide behind the shadow if you want, but that's not living."
- ◆ TBS play-by-play man **Ron Thulin** on Hawkins' optimism: "His glass isn't half-full, it's overflowing. He's not going to change. He said they are going to keep fighting and doing the little things everyday. I think everyone on our crew was ready to put on a football helmet after talking to this man yesterday. He is excitable and he cares." Chimed in analyst **Charles Davis**: "I was looking to get taped and get out to practice that day. If you're around him long enough you can't help but be positive."
- ◆ As with many coaches, at the end of practice, the team will run for turnovers, mistakes, missed field goals, etc. One day after PK Mason Crosby missed a kick within his range, Hawk felt a little bad as he wondered to himself, "How many coaches are making their kids run for a missed 64-yard field goal?"

HAWKINS AMONG THE BEST

Dan Hawkins has one of top records among all active Division I-A coaches, despite CU's 2-10 mark in 2006. He has the 12th best mark and is listed among some of the top names in the profession. A closer look through games of 2006 (#—has been dismissed as head coach):

Coch, School	W	L	T	Pct.	Coch, School	W	L	T	Pct.	Coch, School	W	L	T	Pct.
Pete Carroll, USC.....	65	12	0	.844	Phillip Fulmer, Tennessee	137	41	0	.770	Paul Johnson, Navy	99	35	0	.739
Urban Meyer, Florida.....	61	12	0	.836	Bobby Bowden, Florida State ..	366	113	4	.762	Dan Hawkins, Colorado	94	33	1	.738
Bob Stoops, Oklahoma.....	86	19	0	.819	Lloyd Carr, Michigan	113	36	0	.758	Jim Tressel, Ohio State	197	71	2	.733
#—Larry Coker, Miami, Fla.....	60	15	0	.800	Steve Spurrier, South Carolina.	157	50	2	.756	Gary Patterson, TCU	54	20	0	.730
Mark Richt, Georgia	61	17	0	.782	Joe Paterno, Penn State	363	121	3	.748					

FIRST YEAR COACHING COMPARISON

Dan Hawkins isn't the only coach in Colorado history who struggled in his first season. In fact, for whatever reason, it's more the norm, as going back to **Dal Ward's** inaugural year (1948, when CU became a member of the Big Seven Conference), only two coaches had winning records with one other a .500 mark out of the 10 who have piloted the Buffs over the last 59 seasons. The winningest coach, **Rick Neuheisel** (10-2 in 1995) was the only one who was a member of the CU staff as an assistant the previous season (he's also the only one to win his opening game), with the other, Gary Barnett (7-5 in 1999), also previously serving on a Colorado staff between 1984 and 1991. All eight previous coaches before Hawkins suffered greater margins of defeat in their losses, as CU lost its 10 games by an average of 11.2 points this season, matching Ward's six setbacks his first season. A closer look at the first seasons for CU's last 10 head coaches:

Head Coach	Inaugural Season	Record	---Points--- ForAgainst	---A vg Win--- Win Loss	Offense----- Rush Pass Total	Defense----- Rush Pass Total	Turnover Margin	Problem Spot(s)
Dal Ward.....	1948	3-6	168 164	23.7 11.2	167.4 79.3 246.8	193.0 78.7 271.7	- 0.22	CU: 15 INT in 120 pass attempts
Sonny Grandelius	1959	5-5	144 177	8.6 15.2	133.1 135.5 268.6	160.2 95.3 255.5	0.00	CU: 4-of-15 on 2-Pt. PAT
Bud Davis.....	1962	2-8	122 346	15.0 31.8	134.0 116.0 250.0	269.7 116.5 386.2	- 0.90	Opponent: 51.7% on 3rd Down
Eddie Crowder.....	1963	2-8	100 245	19.5 23.0	167.0 72.2 239.2	217.9 108.9 326.8	- 0.60	Outscored 62-0 in 2nd quarter
Bill Mallory.....	1974	5-6	226 307	10.4 21.7	221.9 114.4 336.3	251.3 116.8 368.1	- 0.18	Opp: 32-of-40 TDs in red zone
Chuck Fairbanks.....	1979	3-8	168 274	10.0 17.0	139.8 136.9 276.7	234.5 97.4 331.8	- 1.09	CU QBs sacked 55 times
Bill McCartney.....	1982	2-8-1	160 301	18.5 22.3	104.8 175/6 279.5	238.3 158.5 396.7	- 0.09	Opponent +12.5 plays per game
Rick Neuheisel.....	1995	10-2	444 240	24.3 19.5	189.5 297.2 486.6	143.6 184.3 329.4	+ 0.18	97 penalties (Opponent: 53)
Gary Barnett.....	1999	7-5	405 311	22.6 12.8	151.2 273.7 424.9	171.5 176.1 347.6	+ 0.18	CU QBs sacked 32 times
Dan Hawkins.....	2006	2-10	196 267	20.5 11.2	172.9 118.5 291.4	112.4 228.5 340.9	+ 0.67	Opp: 66.9 CP; 47.8 3rd Down

ROAD-SWEET-ROAD: BUFFS 11TH BEST IN ENEMY STADIUMS SINCE '88

The Buffaloes have enjoyed a lot of success on the road over the last 19 seasons. CU has been victorious 57 of the last 91 times in enemy stadiums and is **57-35-1** overall away from home (a 61.8 winning percentage). That stands 11th nationally (eighth in raw wins) and third among Big 12 Conference teams in this span; only 11 schools have won 60 percent of their away games in this time frame. During this time frame, CU won a school record 10 straight road games between 1994 and 1996. The Buffaloes own a **46-25-1** mark in their last 71 road conference games (Big 8 & Big 12—six losses at Nebraska, two at Kansas, Kansas State, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and Texas Tech; and one each at Baylor, Iowa State, Oklahoma State and Texas A&M; the tie was at K-State in 1993). CU is **21-23** on the Big 12 road since 1996 (0-4 in 2006). The chart to the right does not include neutral site games, despite some being anything but (i.e., Colorado vs. Texas at Irving for the '01 Big 12 title.)

ON THE ROAD (1988-2006)

School	W	L	T	Pct.
Miami, Fla.	74	24	0	.755
Tennessee	64	22	2	.739
Florida State	66	24	0	.733
Michigan	64	25	3	.712
Ohio State	61	26	2	.697
Nebraska	62	27	3	.690
Notre Dame	58	29	2	.663
Florida	50	26	1	.656
Texas	57	34	0	.626
Alabama	54	33	0	.621
COLORADO	57	35	1	.618

20TH BEST IN THE NATION SINCE 1989

Colorado has the nation's 20th best record over the last 18 seasons, or since the start of 1989, CU has posted a **142-74-4** record. From opening 1-0 in '89, through the 10th game of the 2005 season, the Buffs owned one of the top 10 overall records in the nation (**247 consecutive weeks**); that was snapped with a loss to Nebraska late in 2005. The best Division I-A records from the start of 1989 through games of 2006:

Rk	School	G	W	L	T	Pct.	vs. AP Ranked Teams		2006
							G	W-L-T	
1	Florida State	225	181	43	1	.807	95	65-29-1	7-6
2	Miami, Fla.	218	174	44	0	.798	83	50-33-0	7-6
3	Nebraska	225	177	47	1	.789	66	35-30-1	9-5
4	Florida	226	174	51	1	.772	100	57-42-1	13-1
5	Tennessee	223	170	50	3	.769	86	48-35-3	9-4
6	Ohio State	223	169	51	3	.765	90	50-37-3	12-1
7	Michigan	220	166	51	3	.761	95	57-36-2	11-2
8	Texas	220	154	64	2	.705	75	35-38-2	10-3
9	Virginia Tech	218	151	65	2	.697	58	27-30-1	10-3
10	Auburn	216	148	65	3	.692	72	31-40-1	11-2
11	Penn State	219	151	67	1	.692	82	39-43-0	9-4
12	Notre Dame	219	150	67	2	.689	85	40-43-2	10-3
20	COLORADO	220	142	74	4	.655	92	40-50-2	2-10

THE BUFFALOES IN THE BIG 12

The Big 12 Conference has wrapped its 11th season. Though finishing fifth in the North Division in 2006, the Buffaloes are tied for the second most division titles won with four, just behind Oklahoma's five. Just half of the schools in the conference have won a division title. A closer look:

- ➔ **Big 12 Division Titles (including 2006):** Oklahoma 5, **Colorado 4**, Nebraska 4, Texas 4, Kansas State 3, Texas A&M 2.
- ➔ **Big 12 Championship Game Records:** Oklahoma 4-1, Nebraska 2-2, Texas 2-2, **Colorado 1-3**, Texas A&M 1-1, Kansas State 1-2.

CU VS. THE BIG 12 NORTH: Colorado owns the best record in intra-division competition going back to the start of the 2001 season against Big 12 North Division rivals, as the Buffaloes are **21-9** in this time frame. Other records in the same span: Nebraska 19-11, Kansas State 18-12, Iowa State 11-19, Missouri 11-19 and Kansas 10-20. The Buffs are **12-3** at home in this stretch, the only losses to Nebraska (2003 & 2005) and Kansas State (this season).

FINAL 2006 BIG 12 CONFERENCE STANDINGS

North Division (-8)						South Division (+8)					
School (AP/Coaches)						School (AP/Coaches)					
conference	W	L	Pct.	Pts	Opp	overall	W	L	Pct.	Pts	Opp
Nebraska (RV/RV)	6	2	.750	236	173	9	5	.643	428	256	S 1
Missouri	4	4	.500	214	178	8	5	.615	391	254	S 1
Kansas State	4	4	.500	188	218	7	6	.538	296	309	S 1
Kansas	3	5	.375	234	225	6	6	.500	348	306	S 1
COLORADO	2	6	.250	160	199	2	10	.167	196	267	S 1
Iowa State	1	7	.125	120	262	4	8	.333	226	369	S 1
conference	W	L	Pct.	Pts	Opp	overall	W	L	Pct.	Pts	Opp
Oklahoma (#11/#11)	7	1	.875	208	121	11	3	.786	424	24	2
Texas (#13/#13)	6	2	.750	270	173	10	3	.769	467	238	S 1
Texas A & M (RV/RV)	5	3	.625	193	174	9	4	.692	362	267	S 1
Texas Tech (--/RV)	4	4	.500	240	235	8	5	.615	422	326	S 1
Oklahoma State	3	5	.375	264	243	7	6	.538	458	333	S 1
Baylor	3	5	.375	194	320	4	8	.333	283	391	S 1
Next Up						Next Up					
NEVADA						NORTH TEXAS					
Illinois (St. Louis)						ARKANSAS STATE					
at Auburn						MONTANA STATE					
CENTRAL MICHIGAN						at SMU					
Colorado State (Denver)						at Georgia					
KENT STATE						at TCU					

SIXTY-FOUR PLAYERS LETTER IN 2006

Colorado had **65** players earn letters in 2006, **30** offensive players, **31** defensive players and **four** special team performers. There are four ways a player can letter: participate in 100 plays (scrimmage snaps plus special teams); possess a special skill—punter/kicker/special teams; be a true freshman who gave up his redshirt year for the benefit of the team (unless injured and can get a medical redshirt); or be a senior in good academic standing. Sophomore **S Joel Adams** earned his first letter in football, but has two others as an alpine performer on CU's national championship ski team; he's the first player in school history to letter in the football/skiing combo. The 2006 lettermen (the 24 seniors listed in **bold**):

ACKERMANN, Jason	2L	CARPENTER, Ben	2L	FENTON, Mark	4L	JONES, Marcus	1L	SIMS, Lorenzo	4L
ADAMS, Joel	1L	CHARLES, Hugh	3L	GARDEN, Isaac	1L	LIGON, Alex	4L	SIPILI, Michael	1L
BACKOWSKI, Paul	1L	COX, James	3L	GEER, Riar	1L	LUCAS, Maurice	2L	SMART, Jeff	1L
BARNETT, Alvin	2L	CRAWFORD, Cody	1L	GOETTSCH, Dan	1L	MACKEY, Blake	2L	SPRAGUE, Dusty	3L
BARRETT, Alonzo	3L	CREIGHTON, Paul	4L	HARRIS, Lionel	2L	MacMARTIN, Bryce	2L	TIPTON, Jack	3L
BILLINGSLEY, J.J.	4L	CROSBY, Mason	4L	HARRISON, Edwin	3L	McBRIDE, Chase	1L	WALTERS, Ryan	2L
BOYE-DOE, Walter	4L	CUSWORTH, Chad	2L	HEAD, Devin	1L	McKAY, Gardner	2L	WASHINGTON, Terry	2L
BRACE, Jason	1L	DANIELS, Brian	4L	HOLLIDAY, Mell	1L	MOYD, Kevin	1L	WASHINGTON, Thaddaeus	4L
BROWN, Cha'pelle	1L	DeVREE, Tyson	1L	HOLZ, Nick	3L	NICOLAS, Brandon	1L	WASHINGTON, Vance	3L
BROWN, R.J.	1L	DiLALLO, Matthew	1L	HYPOLITE, George	2L	POLUMBUS, Tyler	3L	WHEATLEY, Terrence	3L
BURNEY, Benjamin	2L	DIZON, Jordon	3L	JACKSON, Bernard	1L	ROBINSON, Stephone	3L	WILLIAMS, Patrick	2L
BURTON, Marcus	2L	DRESCHER, Justin	1L	JAGORAS, Samson	1L	SANDERS, Daniel	2L	WRIGHT, Abraham	3L
CANTRELL, Maurice	1L	ELLIS, Byron	3L	JONES, Brad	2L	SANDERS, Joe	2L	YATES, Jarrell	1L

2007 COLORADO FOOTBALL LETTERMEN PICTURE

Colorado has **41** lettermen scheduled to return for 2007, including 19 on both offense and defense and three specialists; the Buffs lose **27** lettermen off the 2006 squad (12 offense, 13 defense, two specialists). CU returns 16 starters from last season (nine offense, seven defense) and loses nine (six defense, three offense); three positions, two on defense, saw two players basically split the duties (C, LCB, SS). The 2006 starters are listed in bold, and (**) denotes letters earned primarily on special teams. The breakdown:

OFFENSE

Position	Returning (19)	Lost (12)
WR (x)	Patrick Williams , Cody Crawford, Jarrell Yates, **Chase McBride	Nick Holz
WR (z)	Alvin Barnett , Dusty Sprague, Stephone Robinson	Blake Mackey, Reggie Joseph (<i>from 2004</i>)
LT	Tyler Polumbus	
LG		Brian Daniels
C		Mark Fenton , Bryce MacMartin
RG	Daniel Sanders , Devin Head	Jack Tipton
RT	Edwin Harrison	**Paul Backowski
TE	Riar Geer , Tyson DeVree	Paul Creighton, Dan Goettsch
QB	Bernard Jackson	James Cox
TB	Hugh Charles , Byron Ellis, **Kevin Moyd	Mell Holliday
FB	Maurice Cantrell , Samson Jagoras	

DEFENSE

Position	Returning (19)	Lost (13)
DE	Alonzo Barrett	Abraham Wright
DT	George Hypolite	Alex Ligon
NT	Brandon Nicolas , Jason Brace	Marcus Jones
DE	Maurice Lucas	Walter Boye-Doe
MLB	Michael Sipili, **R.J. Brown	Thaddaeus Washington , Jason Ackermann
WLB	Jordon Dizon , Marcus Burton, **Jeff Smart	
SLB	Brad Jones , Joe Sanders	**Ben Carpenter, **Chad Cusworth
CB	Chapelle Brown	Lorenzo Sims Jr. , Terry Washington
SS	Lionel Harris	J.J. Billingsley , Dominique Brooks (<i>from 2004</i>)
FS	Ryan Walters , Ben Burney, **Joel Adams	
CB	Terrence Wheatley , Gardner McKay	**Vance Washington (<i>from 2003</i>)

SPECIALISTS

Position	Returning (3)	Lost (2)
P	Matthew DiLallo	Isaac Garden
PK	Kevin Eberhart (<i>from 2003</i>)	Mason Crosby
SN	Justin Drescher	

Colorado will have **78** players out for spring practice (compared to 87 in 2006), **58** of whom are on scholarship. That includes **17** seniors, all lettermen, with **16** on scholarship (WR Chase McBride is the lone senior walk-on on the roster). It's the first time since 1995 that all seniors on the roster going into a season had already earned at least one letter.

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

Here's where the Buffs ranked statistically in select categories in the Big 12 and the NCAA in 2006 (includes bowl games):

TEAM

B12	NCAA	Category	Stat	B12	NCAA	Category	Stat	B12	NCAA	Category	Stat
6th	22nd	RUSHING OFFENSE	172.9	4th	30th	RUSHING DEFENSE	112.4	12th	104th	PUNT RETURNS.....	5.6
12th	116th	PASSING OFFENSE	118.5	9th	94th	PASSING DEFENSE	228.5	9th	95th	KICKOFF RETURNS.....	18.2
12th	102nd	TOTAL OFFENSE	291.4	7th	66th	TOTAL DEFENSE	340.9	7th	31st	NET PUNTING	36.7
12th	107th	SCORING OFFENSE.....	16.3	6th	56th	SCORING DEFENSE	22.3	3rd	17th	TURNOVER MARGIN	+0.67

INDIVIDUAL (Top 25 in conference)

Rushing	Big 12	NCAA	Yds/Gm	Receiving Yards	Big 12	NCAA	Yds/Gm	Field Goals	Big 12	NCAA	FG/Gm
Hugh Charles	8th	71st	64.9	Riar Geer.....	45th	.....	21.8	Mason Crosby.....	1st	6th	1.58
Bernard Jackson	10th	94th	56.4	Punting	Big 12	NCAA	Avg.	Interceptions	Big 12	NCAA	Avg./Gm
Mell Holliday	19th	.....	42.7	Matt DiLallo	4th	16th	43.7	Terrence Wheatley	3rd	24th	0.42
Passing	Big 12	NCAA	Yds/Gm	Punt Returns	Big 12	NCAA	Avg.	Ryan Walters.....	17th	.....	0.18
Bernard Jackson	12th	.....	108.2	Stephone Robinson	11th	76th	5.1	QB Sacks	Big 12	NCAA	Avg./Gm
Pass Efficiency	Big 12	NCAA	Rating	Kickoff Returns	Big 12	NCAA	Avg.	Abraham Wright.....	1st	2nd	0.96
Bernard Jackson	12th	97th	103.3	Stephone Robinson	9th	99th	17.4	Tackles For Loss	Big 12	NCAA	Avg./Gm
Total Offense	Big 12	NCAA	Yds/Gm	Scoring	Big 12	NCAA	Pts/Gm	Abraham Wright.....	1st	20th	1.33
Bernard Jackson	11th	73rd	164.6	Mason Crosby.....	7th	65th	6.3	George Hypolite.....	5th	60th	1.08
Hugh Charles	20th	.....	64.9	Kick Scoring	Big 12	NCAA	Pts/Gm	Tackles			
Receptions	Big 12	NCAA	No./Gm	Mason Crosby.....	6th	39th	6.3	CU uses coaches' video; numbers don't match			
Riar Geer.....	42nd	.....	2.0								

CAREER CHART WATCH

Here's where several Buffs ranked on some of CU's all-time statistical charts through the 2006 season (*Note: Colorado does not count bowl stats into career totals to protect past history*):

- ✓ **WR ALVIN BARNETT** is tied for 53rd in receptions (38) and 90th in receiving yards (363).
- ✓ **FS J.J. BILLINGSLEY** finished 12th in total tackles (307, third most by a defensive back), ninth in solo tackles (211) and tied for 23rd in tackles for loss (25).
- ✓ **TB HUGH CHARLES** is 21st in rushing yards (1,670) and 99th in receiving yards (319).
- ✓ **PK MASON CROSBY** was first in scoring (307 points), first in field goals made (66) and attempts (88), and first in PAT kicks made (109) and attempts (117).
- ✓ **ILB JORDON DIZON** is 17th in total tackles (280), and is 20th in solo tackles (173).
- ✓ **QB BERNARD JACKSON** is 23rd in passing yards (1,357) and is 68th in rushing yards (690).
- ✓ **KR STEPHONE ROBINSON** is ninth in punt return yards (593), fifth in punt returns (75), sixth in kickoff return yards (857) and fourth in KO returns (48).
- ✓ **CB LORENZO SIMS** finished tied for 28th in interceptions (6) and tied for fourth in pass deflections (33).
- ✓ **WR DUSTY SPRAGUE** is 19th in receptions (76) and is 22nd in receiving yards (925).
- ✓ **ILB THADDAEUS WASHINGTON** finished eighth in total tackles (338), is 10th in solo tackles (202) and is tied for 21st in tackles for loss (26).
- ✓ **CB TERRENCE WHEATLEY** is tied for 12th in interceptions (9) and is tied for 14th in pass deflections (19).
- ✓ **WR PATRICK WILLIAMS** is tied for 38th in receptions (47) and is 61st in receiving yards (483).
- ✓ **DE ABRAHAM WRIGHT** finished fifth in quarterback sacks (21) and is tied for 16th in tackles for loss (29).

SEASON POSITIVES

There were many positives in 2006 for the Colorado Buffaloes. A look at some of what stood out that will help set the table for the future:

- ➔ **Rushing Yards.** Colorado rushed for 2,075 yards (172.9 per game), its most since 3,136 in 2002, and its most in any losing since 1974, when the 5-6 Buffs rushed for 2,441 yards. Three players rushed for over 500 yards, just the 10th time in school history that feat was accomplished (**TB Hugh Charles**, **QB Bernard Jackson** and **TB Mell Holliday** combined for 1,968 yards and averaged 4.9 yards per carry).
- ➔ Colorado committed just **16 turnovers**, the fewest since 13 in both 1993 and 1989 (which were 11-game seasons); the 16 are thus the third fewest committed by a Buffalo team over the last 50 seasons. CU's last turnover was a fumble lost with 7:55 left in the second quarter of the Kansas State game, meaning the Buffs finished the last 10-plus quarters (157:55) of the season without a turnover (**QB Bernard Jackson** was not intercepted in his last 66 passes). CU's quarterbacks threw just 8 interceptions, tied for the 13th lowest total in the last 61 seasons (with the 3.1 INT percentage the seventh lowest in school annals).
- ➔ CU had four games with no turnovers, a school season best; the old season high had been three games, which had been done just three times (1956, 1989, 1993).
- ➔ CU allowed 22.3 points per game, the fewest since 1998 (19.1), and the third lowest figure in CU's 11 years in the Big 12 (the other: 18.1 in 1996).
- ➔ **Field Position.** Opponents started 56 of 138 drives at or inside their 20 (40.6%), while not up to the figure in 2005 (49.7), CU had a freshman punter compared to a Ray Guy finalist in 2005. **Matthew DiLallo** improved as the season progressed and had a 43.7 average, a school frosh best (just the third frosh to ever lead CU in punting).
- ➔ **TE Riar Geer.** The redshirt freshman tight end became the first frosh, true or redshirt, to lead the Buffaloes for a single season in both receptions and yards, as he finished the year with 24 catches for 261 yards (and 3 TDs). He's just the ninth tight end to lead the team, joining the likes of Jerry Hillebrand, J.V. Cain, Dave Hestera, Jon Embree and Daniel Graham, who was the last to do it in 2001.
- ➔ Colorado allowed just **six** plays from scrimmage of 40 yards or longer (4 pass, 2 rush); that ties the fewest since the 1987 season, when the Buffs surrendered just four (two of each). Over the past 20 years, CU has limited the foe to six three other seasons (1991, 1994, 1995), with the 13 allowed over the last two seasons the third fewest over a two-year span (trailing the 11 over the 1987-88 seasons and 12 over '94 and '95).
- ➔ **Second Down Defense.** Though opponents did convert at a 47.8 clip on third down, CU's defense shined on second and short; opponents converted just 23 of 53 times when faced with second and four or less (the same figure for the NFL Denver Broncos, a highly regarded defense, is 26-of-43).
- ➔ **Penalties.** Colorado was flagged for 63 penalties, down from 116 in 2005 and its fewest since 1986, when the Buffs were called for 60 infractions. The 559 penalty yards were the fewest since the '88 team had 535 yards marched off on calls.

GAME-BY-GAME STARTERS

Here are CU's starters for the 2006 season (**bold** indicates first career start):

OFFENSE	WR	WR	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	TE	QB	TB	FB (Other)
Montana State	Williams	Barnett	Polumbus	Daniels	Fenton	Head	Harrison	Geer	Cox	Charles	Jagoras
Colorado State	Williams	Barnett	Polumbus	Daniels	Fenton	D.Sanders	Harrison	Geer	Jackson	Ellis	Goettsch (TE)
Arizona State	Sprague	Robinson	Polumbus	Daniels	Fenton	D.Sanders	Harrison	DeVree	Jackson	Ellis	Goettsch (TE)
Georgia	Williams	Barnett	Polumbus	Daniels	Fenton	D.Sanders	Harrison	Geer	Jackson	Ellis	Crawford (WR)
Missouri	Sprague	Robinson	Polumbus	Daniels	MacMartin	D.Sanders	Harrison	Geer	Jackson	Charles	Crawford (WR)
Baylor	Holz	Goettsch (TE)	Polumbus	Daniels	MacMartin	D.Sanders	Harrison	Geer	Jackson	Ellis	Cantrell
Texas Tech/Williams	Barnett	Polumbus	Daniels	MacMartin	D.Sanders	Harrison	Geer	Jackson	Charles	Cantrell	
Oklahoma/Williams	Barnett	Polumbus	Daniels	MacMartin	D.Sanders	Harrison	Geer	Jackson	Charles	Cantrell	
Kansas	Holz	Mackey	Polumbus	Daniels	MacMartin	D.Sanders	Backowski	Geer	Jackson	Charles	Cantrell
Kansas State	Williams	Barnett	Polumbus	Daniels	MacMartin	D.Sanders	Harrison	Goettsch	Jackson	Charles	Creighton (TE)
Iowa State/Williams	Barnett	Polumbus	Daniels	MacMartin	D.Sanders	Tipton	Geer	Holliday	Jackson	Cantrell	
Nebraska	Holz	Barnett	Polumbus	Daniels	Fenton	D.Sanders	Tipton	DeVree	Jackson	Charles	Creighton (TE)
DEFENSE	LE	DT	NT	RE	MLB	WLB	SLB	LCB	FS	SS	RCB
Montana State	Wright	Hypolite	Nicolas	Boye-Doe	Th.Washington	Dizon	B.Jones	Sims	Burney	Billingsley	Wheatley
Colorado State	Wright	Hypolite	Nicolas	Boye-Doe	Th.Washington	Dizon	B.Jones	Sims	Walters	Billingsley	Wheatley
Arizona State	Wright	Hypolite	Nicolas	Boye-Doe	Th.Washington	Dizon	B.Jones	Sims	Walters	Billingsley	Wheatley
Georgia	Wright	Hypolite	Nicolas	Boye-Doe	Te.Washington (N)	Dizon	B.Jones	Sims	Walters	Billingsley	Wheatley
Missouri	Wright	C.Brown (N)	Nicolas	Boye-Doe	Sipili	Burton	B.Jones	Sims	Walters	Billingsley	Wheatley
Baylor	Wright	Hypolite	Nicolas	Boye-Doe	C.Brown (N)	Dizon	B.Jones	Sims	Burney	Harris	Wheatley
Texas Tech	Wright	Hypolite	Nicolas	Boye-Doe	Th.Washington	Dizon	C.Brown (N)	Te.Washington	Walters	Harris	Wheatley
Oklahoma	Wright	Hypolite	Nicolas	Boye-Doe	Th.Washington	Dizon	B.Jones	Te.Washington	Walters	Harris	Wheatley
Kansas	Wright	Hypolite	Nicolas	Boye-Doe	Th.Washington	Dizon	B.Jones	Te.Washington	Walters	Harris	Wheatley
Kansas State	Lucas	Ligon	C.Brown (N)	Boye-Doe	Th.Washington	Dizon	B.Jones	Te.Washington	Walters	Harris	Wheatley
Iowa State	Wright	Ligon	Nicolas	Boye-Doe	Th.Washington	Dizon	B.Jones	Te.Washington	Walters	Billingsley	Wheatley
Nebraska	Wright	Ligon	Nicolas	Boye-Doe	Sipili	Dizon	B.Jones	Te.Washington	Walters	Harris	Wheatley

(N)—Nickel back. **CONSECUTIVE STARTS**—Daniels 22, Polumbus 13, Boye-Doe 12, Wheatley 12. **CAREER STARTS**—Daniels 43, Billingsley 37, Dizon 34, Sims 31, Th. Washington 31.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION (dressed/played): Montana State 91/54; Colorado State 92/55; Arizona State 92/54; Georgia 65/56; Missouri 69/57; Baylor 90/53; Texas Tech 92/59; Oklahoma 70/58; Kansas 70/59; Kansas State 90/56; Iowa State 90/58; Nebraska 68/56.

GRADUATION STAT(U)S

Three of the 24 seniors on the 2006 roster graduated in August: **OLB Ben Carpenter** (business-finance; he is working on a second major in integrative physiology), **WR Nick Holz** (communication) and **DT Marcus Jones** (economics; he is working on a second major in sociology). Six more graduated December 22: **TE Paul Creighton** (psychology), **PK Mason Crosby** (communication), **C Mark Fenton** (political science), **DE Alex Ligon** (sociology), **WR Blake Mackey** (communication) and **DE Abraham Wright** (sociology). Thirteen others are on target for this May: **ILB Jason Ackermann** (sociology), **S J.J. Billingsley** (sociology), **DE Walter Boye-Doe** (business-finance & marketing), **QB James Cox** (communication), **OLB Chad Cusworth** (business-management), **PK OG Brian Daniels** (business-finance), **TE Dan Goettsch** (sociology), **TB Mel Holliday** (psychology), **CB Lorenzo Sims** (sociology), **OL Jack Tipton** (architecture-planning), **CB Terry Washington** (ethnic studies), **ILB Thaddaeus Washington** (sociology) and **CB Vance Washington** (sociology). **S Dominique Brooks** (sociology) and **OL Bryce MacMartin** (chemical engineering) will likely graduate beyond next May, Brooks due to consideration of a possible redshirt and MacMartin because his major requires additional credit hours. In addition, two juniors, **OT Tyler Polumbus** (business-management) and **WR Dusty Sprague** (business-management) are in position to graduate in May 2007.

► **NOTE:** Over the last four years (2002-05), CU has had 77 of its 87 seniors, including medicals, graduate; that translates to 88.5 percent (with two of the 10 non-grads still in school and looking to graduate within the next year, while three are in the NFL). NCAA numbers will not match these (it doesn't allow a school to count transfers who graduate, i.e., Wayne Lucier in '02 or WR Mike Duren in '04), but it does count against a school if it had a player transfer. It's one of the reasons the numbers are skewed to be lower than they really are, especially a tougher academic schools like Colorado.

CONFERENCE CHARTS

A look at how Big 12 Conference teams stack up in some categories since the league's birth in 1996:

On The Big 12 Road

School	W	L	Pct.
Texas	28	10	.737
Oklahoma	26	13	.667
Nebraska	25	18	.581
Kansas State	24	20	.545
Texas A&M	23	21	.523
Colorado	21	23	.477
Texas Tech	19	25	.432
Oklahoma State	13	30	.302
Missouri	13	31	.295
Iowa State	10	34	.227
Kansas	6	38	.136
Baylor	2	42	.045

Does not include neutral site games
OU-UT, '96 OSU-TTU or '98 NU-OSU.

Inter-Division (North vs. South)

School	W	L	Pct.
Nebraska	20	13	.606
Colorado	18	15	.545
Missouri	18	15	.545
Kansas State	18	15	.545
Iowa State	9	24	.273
Kansas	5	28	.152

Inter-Division (South vs. North)

School	W	L	Pct.
Texas	27	6	.818
Oklahoma	23	10	.697
Texas A&M	20	13	.606
Texas Tech	17	16	.515
Oklahoma State	15	18	.455
Baylor	8	25	.242

(does not include title games)

2006 Network TV Appearances

School	Tot	ABC	FSN	Oth
Oklahoma	12	6	5	1
Texas	11	6	1	4
Nebraska	10	8	2	0
Missouri	8	4	2	2
Colorado	7	1	3	3
Texas Tech	7	1	2	4
Texas A&M	7	5	1	1
Kansas	6	1	4	1
Oklahoma State	6	1	2	3
Baylor	5	0	4	1
Kansas State	5	1	4	0
Iowa State	4	2	1	1

Does not include pay-per-view;
does include other packages (TBS,
ESPN, etc.).

INCLUDES BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.

vs. Ranked Non-League Teams

(AP, since 1990; by games played)

School	G	W	L	T	Pct.
Colorado	27	13	13	1	.500
Texas	22	7	13	2	.364
Nebraska	13	8	5	0	.615
Oklahoma	13	6	7	0	.462
Texas A&M	12	4	8	0	.333
Texas Tech	12	0	12	0	.000
Baylor	9	2	7	0	.222
Missouri	9	1	8	0	.111
Iowa State	9	1	8	0	.111
Kansas	6	0	6	0	.000
Oklahoma State	5	0	5	0	.000
Kansas State	3	1	2	0	.333

(regular season; does not include bowls)

CAREER GAMES PLAYED/STARTED CHART

Listed below is the career games played/started, including bowls, for the players on the 2006 Colorado Buffaloes. The players on this year's opening roster collectively had played in 1,053 games, with 273 starts. Recent past numbers entering the year: **1,080/314** (2005), **761/182** (2004), **845/239** (2003), **883/278** (2002), **694/223** (2000) and **790/229** (1999). The list (includes bowls):

Player	G	GS	Player	G	GS	Player	G	GS	Player	G	GS	Player	G	GS
ACKERMANN	30	0	CARPENTER	27	0	GOETTSCH	18	4	LUCAS	19	7	SMITH, J.	0	0
ADAMS, Jo.	9	0	CHARLES	37	19	GRUBIN	0	0	MACKEY	24	3	SOLDER	0	0
ADAMS, Ju.	1	0	COX	19	3	HAM	0	0	MacMARTIN	18	7	SPRAGUE	35	13
BACKOWSKI	12	1	CRAWFORD	12	3	HARRIS	35	6	McBRIDE	5	0	STENGEL	0	0
BARNETT	25	9	CREIGHTON	47	2	HARRISON	34	16	McKAY	21	0	STEVENS	0	0
BARRETT	29	2	CROSBY	50	—	HAUCK	0	0	McKNIGHT	0	0	SUAZO	0	0
BEATTY	0	0	CUSWORTH	20	0	HAWKINS	0	0	MOYD	11	0	SUMLER	0	0
BEHRENS	0	0	DANIELS	47	45	HEAD	3	1	NABORS	0	0	TIPTON	24	6
BILLINGSLEY	48	37	DEVENNY	0	0	HERROD	0	0	NICOLAS	12	11	WALTERS	24	10
BISNOW	0	0	DeVREE	11	3	HOLLIDAY	12	1	NONU	0	0	WASHINGTON, Te	25	9
BORDERS	0	0	DILALLO	12	0	HOLZ	38	2	PALAZZI	0	0	WASHINGTON, Th.	49	31
BOYE-DOE	46	15	DIZON	38	34	HYPOLITE	24	8	PEREZ	0	0	WASHINGTON, V.	36	0
BRACE	10	0	DRESCHER	12	0	JACKSON	24	11	POLUMBUS	35	15	WHEATLEY	37	19
BROOKS	31	13	EBERHART	7	—	JAGORAS	12	1	ROBINSON	38	2	WILLIAMS	27	7
BROWN, C.	12	4	ELLIS	34	5	JONES, B.	25	11	SANDERS, D.	21	15	WILSON	1	0
BROWN, J.	0	0	FAATAGI	0	0	JONES, M.	16	0	SANDERS, J.	35	0	WRIGHT	39	27
BROWN, R.	17	0	FENDRY	0	0	JOSEPH	18	0	SHANAHAN	0	0	YATES	5	0
BURNEY	23	2	FENTON	42	31	KACHMER	0	0	SIMS	41	31	TEAM	1675	538
BURTON	22	1	FOSTER	0	0	KAYNOR	10	0	SIPILI	12	2	2005 Final	1772	600
CAMMON	0	0	GARDEN	2	—	LAWSON	0	0	SMART	11	0			
CANTRELL	16	5	GEER	12	9	LIGON	41	19	SMITH, B.	0	0			

LAST TRUE FRESHMEN TO START: CB Cha'pelle Brown, ILB Michael Sipili (2006); Maurice Lucas (2005); ILB Jordon Dizon (2004); ILB Walter Boye-Doe, CB Terrence Wheatley, S Dominique Brooks, OG Brian Daniels, DB Lorenzo Sims (2003); J.J. Billingsley, TB Brian Calhoun, DB Brian Iwuh (2002).

LAST TRUE FRESHMEN TO START AT QUARTERBACK: Craig Ochs (2000), Koy Detmer (1992). **IN A SEASON OPENER:** Has not occurred.

LAST TRUE FRESHMEN TO START AT RUNNING BACK: Brian Calhoun (2002), Marcus Houston (2000). **IN A SEASON OPENER:** Kent Kahl (1991).

LAST REDSHIRT FRESHMEN TO START: OT Paul Backowski, TE Riar Geer, OG Devin Head (2006); OG Daniel Sanders (2005); DE Alex Ligon, LB Thaddaeus Washington (2003).

LAST PLAYERS TO START FOR THE FIRST TIME AS A SENIOR: TE Paul Creighton, TE Dan Goettsch, C Bryce MacMartin, TB Mell Holliday, WR Nick Holz (2006); WR Mike Duren, OG Terrance Barreau (2004); WR D.J. Hackett (2003); DE Dylan Bird, WR Jason Burianek, OT Josh Foster, QB Robert Hodge, DB Lovell Houston, OT Rawle King (2002).

NINETEEN SAW FIRST CU ACTION IN 2006

In 2006, 19 players saw their first action in a Colorado Buffalo uniform. In the season opener against Montana State, 14 players stepped onto the field for the first time in a Colorado uniform, including the only four true freshmen who have played to date: **DT Jason Brace**, **CB Cha'pelle Brown**, **LS Justin Drescher** and **ILB Michael Sipili**. Last year, 16 saw their first action while 24 did so in both 2004 and 2003. The list of Buffs to hit the field for the first time in 2006 (*—mainly special teams duty):

TRUE FRESHMEN (4): DT Jason Brace, *CB Cha'pelle Brown, *LS Justin Drescher, *ILB Michael Sipili

REDSHIRT FRESHMEN (6): *OT Paul Backowski, P Matt DiLallo, TE Riar Geer, OL Devin Head, DT Taj Kaynor, *TB Kevin Moyd, ILB Jeff Smart

SOPHOMORES (5): *S Joel Adams, *TE Justin Adams, WR Cody Crawford, *P Isaac Garden, S Terry Wilson

JUNIORS (2): TE Tyson DeVree, FB Samson Jagoras

SENIORS (1): TB Mell Holliday

TWENTY-FOUR MAKE FIRST CAREER STARTS IN 2006

Twenty-four players made their first career starts in 2006, the third-most over the last 23 seasons (15 offense, nine defense). Eight did so in the season opener against Montana State: **S Benjamin Burney**, **TE Riar Geer**, **OG Devin Head**, **DT George Hypolite**, **FB Samson Jagoras**, **OLB Brad Jones**, **DT Brandon Nicolas** and **WR Patrick Williams**. Three more followed in the CSU game in Denver: **TE Dan Goettsch**, **QB Bernard Jackson** and **FS Ryan Walters**; two more versus Arizona State: **TE Tyson DeVree** and **WR Stephone Robinson**; and one at Georgia: **WR Cody Crawford**. In the Big 12 opener at Missouri, **CB Cha'pelle Brown**, **ILB Marcus Burton**, **C Bryce MacMartin** and **ILB Michael Sipili** trotted on to the field first. Six players started for the first time as conference play continued: **FB Maurice Cantrell**, **S Lionel Harris** and **WR Nick Holz** (versus Baylor); **OT Paul Backowski** (at Kansas); **TE Paul Creighton** (against Kansas State) and **TB Mell Holliday** (Iowa State). In 2005, 11 players made their first career starts in a CU uniform, with all returning this fall. The 24 first-time starters are the most since 1998, when there were 27 first-time starters for the Buffaloes, 17 on offense and 10 on defense. The high came in 1984, when 29 made their first starts (15 on offense). The annual number of first-time starters since 1984:

ANNUAL FIRST-TIME STARTERS: 1984 (29), 1985 (9), 1986 (15), 1987 (14), 1988 (16), 1989 (7), 1990 (16), 1991 (23), 1992 (15), 1993 (7), 1994 (6), 1995 (11), 1996 (8), 1997 (14), 1998 (27), 1999 (14), 2000 (16), 2001 (12), 2002 (16), 2003 (20), 2004 (12), 2005 (11) and 2006 (24).

HISTORICALLY

Colorado is in its second century of intercollegiate football, as the Buffaloes are in their 117th season of competition with an all-time record of **652-412-36** in **1,100** games. CU currently stands 15th on the all-time win list and is 22nd in all-time winning percentage (.609; 20th for those schools with at least 50 seasons in Division I-A). Only Texas, Oklahoma and Nebraska from the Big 12 rank ahead of CU on each list, and only 12 Division I schools have played more seasons of intercollegiate football than Colorado. In Boulder, the Buffs are **282-136-10** in their 83rd season on the "hilltop" (Folsom Field). Against Big 12 opposition, CU is **245-212-13** against the other 11 members of the conference, formed in 1996.

SCORING STREAKS

The Buffs have scored in a school record **222** consecutive games (dating back to 1988, the longest streak in the Big 12), last being shutout on November 12, 1988 at Nebraska (7-0). CU has scored in **118** straight games at home (last shutout: a 28-0 loss to Oklahoma on Nov. 15, 1986 in a game where the Sooners did not *attempt* a single pass). The Buffs have scored in **87** consecutive road games (**113** including neutral sites). The Buffs have scored in **141** straight league games (all **91** in Big 12 play, including the four title games, and their final 50 in Big Eight competition, dating back to the '88 shutout at Nebraska). CU has scored in **120** straight games against non-conference opponents (last shutout: a 44-0 loss at home to LSU on September 15, 1979). The home shutout losses to Oklahoma in '86 and LSU in '79 are the only two times CU has not scored at Folsom Field over the course of the last **256** games (all the way back to 1963). CU has been shutout just seven times in its last **453** games (dating to October 5, 1968), but only four schools have done it: Oklahoma (three times), Nebraska (twice), Louisiana State and Michigan. **Big 12 Conference Consecutive Game Scoring Streaks (through 2006): Colorado 222, Nebraska 139, Kansas State 128, Texas Tech 117, Oklahoma 107, Kansas 50, Missouri 49, Iowa State 39, Texas A&M 38, Texas 33, Oklahoma State 20, Baylor 14.** CU is the last team to shutout both Kansas State (12-0 in 1996) and Oklahoma State (34-0 in 2005).

SCORING STREAKS II

The school record **222** consecutive games in which Colorado has scored is now the **fifth** longest active streak in the nation; Wake Forest's 30-0 shutout of Florida State ended the Seminoles streak at 232, the ninth longest all-time (see next chart). The list of the nine Division I-A schools that have scored in every game since at least the start of the 1993 season, through games of 2006:

School	Streak	Last Shutout	School	Streak	Last Shutout
Michigan	275	Oct. 20, 1984 at Iowa (0-26)	TCU	177	Nov. 16, 1991 at Texas (0-32)
Washington State	261	Sept. 15, 1984 at Ohio State (0-44)	Nevada	175	*—All games: joined Div I-A in 1992
Oregon	257	Sept. 28, 1985 at Nebraska (0-63)	Air Force	168	#—Dec. 31, 1992 vs. Mississippi (0-13)
Florida	230	Oct. 29, 1988 vs. Auburn (0-16)			(*—317 games dating back to I-AA days; #—Liberty Bowl)
Colorado	222	Nov. 12, 1988 at Nebraska (0-7)			

222 AND COUNTING

Colorado's **222**-game scoring streak currently is the 11th longest in Division I-A college history:

School	Streak	Dates	Ended By	School	Streak	Dates	Ended By
Brigham Young	361	9/27/1975 - 11/15/2003	Utah	Nebraska	233	1/01/1974 - 11/29/1991	Miami, Fla.
Texas	281	11/29/1980 - 10/02/2004	Oklahoma	Florida State	232	9/10/1988 - 11/11/2006	Wake Forest
Michigan	275	10/27/1984 - present	.....	Florida	230	11/05/1988 - present	.....
Washington	271	11/14/1981 - 10/16/2004	USC	Colorado	222	11/19/1988 - present	.....
Washington State	261	10/22/1984 - present	.....	Hawaii	219	12/04/1976 - 11/04/1995	Colorado State
Oregon	257	10/05/1985 - present	.....	Arizona	214	9/09/1972 - 12/15/1990	Syracuse
UCLA	245	10/02/1971 - 10/17/1992	Arizona State	Virginia	195	9/15/1984 - 10/28/2000	Georgia Tech

ANATOMY OF THE SCORING STREAK

Colorado has more often than not extended its scoring streak rather quickly. In the **222**-game run, CU has scored on its first possession **89** times, plus another two occasions where it scored on returns on its first touch of the game. The Buffs have scored in the first quarter **155** times during the streak, and had it extended by halftime **202** times. A closer look (*—includes score on a kickoff return to start the 1998 Aloha Bowl and an interception return prior to the first offensive position in the 2002 Alamo Bowl):

		Scored On/In:				Points Scored-----			
Season	Games	1st Poss.	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Wins	Losses	Ties
1988	2	2	2	0	0	0	73	—	—
1989	12	7	9	2	1	0	452	6	—
1990	13	4	8	3	1	1	346	22	31
1991	12	3	7	5	0	0	250	60	19
1992	12	3	6	4	2	0	287	29	24
1993	12	4	9	3	0	0	269	83	16
1994	12	7	11	0	1	0	432	7	—
1995	12	2	9	3	0	0	399	45	—
1996	12	5	9	3	0	0	327	25	—
1997	11	4	7	3	1	0	183	117	—

		Scored On/In:				Points Scored-----			
Season	Games	1st Poss.	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Wins	Losses	Ties
1998	12	3*	9	2	0	1	248	54	—
1999	12	4	6	3	1	2	313	92	—
2000	11	3	6	4	1	0	91	161	—
2001	13	7	10	3	0	0	367	45	—
2002	14	8*	10	1	2	1	335	63	—
2003	12	5	9	3	0	0	173	146	—
2004	13	3	11	0	1	1	245	59	—
2005	13	5	7	5	0	1	253	52	—
2006	12	7	10	0	1	1	63	133	—
Totals	222	91	155	47	12	8	5106	1199	90

Colorado has a **144-74-4** record during the scoring streak, averaging **35.5** points in the wins and **16.2** points in the losses (and 23.5 the four tied games). On only eight occasions have the Buffs extended the streak in the fourth quarter.

SCORING DUEL JUST 25 MILES APART

Colorado has scored in **222** straight games dating back to 1988; down the road, the NFL Denver Broncos have scored in **229** consecutive contests, the second longest active pro streak which dates back to 1992. Their fiercest rivals inflicted the last shutouts of each: Nebraska and the Raiders (then in L.A.). Combined, the pair has scored in **451** straight games. Many traits are eerily similar; the Broncos have extended it on their first possession 90 times, in the first quarter 151 times and by halftime on 219 occasions, although have had to wait to extend it in the fourth quarter just once.

TRENDS

Since 1985, when the Buffs returned to their traditional winning ways after six frustrating years, Colorado is **170-93-4**, the 19th best record nationally in this span). In these 267 games, CU has posted the following records (including bowls):

♦ with 400-plus yards total offense	101-16-2	♦ when holding opponent under 300 yards total offense	83-16-1
♦ with 500-plus yards total offense	50- 5-0	♦ when leading at halftime (123-15-2 in last 140)	139-17-2
♦ when leading in time of possession	111-24-3	♦ when leading after three quarters (139-12-3 in last 154)	143-14-3
♦ when converting 50 percent or better on 3rd down	66- 7-1	♦ when scoring 24 or more points	138-18-2
♦ when punting three or fewer times	62-13-1	♦ when scoring 14 or more points	167-53-4
♦ when scoring first	110-27-1	♦ when held to 13 points or less	3-39-0
♦ with zero turnovers (123-45-2 with two or fewer)	31-10-2	♦ when not committing a turnover or allowing a sack	12- 0-0
♦ when holding opponent to 17 points or less	102-17-1	♦ when passing for more yards than rushing	70-58-2
♦ when holding opponent under 100 yards rushing	86-10-1	♦ when holding edge in 1st downs & possession time	93-17-2

TRENDS II

Since 1989, when the Buffs became a regular in the national rankings, Colorado has posted the nation's 20th best overall record at **142-74-4**. Here are some trends during this time frame (220 games, including bowls):

➤ with 400-plus yards total offense (45-5 with 500-plus)	87-16-2	➤ when rushing for 200-plus yards	75- 5-1
➤ when scoring 30 or more points	94- 6-1	➤ when rushing for 250-plus yards	51- 2-1
➤ when leading in possession time (52-51-1 when not)	90-22-3	➤ when rushing for 300-plus yards	30- 0-1
➤ when making 20-plus first downs	91-25-1	➤ when rushing and passing for at least 200 yards	32- 2-0
➤ when converting 50 percent or better on 3rd down	52- 6-1	➤ when passing for 200-plus yards	75-33-2
➤ when scoring first (77-18-1 the last 96 times)	88-21-1	➤ when passing for 300-plus yards (10-0-1 400-plus)	25-11-1
➤ with zero turnovers (105-39-2 with two or fewer)	25-10-2	➤ when passing for more yards than rushing	70-58-2
➤ when holding opponent to 17 points or less	78-10-1	➤ when holding edge in 1st downs & possession time	75-16-2
➤ when holding opponent under 100 yards rushing	70-10-1	➤ when holding edge in field position	113-19-1
➤ when holding opponent under 300 yards total offense	62-11-1	➤ when not committing a turnover or allowing a sack	11- 0-0
➤ when average field position is CU 30+ (23-2 40+)	102-30-2	➤ when out-rushing the opponent	115-13-3
➤ when play selection is 50 percent rushing calls	119-28-2	➤ when owning the edge in return yards	107-28-2

TRENDS III

Some trends of new Colorado coach **Dan Hawkins** both overall and at his former school, Boise State; totals are for **76** games including bowls (**55-21**; the Broncos were 53-11 under his guidance in five seasons):

Category	At CU	Overall	Category	At CU	Overall
➤ when scoring 20 or more points (0-13 when not)	2- 2	55- 8	➤ when leading after three (6-16 trailing, 2-1 tied)	2- 2	47- 3
➤ when scoring 30 or more points	2- 1	49- 3	➤ when holding opponent under 100 yards rushing	1- 3	33- 5
➤ when scoring 40 or more points	0- 0	35- 2	➤ when holding opponent under 300 yards offense	1- 4	25- 4
➤ when scoring 50 or more points	0- 0	19- 0	➤ when rushing for 200-plus yards	2- 1	34- 1
➤ when holding opponent to 17 points or less	2- 2	31- 2	➤ when rushing for 250-plus yards (6-0 300-plus)	1- 1	23- 1
➤ in games decided by 7 points or less	0- 4	10- 9	➤ when rushing for more yards than passing	2- 6	20- 7
➤ with two or fewer turnovers (8-2 with zero)	2- 8	40-16	➤ with a 100-yard rusher	1- 2	28- 2
➤ when turnover margin was plus or even	2- 7	41-14	➤ when rushing and passing for at least 200 yards	1- 0	26- 0
➤ when scoring first (17-12 when not)	2- 6	38- 9	➤ with 400-plus yards total offense (41-0 last 40)	1- 0	45- 2
➤ when leading at halftime	2- 3	45- 6	➤ with 500-plus yards total offense (5-0 with 600-plus)	0- 0	23- 1
➤ when trailing at halftime (4-0 when tied)	0- 6	6-14			

TURNOVERS ARE INDEED COSTLY

Dan Hawkins falls in line with most, if not all, head coaches when it comes to turnovers, and that they are one of the single most important factors in winning or losing ball games. He has penalties and rewards daily in the practice dependent on the number of turnovers committed or forced. Gary Barnett drilled home to his teams the importance of taking care of the football, which he learned from the legendary Bill McCartney. Statistics back up the argument, as the below will show that it is definitely better to take than to give over the last 18 seasons, in which CU owns the nation's 20th best overall record:

	Turnovers Committed	Turnovers Forced	+/-	Scoring Off Turnovers PF	PA	+/-
142 WINS	237	362	+125	1,201	462	+739
HAWKINS ERA (2 WINS)	2	5	+ 3	3	6	- 3
74 LOSSES (& 4 TIES)	191	130	- 61	287	623	-336
HAWKINS ERA (10 LOSSES)	14	19	+ 5	25	41	- 16
18-SEASON TOTALS (220 Games)	428	492	+64	1,488	1,085	+403
HAWKINS ERA (12 Games)	16	24	+ 8	28	47	- 19

COLORADO BY THE NUMBERS IN 2006

- 0** The number of Colorado turnovers in the season's final 10 quarters (and the number by the opponent in the season's final 12 quarters);
- 3** The number of players who have rushed for 100-plus yards against CU in the last 25 games.
- 5.4** The number of yards **Matthew DiLallo** averaged over the previous best by any frosh punter in CU history (43.7; Andy Mitchell averaged 38.3 in 1994).
- 21-9** Colorado owns the best intra-division mark over the last five seasons against fellow Big 12 North teams at 21-9.
- 25.0** The conversion percentage for the opponent on 3rd-&-Goal from the Colorado 1 in 2006 (**2-of-8**).
- 31** The number of records Mason Crosby has set in his career, many of them falling into place in 2006.
- 37** The number of points CU has scored on its first possession in 2006.
- 40.6** Opponents starting **40.6** percent of their drives (**56 of 138**) either inside or at the 20-yard line for the season; that number was **49.7** in 2005.
- 53** The number of second down plays the opponent had with just 1 to 4 yards needed for a first down (out of **268**).
- 13-57** The raw third down conversion number for opponents on 3rd-and-10 or longer in 2006 (CU was 9-of-52 in similar circumstances).
- 65** The length of a Mason Crosby field goal attempt in the fourth quarter against Iowa State, the fifth attempt of 60 yards or longer in school history (Crosby has three of the five and the only make from that distance, 60 yards against Iowa State in 2004).
- 71.4** The length in centimeters that Crosby's 65-yard try fell short (less than a yard, about 30 inches).
- 222** Colorado has scored in 222 consecutive games, now the fifth longest active streak in the nation (and the 11th longest of all-time).
- 618** The combined number of career tackles from CU starting linebackers Thaddaeus Washington (**335**) and Jordon Dizon (**268**); the most two players simultaneously have had while playing on the same team were **599** by Ted Johnson (409) and Matt Russell (190) at the end of the '94 season.
- 653** The difference in the number of rushing yards gained (**2,075**) compared to passing (**1,422**) by Colorado in 2006, the first time since 2002 the Buffs will gain more on the ground than in the air (1,229 edge that season).
- 1100** The Nebraska game to close the season was the 1,100th in Colorado history.
- 1600** The mileage in each direction Ralphie IV traveled to appear at the Georgia game, her first regular season appearance outside of Colorado since 1989.
- 92746** The third largest crowd CU has ever played before, coming at Georgia's Sanford Stadium.

40 WINS OVER RANKED TEAMS SEVENTH BEST SINCE '89

CU's 40 wins over *Associated Press* ranked teams since the start of the 1989 season is tied for the seventh most in the nation in this time frame. Florida State has the most with 65, followed by Michigan (57), Florida (56), Ohio State (50), Miami, Fla. (50), Tennessee (48), **Colorado (40)** and Notre Dame (40). Penn State (38), Nebraska (35) and Alabama and Texas (34 each) round out the top 10. As for the Big 12, after CU, NU and UT, the next schools on this list are Oklahoma (31), Texas A&M (20) and Texas Tech (17). All-time, Colorado's 63 wins over ranked teams are the 23rd most in history. (*AP polls used for these figures because the coaches' poll omits teams on probation, but AP still ranks those teams.*)

CLOCK RULE CHANGE ANALYSIS

It is safe to say that the NCAA Rules Committee change that quickened college football games has not been overly popular. By starting the clock faster on possession changes (and on kickoffs when foot meets ball), original estimates were that each team might lose three or four plays per game. Hmmm... not so. Colorado wound up running **10** fewer plays per game, the opponent almost seven, as the combined total dropped from 142.1 in 2005 to **126.3** this year. CU and the opponent also combined for **51** fewer possessions than a year ago. Here's a summation of game play counts in 2006 and notes related to other years:

Game	Colorado	Opp.	Total	Notes
Montana State	54	70	124	Only the 11th time fewer than 125 plays were run in last 234 Colorado games.
Colorado State	48	57	105	Fourth fewest plays in a CU game since 1946 ; two of the three games with fewer took place in '46 (other in '54)
Arizona State	62	74	136	Count aided by 26 incomplete passes, 31 third down plays
Georgia	66	56	122	Georgia's 56 plays tied for the second fewest by an opponent in a win over CU since 1981
Missouri	63	77	140	Season regulation high (would have been fourth lowest by a hair in '05), plus Missouri runs hurry-up offense
Baylor	74	70	144	118 total at end of regulation; 26 run in OT (18 by Baylor, 8 by Colorado)
Texas Tech	65	60	125	Last two games in series (2002-03) averaged 153.5 plays per game
Oklahoma	44	75	119	Matched CU low for fewest plays in a game in last 25 seasons (also had 44 against OU in 2004 Big 12 title loss)
Kansas	70	62	132	Count aided by 29 incomplete passes, 30 third down plays
Kansas State	58	64	122	Teams combine for just 21 possessions
Iowa State	57	59	116	Teams combine for just 19 possessions
Nebraska	54	76	130	Huskers run some no-huddle; 22 incomplete passes in game aid clock stoppages
2006 Totals	715	800	1,515	12-Game Average: 126.3 (Colorado 59.6; Opponent 66.7)
2005 Totals	828	877	1,705	12-Game Average: 142.1 (Colorado 69.0; Opponent 73.1)

- ◆ Neither CU nor the opponent had a game with **80** plays; that had happened just one time in the previous **44** seasons (1998).
- ◆ Colorado (135) and opponents (138) combine for 273 total possessions; that number in 2005 was 324 (Colorado 161, Opponents 163).
- ◆ The average time of a Colorado game in 2005 took 3 hours and 29 minutes; that dipped to 3 hours and 5 minutes in 2006. The CU-CSU contest lasted all of 2:48, tied for the third shortest since 1990, and there were four sub-three hour games overall.
- ◆ Colorado averaged **59.6** plays per game, the fewest run by the Buffaloes since 1963, when they averaged 57.6 plays per game in Eddie Crowder's first year as head coach (10-game season; the fewest in an 11-game campaign was 63.2 in 1967).
- ◆ Overall, CU and its opponent ran 125 or fewer plays **SEVEN** times; that's only three less than the total in the previous 233 games heading into the season.

TURNOVER MARGIN

Colorado finished +0.67 in turnover margin, having committed 16 on the year while forcing 22; that is tied for second in the Big 12 and 17th nationally. It was the best by a CU teams since 1993, when the Buffs were a healthy plus-13 (fourth best in the NCAA). There have been only eight seasons in school history where the number was better than a plus-six: 1951 (+8), 1956 (+18), 1960 (+10), 1967 (+17), 1972 (+11), 1976 (+16), 1989 (+12), 1993 (+13) and now 2006 (+8).

CU ADDS SIX HOME-AND-HOME SERIES OVER NEXT 12 SEASONS; 2007, 2009, 2012 & 2013 SCHEDULES COMPLETE

Colorado is working to fill its football schedules over the next decade, and since mid-summer, the Buffaloes have agreed to six home-and-home series with a school from each time zone. The additions have completely filled four of CU's next seven schedules, with one open date left three other years. This followed agreements with the **University of Georgia** and the **University of Minnesota** that were inked the previous year.

In July, Colorado and **Miami, Ohio** agreed to a home-and-home series that enabled the Buffaloes to complete their 2007 and 2009 schedules. The RedHawks will come to Boulder on September 22, 2007, with the Buffs set to return the game on September 12, 2009 (in Oxford, about 30 miles north of Cincinnati). ESPN has already guaranteed the schools that it will televise the second game. A CU connection with the RedHawks is their athletic director **Brad Bates**, who was CU's strength and conditioning coach between 1982-84, coming to Boulder with **Bill McCartney**. It will be the first time the schools will play in football, and just the second game for CU against current Mid-America Conference opponents; the Buffs own a 42-0 win over Kent State in 1977.

On September 16, CU announced home-and-home arrangements with three other schools, all opponents CU has a previous history with in **Louisiana State University**, the **University of Oregon** and the **University of Utah**. Colorado has played the trio a combined 78 times in its history, but there have been no regular season games with any of the three since 1987. Each series has its own special moments and place in school annals.

The CU-LSU series is first up, as the Buffs will travel to Baton Rouge on Sept. 24, 2011, with the Tigers returning the game to Boulder on Sept. 15, 2012. The Buffs and Utes will resume play after a 50-year layoff in their series, as Utah will come to Boulder on Sept. 22, 2012 with Salt Lake City to play host on Sept. 21, 2013. The Oregon series is a bit further out, with Eugene to be the site in 2014 (Sept. 13), with the Ducks' return trip to Boulder set for 2017 (Sept. 16). A closer look:

Colorado-Louisiana State. While LSU leads the all-time series by a 5-1 count, CU's lone victory in the series was most significant. In the 1971 season opener, the unranked and sophomore-laden Buffs traveled to Baton Rouge and upset the No. 9 Tigers, 31-21. That win propelled CU to No. 12 in the polls the following Monday and coach **Eddie Crowder's** Buffaloes went on to finish 10-2 and No. 3 in the nation. The two first met in the 1962 Orange Bowl, a 25-7 LSU victory, and last played in 1980, when LSU edged the Buffs with a field goal with 35 seconds remaining to escape with a 23-20 verdict.

Colorado-Utah. Other than the 78 games played against in-state rival Colorado State, the 57 games the Buffs have played against the Utes are the second most against any other non-conference school, as CU leads the series, 30-24-3. But the two schools, just 512 miles apart, have not met since 1962 after meeting every year from 1910 through 1958 (and twice in 1943 during World War II). The two first met on Oct. 3, 1903 in Boulder (a 22-0 Colorado win), as Utah was just the third school from outside the state to make a trip to Boulder; CU returned the game the following year, just the second time in Colorado's history that the then Silver & Gold had ever left the state to play a game.

Old-timers will tell you that Utah was CU's first real rival, and after the Utes reeled off nine straight wins between 1925 and 1933 to take a 16-11-1 edge in the series, Utah clearly had staked its claim as the dominant program in the old Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. But behind **Kayo Lam** and the school's first All-American, **Byron White**, the newly named Buffaloes won the next four. The Buffs won eight straight from 1951 to 1958 to go up by eight on the Utes, and after a two-year hiatus, the series resumed in 1961 when Utah inflicted a painful 21-12 setback on CU—its only regular season loss in a 9-1 campaign. The last game in the series was on Sept. 22, 1962, a 37-21 Utah win in Salt Lake City; thus the series will resume 50 years to the day of the last meeting. The two schools are fierce ski rivals and have won 14 of the last 24 NCAA titles between them since the sport went coed in 1983.

Colorado-Oregon. The Buffs lead the most-entertaining 15-game series by an 8-7 count, as the two last met in the regular season in 1987 but have squared off in bowl games three times since then. The first meeting was in 1949, a 42-14 Oregon win, signaling the start of five home-and-home agreements between the two, including a four-game set between 1984 and 1987. The 1979 game, a 33-19 Duck win, was the first for CU coach **Chuck Fairbanks** and also the first game televised by a then-fledgling television network called ESPN. The 1984 game in Eugene yielded one of the sadder moments in school history, when tight end **Ed Reinhardt** suffered a near-fatal brain injury and had his life forever changed, but it also stabled a bond between the two schools that remains to this day. In 1985, after the Buffs opened with a win over CSU to match their entire win total the previous season, one of the first early key moments in the success of the **Bill McCartney** Era occurred. The Buffs owned a 21-17 lead but UO drove inside the CU 10 in the final minute of the game; on a 4th-and-goal from the CU 3, **Mickey Pruitt** sacked Duck quarterback **Chris Miller** as time ran out to preserve the win, and the Buffs went on to finish 7-4 and earn a Freedom Bowl berth. The schools met in the 1996 Cotton Bowl (a 38-6 CU win to cap a 10-2 year under first-year coach **Rick Neuheisel**), in the 1998 Aloha Bowl (Neuheisel's last game as CU coach as the Buffs won a shootout, 51-43), and in the 2002 Fiesta Bowl; in the latter, it was just the sixth postseason match-up of No. 2 (Colorado) versus No. 3 (Oregon) and the Pac-10 champion Ducks got the best in this one, winning 38-16.

Then on November 7, CU and **Arizona State University** jointly announced extending their series after the two met for the first time ever this past September (a 21-3 ASU win in Boulder). The Sun Devils will visit Boulder in 2013, and CU returns that one in 2018, the furthest confirmed game out currently on any CU football schedule. CU returns the game in the current series next September in Tempe.

On January 25, the latest series was announced, as Colorado and the **University of Washington** mutually agreed to a home-and-home series, renewing a rivalry that will have begun exactly 100 years prior to the series resuming in 2015. Colorado will host the Huskies in Boulder on September 12, 2015, with the Buffaloes to return the game in Seattle on September 10, 2016. A look at this series:

Colorado-Washington. The 11-game series has had several memorable moments for both schools, not to mention that it's been an even one: each school has five wins with one ending in a tie. Washington won the first meeting in 1915 by a 46-0 score in Seattle; it was the first time in the then-CU program's 25 year history that the school traveled beyond four neighboring states (Kansas, Nebraska, Utah, Wyoming) for a football game. The second meeting didn't occur until 1953, when Colorado returned to Seattle but this time left with a 21-20 win; the difference was a missed extra point in an evenly fought game. The schools played twice more that decade and again in 1976, with a 1985 Buff-Huskies battle in the Freedom Bowl the first postseason appearance by the Buffaloes in nine seasons. Washington staved off two late CU rallies to win that one, 20-17.

The 1989 meeting Seattle was wrought with emotion for the Buffaloes, as quarterback **Sal Aunese** passed away the previous Saturday following a six month battle with stomach cancer. CU played like a team possessed that day, topping the No. 21 Huskies, 45-28, after building a 38-6 lead late in the third quarter. The Buffaloes went on to win the Big Eight and finish the regular season 11-0, their best regular season record in history.

In 1990, **Deon Figures'** interception in the end zone in the final minute preserved a 20-14 win in CU's final non-league game en route to the national championship. In the 1996 Holiday Bowl, the Buffaloes recorded the fifth-largest postseason comeback ever at the time in rallying from 14-0 down early for a 33-21 win as **Koy Detmer** passed for 371 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Buffs.

Most recently, the Huskies won back-to-back thrillers over the Buffaloes in 1999 (31-24 in Seattle) and 2000 (17-14 in Boulder). **Rick Neuheisel**, who was CU's head coach from 1995-98, moved on to UW in '99 and would defeat his former school twice, the latter on the way to the Huskies winning the Pac-10 Conference title and the Rose Bowl.

Colorado's future non-conference schedules are complete for 2007, 2009, 2012 and 2013; the Buffs are in need of one opponent in 2008, 2010 and 2011. Here's a closer look:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
S 1 Colorado State (Denver)	A30 Colorado State (Denver)	S 5 #Colorado State	S 4 #Colorado State	S 3 TBA
S 8 at Arizona State	S 6 HOME TBA	S12 at Miami, Ohio	S11 at California	S10 CALIFORNIA
S15 FLORIDA STATE	S13 NORTH CAROLINA	S19 WYOMING	S18 HOME TBA	S17 TBA
S22 MIAMI, OHIO	S20 at Florida State	S26 at North Carolina	O 2 GEORGIA	S 24 at Louisiana State
S29 *OKLAHOMA (H)	O 4 *TEXAS	O10 *at Texas	O 9 *at Missouri	O 1 *MISSOURI
O 6 *at Baylor	O 11 *at Kansas	O17 *KANSAS	O16 *BAYLOR	O15 *at Baylor
O13 *at Kansas State	O 18 *KANSAS STATE	O24 *at Kansas State	O23 *TEXAS TECH	O22 *at Texas Tech
O20 *KANSAS (FW)	O 25 *at Missouri	O31 *MISSOURI	O30 *at Oklahoma	O29 *OKLAHOMA
O27 *at Texas Tech	N 1 *at Texas A & M	N 7 *TEXAS A & M	N 6 *at Kansas	N 5 *KANSAS
N 3 *MISSOURI	N 8 *IOWA STATE	N14 *at Iowa State	N13 *IOWA STATE	N12 *at Iowa State
N10 *at Iowa State	N15 *OKLAHOMA STATE	N21 *at Oklahoma State	N20 *KANSAS STATE	N19 *at Kansas State
N23 *NEBRASKA	N28 *at Nebraska	N27/28 *NEBRASKA	N26/27 *at Nebraska	N25/26 *NEBRASKA

2012	2013	Other Years
S 1 TBA	A 31 TBA	2014 S13 at Oregon
S 8 at Minnesota	S 7 MINNESOTA	2015 S12 WASHINGTON
S15 LOUISIANA STATE	S 14 ARIZONA STATE	2016 S10 at Washington
S 22 UTAH	S 21 at Utah	2017 S16 OREGON
O 6 *TEXAS	O 5 *at Texas	2018 S15 at Arizona State
O13 *at Kansas	O12 *KANSAS	
O20 *KANSAS STATE	O19 *at Kansas State	
O27 *at Missouri	O26 *MISSOURI	
N 3 *at Texas A & M	N 2 *TEXAS A & M	
N10 *IOWA STATE	N 9 *at Iowa State	
N17 *OKLAHOMA STATE	N16 *at Oklahoma State	
N23/24 *at Nebraska	N29/30 *NEBRASKA	

FW—Family Weekend; **H**—Homecoming; *—Big 12 Conference game; #—site to be determined.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO FOOTBALL

2007 LETTER-OF-INTENT SIGNEES

High School (24)

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (High School)
ADKINS, Ethan.....	OL	6- 5	280	Castle Rock, Colo. (Douglas County)
AHLES, Tyler.....	ILB	6- 3	235	San Bernardino, Calif. (Cajon)
BAHR, Matthew.....	OL	6- 5	285	Dove Canyon, Calif. (Mission Viejo)
BALLENGER, Matt.....	QB	6- 4	215	Nampa, Idaho (Skyview)
BEHRENS, Blake.....	OL	6- 4	285	Phoenix, Ariz. (Brophy Prep)
CELESTINE, Kendrick.....	WR	6- 1	185	Mamou, La. (Mamou)
DANIELS, Shawn.....	OL	6- 3	265	Evergreen, Colo. (Denver Mullen)
GOREE, Eugene.....	DL	6- 2	285	Murfreesboro, Tenn. (Riverdale)
HARTIGAN, Josh.....	OLB	6- 1	210	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Northeast)
*HAWKINS, Jonathan	DB	5-10	185	Perris, Calif. (Rancho Verde)
ILTIS, Mike	OL	6- 3	285	Sarasota, Fla. (Riverview)
JOHNSON, Devan	TE/HB	6- 1	230	Turtle Creek, Pa. (Woodland Hills)
LOCKRIDGE, Brian	TB	5- 8	175	Trabuco Canyon, Calif. (Mission Viejo)
MAIAVA, Kai	C	6- 1	290	Wailuku, Hawai'i (Baldwin)
MILLER, Ryan.....	OL	6- 8	310	Littleton, Colo. (Columbine)
OBI, Conrad.....	DE	6- 4	245	Grayson, Ga. (Grayson)
PERKINS, Anthony	DB	5-11	180	Northglenn, Colo. (Northglenn)
SHIELDS, Lagrone	DL	6- 4	260	Memphis, Tenn. (Ridgeway)
SIMAS, Markques.....	WR	6- 2	195	San Diego, Calif. (Mira Mesa)
SMITH, Josh.....	WR	6- 1	185	Moorpark, Calif. (Moorpark)
SMITH, Lamont	DB	5- 9	170	Penn Hills, Pa. (Pittsburgh Central Catholic)
TAU, Sione	OL	6- 6	310	Honolulu, Hawai'i (Damien Memorial)
VAIOMOUNGA, Nate	DB	5-11	190	Corona, Calif. (Corona)
WRIGHT, Anthony.....	DB	6- 0	185	Compton, Calif. (Compton)

(*—signed a financial aid contract instead of a letter-of-intent due NCAA technical reasons.)

Junior College (4)

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Hometown (High School/Previous School)
GATES, Patrick.....	TB	5-11	190	Jr.	San Diego, Calif. (Marion Catholic/Saddleback College)
HUDGINS, Drew.....	DE	6- 4	230	Jr.	Spring Hills, Kan. (Spring Hills/Highland CC)
NELSON, Nick	QB	6- 1	220	Jr.	Mission Viejo, Calif. (Tesoro/Saddleback College)
PERRI, Christopher	DL	6- 4	270	Jr.	Alameda, Calif. (Bishop O'Dowd/San Jose State/Laney College)

Breakdown

Total.....	28 (24 high school, 4 junior college transfers)
By State.....	California 11, Colorado 4, Florida 2, Hawaii 2, Pennsylvania 2, Tennessee 2, Arizona 1, Georgia 1, Idaho 1, Kansas 1, Louisiana 1
By Position.....	Offense 16 (8 linemen, 3 receivers, 2 quarterbacks, 2 running backs, 1 halfback/tight end)
	Defense 12 (5 backs, 5 linemen—ends/tackles, 2 linebackers)
	Specialists 0



Junior College

P.T. GATES, TB

5-11, 190, San Diego, Calif. (Marion Catholic/Saddleback College)

AT SADDLEBACK (2005-06/Fr., Soph.)—As a sophomore, he was named a *J.C. Gridwire* first-team All-American, first-team All-State, and selected as the Mission Conference Player of the Year. Named to the *SuperPrep* Juco 100 team, he was the No. 9 overall ranked player and the first running back. He ranked third in the conference in rushing with 223 carries for 1,338 yards (6.0 per carry), scoring 23 touchdowns, while he also led his team in receiving with 40 catches for 359 yards and three more scores. His 114 regular season points on 19 TD's led the conference in scoring. He was the league's offensive player of the week in a 24-12 win over Santa Ana in week 9, as he rushed 16 times for 125 yards and two scores with four catches for 34 yards. He scored the game winning touchdown on a 9-yard reception in overtime to defeat Orange Coast, 23-17. As a freshman, he was named second-team All-Mission Conference as he had 122 attempts for 790 yards on the ground, again third best in the league, with six touchdowns, averaging 6.3 yards per carry. He also caught 18 passes for 139 yards and two touchdowns. His top three games at Saddleback came in his last three contests: against El Camino, he had 26 carries for 236 yards and three touchdowns in a 42-37 win; averaging 9.1 yards per carry, he helped rally SC from a 31-14 deficit. In his next game against Palomar in the National Bowl, he had 22 carries for 102 yards and four touchdowns in a 30-28 win. In a season-ending 31-29 loss to El Camino in the semifinals of the regional playoffs, he had another 24 carries for 177 yards and three touchdowns, with four receptions for 41 yards. He had seven 100-yard rushing games as a sophomore. Under head coach Mark McElroy, Saddleback was 11-1 in Gates' sophomore season, finishing as the No. 3 team in the nation by *J.C. Gridwire*, and was 7-4 his freshman season.

HIGH SCHOOL—A three-year letterman in football, he lost only one game in his prep career while scoring 84 touchdowns. As a senior, he was named first-team All-State, All-CIF and All-San Diego County in being named the San Diego Player of the Year. He had 123 rushes for 2,005 yards and 27 touchdowns, adding close to 300 more yards receiving with six scores. He also played safety on defense, finishing with 80 tackles. As a junior, he garnered first-team All-State, All-Conference and All-San Diego County honors in rushing for 1,600 yards and 24 touchdowns on offense; he played cornerback on defense, registering 35 tackles. As a sophomore, he was named team Newcomer of the Year as he rushed for 1,700 yards and 27 touchdowns. Playing a limited role on defense, he registered 25 tackles playing outside linebacker. His top game came as a senior in the CIF Championship game against St. Augustine when he ran for 93 yards and two touchdowns; he also had nine tackles and an interception on defense to help clinch the title. Under head coach Mike David, and later Matt White, Marion Catholic went 38-1, while advancing to the CIF Championship game all three years of his prep career, capturing CIF titles in 2003 and 2004. He also lettered twice in basketball (guard).

ACADEMICS—He plans to major in ethnic studies or social sciences at Colorado. He will have to earn his A.A. degree this summer before he can transfer to CU for fall camp.

PERSONAL—Born April 13, 1986, in Williamsburg, Va. His hobbies include watching movies and playing video games. Originally signed with San Diego State out of high school before going the junior college route.

DREW HUDGINS, DE

6-4, 230, Spring Hills, Kan. (Spring Hills/Highland Community College)

Note: He enrolled at Colorado in January (he counts toward last year's class) and will have three years to play two in eligibility.

JUNIOR COLLEGE—Named to the *SuperPrep* Juco 100 team, as he was the No. 49 overall ranked player and the eighth defensive end, while *J.C. Gridwire* ranked him as the No. 6 defensive end of the class. Earned second-team JCAA All-American and first-team All-Jayhawk Conference honors as a sophomore at Highland Community College, where he was the league leader in quarterback sacks with 19 (for 176 yards in losses). He had 93 tackles overall (52 solo), with 36 for losses for 299 yards, including the sacks. He also had eight passes broken up and two forced fumbles. His best game in the junior college ranks was in his finale in a 42-29 upset of No. 1 and eventual region champion Butler in 2006, when he had 10 tackles, three sacks and forced a fumble. HCC finished 3-6 his sophomore year, opening 2-0 before closing with the Butler win, and was 2-7 his freshman season under coach Keith Majors.

HIGH SCHOOL—A four-year letterman in football, he was named first-team All-Frontier League as a senior as he registered 72 total tackles, including 12 sacks. His senior team went 3-6 under head coach Pat Williams. He also lettered four times in wrestling, as he was named All-Frontier League his final two seasons and All-Johnson County his senior year.

ACADEMICS—He is interested in business management as a major at Colorado. He owned a 3.7 grade point average in high school and was on the honor roll all four years. He also maintained a 3.6 GPA at Highland Community College.

PERSONAL—Born September 18, 1985 in Shawnee Mission, Kan. His hobbies include lifting weights and playing PlayStation. His uncle, Joe Boone, was a middle linebacker for Kansas State, graduating in 1991. He has aspirations of getting into coaching after college. Full first name is Andrew.

NICK NELSON, QB

6-1, 220, Mission Viejo, Calif. (Tesoro/Saddleback College)

Note: He enrolled at Colorado in January (he counts toward last year's class) and will have three years to play two in eligibility.

JUNIOR COLLEGE—Named to the *SuperPrep* Juco 100 team, he was the No. 76 overall ranked player and the seventh quarterback; *J.C. Gridwire* ranked him the No. 12 signal caller in the JUCO ranks. He was Saddleback's Offensive Player of the Year and a first-team All-Mission Conference selection as a sophomore, when he completed 157-of-251 passes for 2,241 yards. He had 18 touchdowns against nine interceptions in completing 62.5 percent of his passes to go with a 154.1 passer rating. His single game high was 274 yards (with 2 TDs) against Allan Hancock, as he had seven 200-plus passing games. He was "activated" from a possible redshirt three games into his freshman season, coming off the bench to throw for 1,232 yards and 14 touchdowns with seven interceptions. He also played baseball as a freshman, batting .290 as a starting outfielder. Under coach Mark McElroy, Saddleback went 11-1, reaching the semifinals of the regional playoffs, and won the Mission Conference his sophomore year; the Gauchos were 7-4 his freshman season, winning the U.S. Bank Beach Bowl in Santa Monica over Mt. San Jacinto College.

HIGH SCHOOL—A three-year letterman in football, he was Tesoro's Athlete of the Year his senior season. He was also named his team's Offensive Player of the Year and was a first-team All-Pacific Coast League selection and a second-team All-Orange County selection that same year, when he passed for 2,200 yards and had 24 touchdowns against just eight interceptions in completing 69 percent of his passes. He was also first-team All-Pacific Coast league and second-team All-Orange County as a junior. Under head coach Jim O'Connell, Tesoro went 20-5 with Nelson at the helm in his junior and senior seasons, winning the CIF Championship in the latter. He also lettered three times in baseball, as he was the team's Player of the Year as a senior as well as earning first-team all-county and all-league distinctions.

ACADEMICS—He is interested in business management as a major at Colorado. He owned a 2.9 grade point average in high school and had a 3.49 GPA at Saddleback.

PERSONAL—Born January 25, 1987 in Long Beach, Calif. Hobbies include fishing, poker and body boarding. Full first name is Nikolas, but he prefers to go by Nick.

CHRISTOPHER PERRI, DL

6-4, 270, Alameda, Calif. (Bishop O'Dowd/San Jose State/Laney College)

AT LANEY COLLEGE (2006, Soph.)—He was named first-team All-Mid-Empire Conference and was the team's Defensive Lineman of the Year; *J.C. Gridwire* ranked him as the No. 28 defensive end in the JUCO ranks. As a sophomore in his only season at Laney after transferring from San Diego State, he tallied 60 tackles, including 19 for losses with nine quarterback sacks. Under coach John Beam, Laney was 9-2, ending the season with a 20-17 win over American River College at Sacramento in the Capitol Shrine Game.

AT SAN JOSE STATE (2005, Fr.)—He played three games at linebacker, recording six tackles, as under head coach Dick Tomey, the Spartans were 3-8.

HIGH SCHOOL—A two-year letterman in football, he was named first-team All-HAAL League and second-team All-San Francisco Bay Area as a senior. He was also his team's defensive lineman of the year and was honored for the Northern California Hit of the Year. At the defensive end position, he tallied 80 tackles, including 24 for losses with 12 quarterback sacks. He also played tight end on offense and recorded 22 catches for 300 yards and two touchdowns. As a junior, he was named honorable mention All-HAAL League en route to posting 50 tackles, 15 for losses including nine sacks. On offense, he played offensive tackle. Under coach Paul Perenon, Bishop O'Dowd went 11-2 in his senior season, capturing the NCS 2A state title; as a junior, O'Dowd was 8-5 and advanced to the semifinals. He also lettered twice in baseball, batting .383 as a senior with a 3-0 record and an 0.83 earned run average as a junior.

ACADEMICS—He plans to major in business and criminal justice at Colorado. He owned a 2.85 grade point average in high school, and at Laney College, he had a 3.9 GPA and was named an academic honor student while earning his Associate Arts degree.

PERSONAL—Born February 14, 1987, in Alameda, Calif. His hobbies include playing golf, coaching a younger brother (Michael) and his little league baseball team and lifting weights with his brother, Jeff. When he was 15, he went to Japan as a member of the Junior National World baseball Team. His father (Mark) was a defensive lineman at Fresno State. He left San Jose State after his freshman season because he wanted to play in the Big 12.

High School

ETHAN ADKINS, OL

6-5, 280, Castle Rock, Colo. (Douglas County)

HIGH SCHOOL—A *SuperPrep* All-American and All-Midlands team member, as the publication ranked him as the No. 29 player in the region (and the sixth best offensive lineman). Scout.com had him pegged as the No. 30 offensive guard nationally, while Rivals.com ranked him as the No. 64 offensive lineman in the nation. He was an All-Colorado selection by the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post* as a senior, when he was also first-team All-State (5A) and All-Continental League. Playing offensive left tackle and grading out as the Huskies' top lineman, he helped pave the way for junior tailback Ryan Misare, who rushed for 1,479 yards and 18 touchdowns, as well as Douglas County's explosive offense. As a junior, he was an honorable mention all-league selection. He did not allow a quarterback sack in his entire high school career. Under head coach Jeff Ketron, Douglas County went 24-3 over Adkins' two seasons as a starter (11-2 as a senior, 13-1 as a junior). His team best Mullen 35-13 for the state title in his junior season and lost to the Mustangs in a 38-35 overtime thriller in the state semifinals his senior year. He also lettered twice in basketball.

ACADEMICS—He is undecided on his major at Colorado. He owns a 3.2 grade point average in high school.

PERSONAL—Born November 28, 1988, in Denver, Colo. His hobbies include playing video games. In the summer, he has helped out with youth football camps for elementary school kids at his high school.

TYLER AHLES, ILB

6-3, 235, San Bernardino, Calif. (Cajon)

HIGH SCHOOL—Ranked as the No. 80 linebacker recruit in the nation by Rivals.com, he was named first-team All-San Andreas League at both running back (H-back) and linebacker as a senior. He was also an All-San Bernardino County Utility Player as he racked up 80 tackles and six sacks from the linebacker position. A team captain, he played tight end and fullback on offense in an H-back type role, rushing 18 times for 277 yards and two touchdowns while catching 18 passes for 312 yards and three more scores. As a junior, he was named first-team All-San Andreas League on defense as he tallied 98 tackles, including 10 sacks, six forced fumbles and five recoveries. He was ineligible to play football his sophomore year after transferring from Bishop Union High School. His best games came in his senior campaign: in a 14-6 playoff loss to Colony, he racked up 13 tackles on defense and finished with 68 rushing yards and a touchdown to go along with three catches for 28 yards; in a 55-27 win over San Bernardino, he had 14 tackles and a sack on defense, while rushing for 70 yards and a TD with 20 receiving yards and a TD reception; he also had 16 tackles on defense and 100 all-purpose yards on offense in a 21-13 loss to Colton. Under head coach Kim Battin, Cajon went 6-5 his senior year, losing to the eventual state champion Colony in the first round of the playoffs. CHS went 6-5 and lost in the first round of the playoffs in his junior season. He also lettered four times in track and was named first-team All-San Andreas League in the discus (149-0 career best) and shot put (49-2) as a junior. He lettered twice in wrestling, and was the undisputed San Andreas County heavyweight champion as a junior despite performing at some 50-60 pounds lighter in the heavyweight (275-lb.) division.

ACADEMICS—He is undecided on his major at Colorado. He owns a 3.4 grade point average in high school.

PERSONAL—Born December 6, 1988, in Reno, Nev. His hobbies include snowboarding and playing video games.

(Last name is pronounced Alice)

MATT BAHR, OL

6-5, 285, Dove Canyon, Calif. (Mission Viejo)

HIGH SCHOOL—A three-year starter at two different high schools at offensive tackle, he was named first-team All-South Coast League, All-CIF Southern Section (Pac-5 Division) and All-Orange County as a senior. He was also named second-team All-State and was his team's Lineman of the Year and Big Hitter of the Year (presented to the one with the most pancake blocks). He racked up 60 pancakes as a senior and did not allow a sack on the season. As a junior at Santa Margarita High School, he was named second-team All-South Coast League and was his team's Lineman of the Year. He tallied 35 pancakes on the season and allowed just one sack. He also started every game for Mission Viejo as a sophomore. His top game as a senior came against Long Beach Jordan when he recorded six pancake blocks in the victory. Against Orange Lutheran in his junior season, he went up against USC-bound defensive end Michael Reardon and tallied three pancake blocks without allowing a sack. Under coach Bob Johnson, MVHS went 9-3 his senior year, making it to the second round of the playoffs. Santa Margarita was 12-1 his junior year, advancing to the third round of the playoffs.

ACADEMICS—He is interested in business as his major at Colorado. He would like to get into real estate.

PERSONAL—Born March 3, 1989, in Mission Viejo, Calif. His hobbies include playing golf; he is also very active with his local church, Saddleback Community Church. His stepfather owns a commercial real estate company called Pacific Point Partners. Will attend Colorado with a teammate, running back Brian Lockridge, who helped block for during their prep days at Mission Viejo.

MATT BALLENGER, QB

6-4, 215, Nampa, Idaho (Skyview)

HIGH SCHOOL—A *SuperPrep* All-Midlands team member, as the publication ranked him as the No. 45 player in the region (and the seventh best quarterback); Rivals.com ranked him as the No. 23 quarterback in the nation while Scout.com tabbed him No. 39. A four-year letterman, he was named second-team All-Southern Idaho Conference as a senior when he threw for 1,800 yards and 13 touchdowns. He also rushed for 500 yards and nine scores. As a junior, he was named first-team All-Conference en route to racking up 1,600 passing yards and 13 touchdowns. He added another 300 yards and four touchdowns on the ground. He started four games as a sophomore and lettered as the backup quarterback in his freshman season. His top games in his senior season included a 38-6 win over Kuna where he completed 13-of-18 passes for 189 yards and three scores with a rushing touchdown; against Caldwell, he was 11-of-15 passing for 209 yards and a touchdown; he rushed for 75 more yards and four touchdowns on the ground in the 55-48 victory. Under coach David Young, Skyview was 15-5 in Ballenger's two seasons as a full-time starter (8-2 his senior year, 7-3 his junior season). Skyview was the district champion in his senior season. He will also letter four times in basketball, as he was the Idaho Gatorade Player of the Year as a sophomore and was an All-State performer his sophomore and junior seasons.

ACADEMICS—He is undecided about a major at Colorado. He owns a 3.4 grade point average in high school and was a member of the honor roll.

PERSONAL—Born May 18, 1989, in Lexington Ky. His hobbies include playing video games and hunting (pheasant is his favorite). An uncle (David Sharp) was an offensive lineman at Stanford during the Jim Plunkett years.

BLAKE BEHRENS, OL

6-4, 285, Phoenix, Ariz. (Brophy Prep)

HIGH SCHOOL—A *SuperPrep* All-Far West performer as a senior, as the publication ranked him as the No. 9 overall player in Arizona (and as the fourth offensive lineman in the state); Rivals.com pegged him as the No. 17 offensive guard in the nation (the No. 6 overall player in the state), while Scout.com ranked him at No. 26. He played in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl in Fort Lauderdale, starting at guard. As a senior, he was named first-team All-Arizona and was an EA Sports second-team All-American. A three-year letterman, he did not allow a sack in his entire prep career. Playing offensive tackle, he had 120 pancake blocks, and playing defensive tackle, he had 60 tackles and five quarterback sacks as a senior. As a junior, he was named first-team All-State and All-Desert Valley Region when he had 112 pancake blocks playing offensive tackle and 55 tackles, including five sacks on defense. He was named first-team All-Desert Region and honorable mention All-State as a sophomore when he tallied 104 pancake blocks. Under coach Andrew Mulander, Brophy Prep went 9-3 his senior season, advancing to the state quarterfinals; they were state champions his junior year with a 13-1 mark, and went 11-2 and advanced to the state quarterfinals in his sophomore season. He also lettered once in track and played two years of basketball (freshman and junior varsity).

ACADEMICS—He is interested in business (finance) as his major at Colorado, and is also interested in communications. He owns a 3.2 grade point average in high school.

PERSONAL—Born December 6, 1988 in Scottsdale, Ariz. His hobbies include spending time outdoors—snowboarding, fishing, wakeboarding and waterskiing. His Godmother owns a house in Vail, and his family makes it out to Colorado two or three times a year. His father (Rick) attended Colorado for a time and attempted to play football, but was injured during the spring and eventually returned to Arizona. A grandfather (Bob Behrens) was an All-American at Colgate who was drafted by the New York Giants, but opted to go to medical school instead.

(Last name is pronounced bear-ens; he is no relation to CU fullback Jake Behrens)

KENDRICK CELESTINE, WR

6-1, 185, Mamou, La. (Mamou)

HIGH SCHOOL—As a senior, he was an All-Southwest team performer by *SuperPrep*, which ranked him as the No. 23 player in the state of Louisiana (the fifth wide receiver). A three-year letterman in football, he was named first-team All-State, All-Central Louisiana, All-District and All-Parrish as a senior. Playing his first season at wide receiver, he caught 45 passes for 936 yards and 11 touchdowns. He also had 19 rushes for 215 yards and two touchdowns and added another score on a kickoff return. As a junior, he was named honorable mention All-State and was a first-team All-Central Louisiana, All-District and All-Parrish selection. Playing quarterback out of necessity for his team, he threw for 1,446 yards and 11 touchdowns while running for 800 yards and 10 scores. As a sophomore, he was named first-team All-Central Louisiana, All-District and All-Parrish. Playing in more of a passing offense at quarterback, he threw for 1,500 yards and 25 touchdowns; he also ran for 200 yards and four scores. His top game as a sophomore came in a 36-31 win against Westminster when he passed for 300 yards and three touchdowns while rushing for 100 yards and a score. In his senior season, he had three receiving touchdowns in a win over Madison. In the same season, he had nine receptions for 200 yards and three touchdowns in a loss against Welch. His performance included a school-record 99-yard touchdown reception. Under head coach Joe Desselle, Mamou was 9-3 in Celestine's senior season, advancing to the second round of the playoffs. His team missed the playoffs in his junior season and went 13-1 in his sophomore campaign, losing in the finals of the state playoffs. He also lettered three times in basketball, earning first-team All-District and All-Parrish honors his freshman through junior seasons. He has three letters in track, as he was first in both the Parrish and district in the 100-meter run and was second in the region (10.6 is his best time). His 4 x 100 relay team also won Parrish and District titles.

ACADEMICS—He plans to major in psychology or engineering at Colorado. He was on the merit roll as a junior in high school.

PERSONAL—Born January 30, 1989, in Mamou, La. His hobbies include working out and sport training. His uncle, Myron Guillory, played college basketball at Virginia Tech and was part of the 1995 NIT championship team; he is currently an assistant basketball coach and recruiting coordinator at Colorado State. Celestine had a job working as a valet driver at a Casino his senior year of high school.

(Last name is pronounced cell-uh-steen)

SHAWN DANIELS, OL

6-3, 265, Evergreen, Colo. (Denver Mullen)

HIGH SCHOOL—A *SuperPrep* All-Midlands performer, as it ranked him as the No. 32 overall player in the region and as the seventh offensive lineman; Rivals.com ranked him the No. 48 offensive guard in the nation (Scout.com tabbed him No. 70). He was an All-Colorado selection by the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post* as a senior, when he was also first-team All-State (5A) and All-Centennial League. A three-year letterman, he was considered a tenacious blocker in both running and passing situations as he was a key performer for the state's top-rated offense. He was also a team captain as he manned the center and guard positions, finishing with 90 pancake blocks. He allowed no sacks on the season and helped pave the way for running back Phillip Morelli to average 11.4 yards per carry. He was named second-team all-league as a junior, and was the team's most improved lineman as a sophomore when he played center and backed up Oklahoma-bound Jesse White at guard. His best game came in his senior season when he recorded six pancake blocks and three touchdown blocks in a 41-38 double overtime win over Douglas County. Under coach Dave Logan, Mullen made it to the state title game all three years Daniels played varsity. Mullen went 13-1 in his senior season, losing to Columbine 13-10 in the title game. His junior team went 11-3 before losing to Douglas County, and his sophomore team finished 13-1 en route to the state title. He also lettered as a freshman in baseball, and lettered three times in power lifting, taking third place in state as a junior, finishing behind two seniors.

ACADEMICS—He is undecided about a major at Colorado. He owns a 3.2 grade point average in high school and was a member of the honor roll.

PERSONAL—Born February 27, 1989 in Denver, Colo. His hobbies include outdoor sports, weightlifting, fishing, skiing and riding ATVs. He wanted to play for Colorado because it was his dream and he wanted to play in the Big 12. His older brother, Brian, lettered four years (2003-06) at offensive guard for the Buffaloes; he started more games (9) as a true freshman than any other player in Colorado history.

EUGENE GOREE, DL

6-2, 285, Murfreesboro, Tenn. (Riverdale)

HIGH SCHOOL—A two-year letterman, he was named first-team All-State, All-Area, All-Region, All-Mid-State and was on the Tennessee 2006 Dream Team as a senior. He was also a finalist for Mr. Football in Tennessee after recording 58 tackles, 12 for losses including five quarterback sacks, and a pass broken up at the defensive tackle position. He has some experience on offense, as he practiced as the team's backup center. As a junior, he was named All-Area after registering 92 tackles, six tackles for a loss, six sacks and a fumble recovery at defensive tackle. His top game as a senior came against Lebanon, as he made 12 tackles, one for a loss and another for a quarterback sack in Riverdale's 30-10 victory. As a junior, he recorded 11 tackles, two for losses with a sack in a 50-3 win over Siegel. That same season against La Vergne, he was in on 10 tackles and had a quarterback sack in a 28-20 win. Under head coach Ron Aydelott, Riverdale went 11-2 his senior season, making it to the state quarterfinals, following up a 13-1 season his junior year when Riverdale advanced to the state semifinals.

ACADEMICS—He plans to major in business management at Colorado.

PERSONAL—Born September 1, 1989 in East St. Louis, Mo. His hobbies include watching game film with his 10-year old brother, Anfernee. *(Last name is pronounced gore-ray)*

JOSH HARTIGAN, OLB

6-1, 210, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Northeast)

Note: He enrolled at Colorado in January (and thus counts toward last year's class).

HIGH SCHOOL—A three-year letterman, he was named second-team All-Broward County and was a team captain his senior year. Playing linebacker on defense in a 4-4 scheme, he had 100 tackles, including 10 for losses and one quarterback sack, two fumble recoveries and seven passes broken up. He played a limited role on offense, catching five passes for 60 yards and a touchdown at wide receiver. Playing defensive end as a junior he was an honorable mention All-Broward County selection, when he made 40 tackles (six sacks) and four passes broken up; he also played a blocking fullback on offense. As a sophomore he was mostly a back up at defensive end making 10 tackles and grabbing an interception. His top games came in his senior season: against Ft. Lauderdale, he made 15 tackles in a 28-6 win. In a loss against Cyprus Bay, he made 10 tackles and had four catches for 40 yards. Under head coach Adam Ratkevich, Northeast was 11-16 during Hartigan's three years, including 5-5 his senior season.

ACADEMICS—He is interested in sports medicine at Colorado. He owns a 3.0 grade point average in high school.

PERSONAL—Born August 25, 1989 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. His father, Sterling Palmer, was a linebacker/defensive end for Florida State (1989-92), and was a fourth round draft choice (101st player overall) by the Washington Redskins; he spent three seasons with the Redskins (1993-96). Hobbies include pick-up basketball games and listening to music. He also enjoys fixing up cars and taking his '95 Mercury Grand Marquis to car shows like the East Coast Ryders. He aspires to play in the NFL, but when his football career is finished he would like to be a trainer in the NFL or at a high school in Florida.

JONATHAN HAWKINS, DB

5-10, 185, Perris, Calif. (Rancho Verde))

Note: He enrolled at Colorado in January, as he was a gray-shirt from the 2006 recruiting class. He relocated to Boulder last fall and worked a part-time job.

HIGH SCHOOL—A *PrepStar* All-West team member, as he was one of 35 defensive backs named to the squad. As a senior, he earned first-team all-Southwest Conference honors, in addition to being designated as one of the top 25 cornerbacks in Southern California (as selected by the *Los Angeles Times*). He played safety most of the time, although he played some games at cornerback, depending on the opposition's personnel. He totaled 90 tackles, six for losses including one quarterback sack, three forced fumbles, two interceptions and five passes broken up. He also started one game at running back, gaining 80 yards on the ground. As a junior—in his first year playing football—he was named second-team all-league, as he recorded 60 tackles, six for losses with three sacks, five forced fumbles, one interception and eight passes broken up. Top career games included 12 total tackles and two passes broken up in a 24-12 loss to Temecula Valley as a senior; in a 24-21 win over Murrieta, he had an interception, six tackles and two pass deflections, also as a senior; and as a junior, his best game came in a loss against Arroyo Valley, when he recorded 12 tackles and an interception. Under coach Pete Duffy, Rancho Verde was 4-6 his senior year and 5-5 his junior season. He also lettered four times in basketball (guard) and in track; he advanced to the CIF Finals in the triple jump and long jump, earning third-team All-State honors as a junior.

ACADEMICS—He is interested in kinesiology as his major at Colorado. He owns a 3.8 grade point average in high school, was named his school's Academic Player of the Year as a senior and was on the honor roll his freshman through senior years.

PERSONAL—Born March 9, 1988 in Harbor City, Calif. An uncle, Joe Caldwell, played for the ABA Carolina Cougars/Spirits of St. Louis in the early 1970s. As a senior, he won first place in an AVID writing competition. Every student in Riverside County had to write a paper on segregation in the school system and Hawkins' paper was chosen over all of them. After college, he hopes to be a physical therapist at a college.

MIKE ILTIS, OL

6-3, 285, Sarasota, Fla. (Riverview)

HIGH SCHOOL—A three-year letterman, he was a team captain and the MVP of the offensive line as a senior. He was named second-team All-State, played in the All-State and All-Area games and won the team Coaches Award for the offense. Alternating between offensive guard and tackle, he had 72 pancake blocks on the season, allowed no sacks and graded out to 89 percent for the year. He also helped block for the area's leading rusher who accumulated 1,600 yards on the ground. He also played defensive end and tackle, registering 40 tackles, two quarterback sacks, a fumble recovery and five pressures. As a junior, he won the Coaches Award the Up and Coming Player honor on offense. He was also a member of the All-Area team as he allowed no sacks. He played just one game at defensive tackle, making three tackles. As a sophomore, he started 12 of 14 games and given the Offensive Line Up and Coming Award. His top game as a senior came in a 17-13 win against Booker, as he allowed no sacks going up against Florida Gator recruit John Jones; he also registered six tackles, one for a loss and two quarterback pressures on defense. In a 9-6 victory over Booker in his junior year he had six pancake blocks and sprung the lead block for the bootleg and game-winning touchdown pass with eight seconds left. As a sophomore, he had six pancake blocks and graded out to 87 percent in a 28-0 win over cross-town rival Sarasota in the state regional finals. Under coach John Sprague, Riverview went 21-12 in his three seasons, including a 12-2 mark when they advanced to the fourth round of the state playoffs. He also lettered three times in weightlifting, finishing second in the county two years in a row. He has lettered three times in track (throws), as in the discus, he qualified for regionals as a sophomore and junior, and in the shot put, he made it to the regionals as a freshman and then to the state meet his sophomore and junior seasons; he was the Florida state runner-up in 2006 with a throw of 55-9.

ACADEMICS—He plans to major in business at Colorado. He owns a 3.9 grade point average in high school, and was on the honor roll his freshman through senior years. He was also named to the National Honor Roll and was a student escort for professionals at Riverview's Career Days.

PERSONAL—Born October 14, 1988 in Sarasota, Fla. His hobbies include watching adventure and comedy movies, fishing, hanging out at the beach and playing baseball. His parents are loan officers and own their own company called Iltis Lending Group, and after graduation, he would like to work for them and possibly open a branch of his own. He has visited Colorado several times as a youth and has skied here often.

DEVAN JOHNSON, TE/HB

6-1, 230, Turtle Creek, Pa. (Woodland Hills)

HIGH SCHOOL—Scout.com ranked him as the No. 10 fullback in the nation (Rivals.com pegged him at No. 12), though he earned first-team All-Conference and honorable mention All-State and All-Big East honors as a receiver. He was also a member of the "Pennsylvania Big 33" which earned him an appearance in an all-star game in Hershey. In high school, he played no less than eight positions: running back, fullback, tight end, halfback, wide receiver, linebacker, defensive end and kick returner. A team captain as a senior, he played primarily wide receiver and fullback, as he had three rushes for 50 yards and two touchdowns along with five catches for 100 yards and two scores receiving. He also played linebacker on defense, registering 50 tackles and a quarterback sack. As a junior, he was named first-team All-Conference, honorable mention All-State and was a member of the "East Elite 33." Playing tight end, he had 12 catches for 300 yards and six touchdowns. He also recorded a punt return for a touchdown, coming in his first game as a junior in a 21-7 win over Shaler. His other top games came in his senior year: In a 17-14 win over Central, the No. 7 team in the nation, he had five pancake blocks from the fullback position. Against Fox Chapel, he finished with three catches for 60 yards and a touchdown. On defense, he had five tackles, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. Under head coach Greg Novak, Woodland Hills was 10-3 his senior season, advancing all the way to the state finals. His team went 8-3 in his junior campaign, losing in the state quarterfinals.

ACADEMICS—He is interested in majoring in sports management or business at Colorado. An honor roll student as a sophomore in high school.

PERSONAL—Born August 8, 1989, in Pittsburgh, Pa. His hobbies include helping coach a youth basketball league. His half-brother, Kevan Barlow, played collegiately at the University of Pittsburgh and spent five years with the San Francisco 49ers (2001-05) and is now with the New York Jets.

BRIAN LOCKRIDGE, TB

5-8, 175, Trabuco Canyon, Calif. (Mission Viejo)

HIGH SCHOOL—A three-year letterman, he was named first-team All-CIF (Pac-5 Division), All-South Coast League and All-Orange County as a senior. He received team most valuable player honors as he rushed for 1,383 yards on just 151 carries (9.2 per) and 16 touchdowns. He also had four catches for 120 yards on the year; his numbers would have been greater but due to MVHS' win margins (33-plus points), he saw little second half action in many games. As a junior, he was named the team MVP while accumulating 1,000 yards rushing and eight touchdowns. He was named the team's best running back as a sophomore as he rushed for 1,220 yards and 12 scores. His top games as a senior include a 195-yard, three-touchdown performance in a win against Los Alamitas. Against Mater Dei, he rushed for 183 yards and a touchdown in a loss. In his sophomore season, he ran for 150 yards and scored two touchdowns in a 35-21 victory over De La Salle. Under head coach Bob Johnson, Mission Viejo went 9-3 his senior season, making it to the second round of the playoffs. In his junior year, his team went 12-1 and advanced to the third round of the playoffs. He also lettered three times in track and field, participating in sprints and relays, the high jump and the long jump. His 4x100 relay team broke the school record and was the No. 3 team in California his junior year.

ACADEMICS—He is interested in majoring in business and civil engineering at Colorado. He owns a 3.2 grade point average in high school.

PERSONAL—Born January 31, 1989, in Lancaster, Calif. His hobbies include fishing and playing the piano and guitar. He taught himself to play the instruments starting as a 5-year old and can write and play his own music. He would like to start his own business or get into commercial real estate after college. He started his own clothing line in Orange County with friends from school; the clothing line is called S.F.C. (Stay Fresh Crew). He will attend Colorado with a teammate, lineman Matt Bahr, one of his key blockers during his prep days at Mission Viejo.

KAI MAIAVA, C

6-1, 290, Wailuku, Hawai'i (Baldwin)

HIGH SCHOOL—Ranked as the No. 31 center in the nation by Rivals.com, he was a first-team All-State and All-Maui Interscholastic League performer as a senior. He played mostly offensive guard, moving over to center when the game was usually in hand to get others in the game; he coordinated the O-line play calls once in from the coaching staff. A team captain, he averaged 10-12 pancake blocks a game as a senior, when he had eight direct touchdown blocks, was not call for a sack, and was called for just four penalties. He was a three-year starter on offense, at tackle as a sophomore, before moving permanently to guard as a junior; he had 8-10 pancake blocks per game that season when he earned honorable mention All-State and first-team All-MIL accolades. He did not allow a single quarterback sack during his high school career, and in spot play at defensive tackle as a senior (4-5 plays per game), he had 12 tackles, two for losses, with four hurries, a forced fumble, a pass broken up and a blocked field goal. His top games came against Kamehameha, where he went to school from the second through ninth grades; as a junior, he had 23 pancake blocks against them, and as a senior, another 18 with a touchdown block in two one-sided Baldwin wins. Under coach Jimmy Morimoto, Baldwin was 10-1-1 his senior year, the MIL champions, but lost in the state semifinals on a 43-yard 'Hail Mary' pass as time expired to Kahuku, 22-20. BHS was 11-1 his junior season, also the MIL champs again reaching the state semis, and was 8-2 his sophomore season. He played one year of junior varsity basketball (as a sophomore), lining up at center; his best game was a 35-point, 10-rebound effort against Lahaina.

ACADEMICS—He is interested in sports medicine as a possible major at Colorado. An honor roll student as sophomore in high school, where his grade point average has always hovered around 3.0.

PERSONAL—Born June 3, 1989 in Waikulu, Hawaii (the island of Maui). Hobbies include playing video games and relaxing at the beach. Father (Scott Mahoney) was an offensive lineman for the Buffaloes, lettering three times between 1969-71 under coach Eddie Crowder and had a cup of coffee with the Kansas City Chiefs in the NFL. His grandfather ("Prince" Neff Maiava) was a famous world renowned wrestler in the 1950s and 1960s, and the six-time Hawaii heavyweight champion (his signature finishing move was the head butt, and he used to use his hair to cut his opponents hands). An Uncle is "The Rock," Dwayne Johnson, a famous modern day wrestler turned actor and former Miami Hurricane football player. And an older brother, Kaluka, is a junior linebacker at Southern California. There is royal Samoan lineage in the family. Full first name is Kealaka'i (pronounced kay-ala-ka-E; his last name is pronounced my-ab-vuh).

RYAN MILLER, OL

6-8, 310, Littleton, Colo. (Columbine)

HIGH SCHOOL—Colorado's Gatorade Player of the Year, he earned a host of All-America honors for his senior season, including *Parade*, *USA Today* (first-team), *SuperPrep*, Rivals.com, *PrepStar* and MaxPreps. He was selected to play in the prestigious U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio after the season (January 6), and he helped the West to a 24-7 win. Nationally, he was among the top five linemen in the nation by Rivals.com (No. 3), Scout.com (No. 3) and *SuperPrep* (No. 5), the latter ranking him as the No. 2 overall player at any position in the Midlands and placing him on its Elite 50 squad. *The Sporting News* ranked him as the No. 46 player in the nation overall. Rivals.com pegged him as the No. 23 overall player in the nation (one of 29 players awarded five stars). He was an All-Colorado selection by the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post* (one of just two repeat selections), All-State (5A) and All-South Metro Conference. He was one of five finalists for the state's high school athlete of the year for all sports in 2006 by *Mile High Sports Magazine*. He earned All-Colorado, All-State, all-league honors as a junior, when he was a *Student Sports* Underclassmen All-American and listed among the Rivals.com Underclassmen Top 100. As a senior, he started all 14 games at offensive tackle, averaging well over 10 pancake blocks per game, did not allow a quarterback sack, was flagged for just one penalty and had five direct touchdown blocks. On defense, he exhibited solid skills at defensive end in registering 31 tackles, 20 solo with 12 for losses including five sacks, with 10 hurries, four passes broken up, two fumble recoveries with one forced. As a junior, he started all 13 games at tackle on offense, averaging over 10 pancake blocks per game, and saw spot duty at defensive end, making 12 tackles, three sacks and a pass broken up. He started seven games as a sophomore at offensive tackle (no defense). Top career games included a 13-10 win in the state 5A championship game over Mullen his senior year, when he had four tackles, including a quarterback sack that stopped one scoring drive, and two hurries, one of which caused an interception. He also chased down Mustang running back Phil Morelli after an 80-yard gain, stopping him at the 13; another score was saved when Mullen fumbled two plays later, preserving a 7-3 lead prior to halftime. In the state playoffs against Cherry Creek his junior year, he had 15 pancake blocks and helped the Rebels rush for over 400 yards in the win. Under coach Andy Lowry, Columbine was 13-1 his senior year (state champs), 11-2 his junior season (losing to Douglas County in the state semis) and 10-2 his sophomore season (reaching the second round of the playoffs). He also lettered three times in wrestling, posting a 13-3 record as a junior in the 285-lb. weight class, but had to give it up once he exceeded the maximum weight. He will letter four times in track this spring (throws), with career bests of 48-9 in the shot put and 147-0 in the discus.

ACADEMICS—He is interested in journalism as a possible major at Colorado. An honor roll student as a junior in high school.

PERSONAL—Born July 6, 1989 in Littleton, Colo. His hobbies include outdoor sports such as four-wheeling and camping, playing the drums and line dancing; he also is an avid kite flyer, something he's done since he was four years old, and was a Boy Scout. His maternal grandfather, David Peterson, was an end on Colorado's 1960 freshman team. He mentored younger students as a junior and senior in a special program at Columbine. He committed to Colorado midway through his senior season (October 25).

CONRAD OBI, DE

6-4, 245, Grayson, Ga. (Grayson)

HIGH SCHOOL—A *SuperPrep* All-Dixie team member, despite missing most of his senior season after tearing a tendon in his hand (he played in just four games); he was ranked as the No. 28 player in Georgia, the No. 4 defensive end by the publication, the same positions they ranked him going into the season. Scout.com tabbed him as the No. 55 defensive end in the nation, despite just playing 14 games at the varsity level. At defensive tackle, he recorded 15 tackles, two quarterback sacks and forced two fumbles and was just starting to learn the tight end position on offense before his hand injury. As a junior, he was named All-Gwinnett County, was a two-time Gwinnett County Player of the Month and was a four-time Grayson Player of the Week. Playing defensive end, he registered 65 tackles, 14 for losses including six sacks, two fumble recoveries, a pass broken up and a blocked field goal. He played on the junior varsity squad as a sophomore in his first year of organized football. His top games came in his junior season: He had eight tackles and two sacks in a 23-17 loss to South Gwinnett, and recorded 14 tackles and three quarterback pressures in a loss to Parkview. Under head coach Mickey Conn, Grayson was 6-6 in his senior campaign, making it to the second round of the state 8-5A playoffs, and was 4-6 his junior year. He also lettered as a freshman and sophomore in basketball.

ACADEMICS—He is interested in business or communications as possible majors at Colorado.

PERSONAL—Born December 21, 1988 in College Park, Ga. His hobbies include playing video games and working out. After his football career he would like to make a living as a football broadcast analyst.

(Last name is pronounced oh-bee)

ANTHONY PERKINS, DB

5-11, 180, Northglenn, Colo. (Community Christian/Northglenn)

HIGH SCHOOL—Attended Community Christian High School, but was a three-year letterman playing for Northglenn (through the co-ops program) where he was considered a one-man wrecking crew. A *SuperPrep* All-Midlands team member, as the publication ranked him as the No. 48 player in the region (and the second best cornerback). As a senior, he was an All-Colorado selection by the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post* at defensive back, also garnering first-team All-State (5A) and All-Front Range League honors; he was the Front Range League's Player of the Year and he also earned regional Offensive Player of the Year honors. On offense, at quarterback and running back as a senior, he rushed for 1,628 yards and 15 touchdowns, as he ranked third in the state in rushing. He also threw for 842 yards and six scores. Defensively, he played safety, tallying 40 tackles and two interceptions. He was an honorable mention All-State selection as a junior. He was also named first-team All-District, first-team All-Region and was the District and Regional MVP. He played exclusively at quarterback as a junior, passing for 1,200 yards and 10 touchdowns while also rushing for 1,500 yards and 17 touchdowns. On defense, he saw limited action in the secondary. He played wide receiver as a sophomore, racking up 300 receiving yards, but also rushed for 400 yards and four scores. Defensively that season, he played cornerback and racked up 50 tackles. His top games in his junior season include a 42-24 win against Boulder when he had 18 carries for 270 yards and five touchdowns to go along with 90 passing yards. In a win against Horizon, he had 200 rushing yards, four rushing touchdowns and 70 passing yards on offense to go along with two interceptions on defense. As a senior, his top game against Horizon, as he had 23 carries for 340 yards and three touchdowns. He also had four receptions for 70 yards and a touchdown. Under head coach Vince Veiya, Northglenn went 5-6 in Perkins' senior season, advancing to the second round of the playoffs. His team went 4-6 and missed the playoffs in his junior season. His sophomore team won the Front Range Championship before losing in the first round of the playoffs with a 7-3 record. He also lettered four times in basketball and was named All-Region as a sophomore and junior. He will also letter four times in track (sprints, relays), earning All-District and All-Region honors as a sophomore and All-District honors as a junior.

ACADEMICS—He is undecided on his major at Colorado. He owns a 3.9 grade point average and has been on the honor roll throughout high school.

PERSONAL—Born January 18, 1989, in Leonardtown, Md. His hobbies include working out. He helps coach his little brother (Cederro) and his football team. His grandfather, Don Perkins, was an All-American running back at New Mexico (1956-59), and was later drafted by the Dallas Cowboys where he played from 1960-68. He was the first player to commit in the 2007 class, doing so on April 24, 2006.

LAGRONE SHIELDS, DL

6-4, 260, Memphis, Tenn. (Ridgeway)

HIGH SCHOOL—A three-year starter and letterman, Rivals.com ranked him No. 58 nationally at defensive end as a senior, when he was named both first-team All-State and All-Region. He was also named to the Shelby County All-Star Team and was the Liberty Bowl Auto Zone Player of the Month in October. Named the team's best defensive lineman and a team captain, he racked up 97 tackles, with an astounding 31 for losses including 17 quarterback sacks, to go with three fumble recoveries and one forced fumble. He also played tight end on offense, mainly coming in for blocking situations. As a junior, he was named honorable mention All-State and first-team All-region. He was also named the team's Most Improved Player en route to registering 103 tackles, including 18 sacks, and seven fumble recoveries. As a sophomore, he tallied 76 tackles and eight sacks. His top games included a win over Germantown in his junior year in which he made 13 tackles, three-and-a-half sacks, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery. In his senior year, he tailed 11 tackles and three sacks in a 40-7 win over Central; in a 10-7 win over Millington, he had eight tackles, two sacks and a game-clinching forced fumble. Under coach John Colley, Ridgeway was 11-1 his senior season, losing in the second round of the state playoffs; that followed a 13-1-1 record his junior year (state semifinalist), and a 10-5 mark his sophomore season (state quarterfinalist). He also lettered three times in basketball; he was a member of Ridgeway's state championship team his sophomore season.

ACADEMICS—He is undecided about a major at Colorado.

PERSONAL—Born December 30, 1987, in Memphis, Tenn. His hobbies include watching movies. He came to Colorado because he loved the atmosphere at CU; coming from the South, he loves the mountains and likes Boulder because "it's a real college town."

(first name is pronounced lub-gronn)

MARKQUES SIMAS, WR

6-2, 195, San Diego, Calif. (Mira Mesa)

HIGH SCHOOL—A *SuperPrep* All-American and All-Far West performer as a senior, as the publication ranked him as the No. 24 overall player in the region (the third best receiver); he was also an *SP* preseason AA pick, ranked as the ninth best receiver in the nation ahead of his senior year. He was also rated among the top 20 receivers in the nation by Rivals.com and Scout.com. A three-year letterman in football, he was named both first-team All-Section CIF and All-Eastern League on offense (he was a second-team All-League choice on defense at cornerback). At wide receiver, he caught 40 passes for 778 yards and 19 touchdowns as a senior, while collecting three interceptions on defense. Playing only offense as a junior, he was named first-team All-Eastern League, second-team All-Section CIF and was tabbed an All-State Underclassman. On the year, he caught 41 passes for 875 yards and 16 touchdowns. His top game as a junior came against Scripps, as he hauled in six passes for 150 yards and three touchdowns in a 42-10 victory. In his senior season, he had 10 receptions for 220 yards and three touchdowns against Escondido; he also made two interceptions on defense in a 31-28 loss. Against Vista, he had eight catches for 150 yards and two touchdowns to go along with an interception in a 36-7 win. Under coach Gary Blevins, Mira Mesa was 6-5 his senior season, losing in the first round of the state playoffs; he missed the game with a torn thumb ligament. As a junior, his team went 9-2-1 and advanced to the state semifinals, and as a sophomore, they were 8-4 and made it to the quarterfinals. He also lettered three times in basketball, and was named first-team All-Eastern League his sophomore and junior seasons.

ACADEMICS—He plans to major in business or education at Colorado. He owns a 3.1 grade point average in high school and was named to the *San Diego Union-Tribune* All-Academic Team his junior year.

PERSONAL—Born February 21, 1989 in San Diego, Calif. His hobbies include traveling and spending time with his family.
(Name is pronounced *marcus see-muss*)

JOSH SMITH, WR

6-1, 185, Moorpark, Calif. (Moorpark)

HIGH SCHOOL—A two-year letterman, as he did not start playing organized football until his junior year. As a senior, he was an honorable mention All-Marmonte League selection and won the team's Iron Man Award for playing on both sides of the ball. Offensively, he finished with 21 receptions for 477 yards and scored 10 touchdowns, and at cornerback, he recorded 35 tackles and had six interceptions. As a junior, he caught nine passes for 250 yards and four touchdowns. His top prep games came in his senior season: against Royal, he had 115 receiving yards, three touchdowns and an interception in a 40-7 win. He had five catches for 95 yards and a touchdown, to go along with two interceptions—one of which was returned for a touchdown—in a 34-7 victory over Saugus in the state quarterfinals. He had a 48-yard touchdown reception and a 50-yard punt return in the first half of a 40-0 win over Newberry Park. Under coach Tim Lins, Moorpark finished 12-3 both his junior and senior seasons, losing in the championship game each occasion. He also lettered three times in track (sprints, relays and jumps); he ran in the 4x100 relay and holds the school record for the long jump—his 23-0 distance came in his first-ever meet after he coached himself.

ACADEMICS—He plans to major in business management at Colorado. He owns a 3.3 grade point average in high school where he was a scholar athlete and member of the honor roll.

PERSONAL—Born December 29, 1987 in Tallahassee, Fla. His hobbies include working out and watching movies. After college, he hopes to get into real estate and start his own clothing line called "Josh Fly" and hopes to come out with his own shoe called "PF Fly's." He received scholarship offers from several schools for track, including Harvard, Columbia and Cal Poly. He came from Florida because he wanted a change in lifestyle: he lives with his older sister, Alexis Scott, who was a big part of helping him make it through high school and succeed coming from a broken household.

LAMONT SMITH, DB

5-9, 170, Penn Hills, Pa. (Pittsburgh Central Catholic)

HIGH SCHOOL—A *SuperPrep* All-Northeast performer, as he was ranked as the No. 32 player in the state of Pennsylvania (and the fifth best defensive back). He was a member of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* "Fabulous 22" team and to the *Harrisburg Patriot-News's* "Platinum 33" unit. A three-year letterman in football, he was named second-team All-State and first-team All-AAAA Conference his senior year. As Central Catholic's starting running back, he had 152 carries for 990 yards and 13 touchdowns. He also had 13 catches for 250 yards and three more scores. He played cornerback sparingly on defense and missed four games of his senior campaign due to a high ankle sprain. As a junior, he was named first-team *PA Football News* All-State and All-AAAA Conference and second-team Class 4A when he was the runner up for both the Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania Player of the Year honors. As a junior, he rushed the ball 250 times for 2,070 yards and 29 touchdowns. He also caught five passes for 50 yards and two touchdowns. As a sophomore, he played mostly on special teams and sparingly as a running back, earning the distinction of being the team's most improved player. His top games came in his junior season: he had 212 rushing yards and three touchdowns in a 48-14 win over Gateway in the state quarterfinals; in a 21-20 win over North Hills, he rushed for 279 yards and two scores; against Trafford, he racked up 290 rushing yards and three scores in a 37-15 victory. Under coach Terry Totten, Central Catholic was 36-4 during his three seasons: his sophomore team went 16-0 and won the state title, and his junior and senior teams each finished 10-2 and lost in the state semifinals. He will letter for a fourth time in track this spring (sprints, relays), and lettered once in baseball.

ACADEMICS—He plans to major in business management at Colorado. An honor roll student with a 3.1 grade point average in high school.

PERSONAL—Born September 18, 1988 in Pittsburgh, Pa. His hobbies include playing video games. He was the second player to commit to CU's 2007 recruiting class, doing so in May 2006.

SIONE TAU, OL

6-6, 310, Honolulu, Hawai'i (Damien Memorial)

HIGH SCHOOL—Scout.com ranked him as the No. 33 offensive tackle in the nation, the No. 1 O-line prospect from Hawai'i. As a senior, he earned first-team All-State and All-Interscholastic League of Honolulu (ILH) honors; he earned honorable mention in both as a junior and was honorable mention All-ILH as a sophomore. A three-year starter on the offensive line (all at tackle), he graded out to 88 percent as a senior, when he averaged 8-to-10 pancake blocks per game with eight direct touchdown blocks; he allowed two sacks and was flagged just twice for penalties. As a junior, playing inside tackle on an uneven line, he graded out to 93 percent, averaging seven pancake blocks per outing with five touchdown blocks. He graded out at 84 percent as a sophomore. He played offensive tackle, defensive end and was the long snapper on the junior varsity team as a freshman. Top games his senior year included Punahou, where he returned in the second half after suffering a leg injury, serving as an inspiration to his team, and against Iolani, when he had 18 pancake, three touchdown and six downfield blocks in the win. Damien Memorial was 4-5-1 his senior year and 5-5 his junior and sophomore seasons under coach Dean Nakagawa. He will also letter four times in basketball (center) and in track (throws); he owns career bests of 49-11½ in the shot put, as he was fourth in the state meet as a junior, and 175-0 in the discus.

ACADEMICS—He is interested in criminal justice as his major at Colorado. Earned his way onto the Honor Roll for the first time as a senior, as he had nearly a 3.4 grade point average for the fall semester.

PERSONAL—Born March 2, 1988 in Pago Pago, American Samoa. His hobbies include music, both singing and playing instruments as he can play five: guitar, bass guitar, piano, drums and the ukulele. He also considers himself an "amateur" counselor so-to-speak, as he takes great satisfaction working with friends and loved ones on any problems they bring to him.

(name is pronounced see-own-E towe, as in now)

NATE VAIOMOUNGA, DB

5-11, 190, Corona, Calif. (Corona)

HIGH SCHOOL—A two-year letterman, he earned first-team All-CIF (Inland Division) in addition to garnering honorable mention All-Area and first-team All-Mountain View League as a senior. He was also named the Team MVP as he recorded 71 tackles, 12 for losses including nine quarterback sacks from the defensive end position. He also played running back on offense, finishing with 52 rushes for 237 yards and five touchdowns. As a junior, he was named first team All-League and was the Team Defensive MVP. At defensive end, he totaled 79 tackles, 11 for losses with three sacks, two fumble recoveries, three forced fumbles, six quarterback hurries and four passes broken up. At running back, he had 24 rushes for 111 yards and three touchdowns. His top game as a junior came in a win against Martin Luther King High School when he racked up 15 total tackles. His top games as a senior include a 42-14 victory over Ayala in which he made eight tackles and tallied three quarterback sacks. Against Arlington, he had 10 tackles and a sack and added a rushing touchdown on offense in a 35-7 win. Under coach John Brandon, Corona was 8-3 his senior season, losing in the first round of the playoffs, and was 5-5 in his junior campaign. He also lettered twice in volleyball and once in wrestling where he placed second in league as a senior.

ACADEMICS—He is undecided on his major at Colorado.

PERSONAL—Born November 3, 1989, in Faga'alu, American Samoa. His hobbies include playing rugby, a sport he has recently taken up.

(last name is pronounced vy-ob-moun-gub)

ANTHONY WRIGHT, DB

6-0, 185, Compton, Calif. (Compton)

HIGH SCHOOL—A two-year letterman, he starred on offense, defense and special teams, contributing in the latter as his team's primary punter and kickoff specialist. As a senior, he was named both first-team All-State and All-CIF Southern Section (Pac-5 Division). He was also his team's MVP and Co-Moore League MVP. He was named to the *Long Beach Press Telegram's* Dream Team and was an All-*Los Angeles Times* defensive back. Playing running back and wide receiver, he ran the ball 130 times for 1,168 yards and eight touchdowns, while catching 14 passes for 394 yards and five scores. He played free safety on defense, tallying 105 tackles, two quarterback sacks, three fumble recoveries and four interceptions (two of them returned for touchdowns). As a junior, he was named first-team All-League as a running back and was Compton's MVP. On offense, he had 100 rushes for 1,020 yards and seven touchdowns and caught four passes for 77 yards and a score. Playing free safety on defense, he had 55 tackles and two interceptions. His top games came in his senior season: he had 23 tackles, an interception and a fumble recovery in a 21-0 loss to Dominguez; in a 27-20 win over Esperanza in the first round of the playoffs, he had 200 rushing yards and two touchdowns to go along with a 27-yard touchdown reception and 15 tackles (nine solo); in a 60-21 win over Millikan, he had 227 rushing yards for three touchdowns and 150 receiving yards for two touchdowns on offense. On defense, he had seven tackles. Under head coach Calvin Bryant, Compton went 8-4 his senior season, advancing to the second round of the playoffs, and was 7-4 his junior year, losing in the first round. He also lettered three times in track, participating in the hurdles, long jump, 100-meters and relays.

ACADEMICS—He plans to major in business management at Colorado. He owns a 2.8 grade point average in high school, highlighted by a 3.2 GPA in his junior year.

PERSONAL—Born April 3, 1989, in Compton, Calif. His hobbies include watching movies and spending time at the beach. He came to Colorado because of secondary coach Greg Brown and his reputation for producing elite defensive backs. His cousin, Michael Richardson was a defensive back for the Chicago Bears (1983-88) and the San Francisco 49ers (1989); he was a teammate of CU linebackers coach Brian Cabral on the 1985 Chicago Bears Super Bowl champion team.