



THE ASSISTANT COACHES



BRIAN CABRAL

Associate Head Coach/Linebackers



Brian Cabral is in his 22nd season at the University of Colorado, his 21st as a full-time assistant coach, as he joined the Buffalo staff as graduate assistant in 1989. He was promoted to associate head coach by Dan Hawkins on February 7, 2008.

His 21 years as a full-time assistant rank as the most in CU history, not only for football but for all sports, as in 2008 he passed two legendary "Franks," Potts and Prentup, both of whom assisted Buff head football coaches for 18 seasons. Since he joined the staff, he has always coached the inside

linebackers, and occasionally has had the outside 'backers under his direction as well. From 1999 through 2005, he also coached the punt return unit on special teams, and served as the director of CU's summer football camps from 1995 through 2005 and for a brief time as recruiting coordinator.

Cabral has worked for four head coaches during his tenure, Bill McCartney, Rick Neuheisel, Gary Barnett and now Hawkins. For all seven seasons under Barnett, Cabral also was the assistant head coach, which included a three-month period in 2004 as interim head coach when Barnett was on paid administrative leave. In that role, he continued to coach his position players but also took care of day-to-day operational details of the program.

Hawkins cited his leadership when promoting him to associate head coach, noting that "no one person has had more influence in the success of Colorado football than Brian Cabral."

You could also call him an ambassador for his native Hawai'i, as he has worked youth camps in the state as well as all-Polynesian camps in the states. He is a founding board member of the Polynesian Coaches Association, formed ahead of the 2007 season.

In the summer of 2002, he was one of 500 nationwide recipients of the AFLAC National Assistant Coach-of-the-Year Award. Coaches on all levels were honored, from youth to professional, and he was one of 10 selected regionally to receive the award. In 2008, CBSSportsline.com selected him to its "All-Coach" team at the linebacker position.

Cabral, 54, tutored the inside linebackers his first year in Boulder as a grad assistant, and assumed full-time duties in the same capacity in 1990 and has coached the position at CU to this day. He returned to Colorado, his alma mater, from Purdue, where he coached the inside linebackers for two seasons (1987-88).

Known as one of the top linebacker coaches in the nation, his students have included Matt Russell, the 1996 Butkus Award winner, all-Big Eight performers Greg Biekert, Chad Brown and Ted Johnson, all of whom went on to stardom in the National Football League, and all-Big 12 linebacker Jordon Dizon, a consensus All-American who was also the league defensive player of the year for 2007. He also recruited tailback Rashaan Salaam, the 1994 Heisman trophy winner, and Chris Naeole, a 1996 All-American guard.

His 2001 punt return team led the nation with a 17.4 average, and also boasted the nation's top individual return man in Roman Hollowell, who averaged 18.0 per return and scored two touchdowns. In 2002, Jeremy Bloom averaged 15.0 yards per return and was 13th in the nation as a freshman (ranking 21st as a sophomore in '03). Cabral prided himself on the team being composed largely of non-starters, drawing comparison to his roots when he was special teams captain of the Chicago Bears.

He is a 1978 CU graduate, as he earned a B.S. degree in therapeutic recreation. He lettered three seasons for the Buffs at linebacker from 1975 to 1977 under Coach Bill Mallory, as he was a captain and played a big role on CU's Big Eight champion team in 1976. He led CU with 13 tackles (12 solo) in the 1977 Orange Bowl against Ohio State. As a

senior, he was honored as the Big Eight Conference's player of the week for a monster 25 tackles in a CU 27-21 win over Stanford and shared the team's Sure Tackler Award with Mark Haynes. That 25-tackle game included 13 solo stops and is still tied for the fourth most in a single game in CU history.

Cabral had 297 tackles in his CU career (120 solo, 177 assisted), a number that still has him tied for 16th on Colorado's all-time list. A unique fact is that he has coached 10 of the other 19 players in CU's all-time top 20, including eight players on the list ahead of him: Matt Russell, Greg Biekert, Ted Johnson, Chad Brown, Michael Jones, Jashon Sykes, Thaddeus Washington and Jordon Dizon (seven rank in the top nine). His players through the years have registered over 6,000 tackles wearing the Black & Gold he once wore.

He was a nine-year NFL veteran, as Atlanta drafted him in the fourth round in 1978. He played two seasons with Atlanta, one with Green Bay and six with Chicago. As the captain of the Bears' special teams, he was a member of Chicago's Super Bowl XX champion team in 1985. He was selected as the Frito-Lay Unsung Hero in the Bears' win over New England, as he had two solo and two assisted tackles on special teams.

He was born June 23, 1956, in Fort Benning, Ga., but grew up in Kailua, Hawaii. He is married to the former Becky Lucas, and they have three grown children, son Kyle and daughters Maile and Mele. He is an active member in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He has authored a book ("Second String Champion"), and his hobbies include surfing, skateboarding and snowboarding.

TOP PLAYERS COACHED—All-Americans (3): Jordon Dizon (Butkus Award runner-up), Roman Hollowell (punt returner), Matt Russell (Butkus Award winner). All-Big Eight/12 Performers (7): Greg Biekert, Chad Brown, Dizon, Hollowell, Ted Johnson (Butkus Award runner-up), Michael Jones, Russell. Big 12 Defensive Players of the Year (1): Dizon. Big 12 Defensive Newcomers of the Year (1): Dizon. NFL Players/Draft Picks (10): Biekert, Brown, Dizon, Johnson, Ron Merkersen, Hannibal Navies, Russell, Jashon Sykes, Sean Tufts, Drew Wahlroos.

RECORD—He has coached in 267 Division I-A games as a full-time coach, owning a record of 145-96-4 at Colorado (156-97-4 including his graduate assistant year); Purdue was 7-14-1 when he was on the Boilermaker staff. He has coached in 14 bowl games (six New Year's Day).





ERIC KIESAU

Assistant Head Coach /Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks



Eric Kiesau is in his fifth year as a member of the Buffalo coaching staff assembled by head coach Dan Hawkins when he accepted the Colorado position in December 2005. He is in his second season as offensive coordinator, promoted into the position on April 30, 2009, just a little over a month after he was named assistant head coach.

Kiesau, 37, came to CU from the University of California at Berkeley, where he coached the receivers for four seasons (2002-05). He was a significant contributor to the Bears' high-powered passing attack in his four years at the "other" UCB.

He was CU's passing game coordinator and receivers coach his first three years in Boulder. When he moved into the coordinator role, he switched to coaching the quarterbacks instead of the receivers. When promoted to offensive coordinator at the age of 36, he was one of the five youngest offensive coordinators in the collegiate ranks. The offense was inconsistent in his first year as coordinator, but then again, he had just 29 practices prior to his first game in the job since he was named after spring ball had already ended. That along with several other variables led to struggles at times, though CU did put a season-high 417 yards on a vaunted Nebraska defense in the season finale.

Though Kiesau had only six years as a collegiate assistant coach under his belt prior to arriving at Colorado, he seemingly mastered the art of both tutoring the accomplished performer as well as molding walk-ons into top-notch players, doing so at his previous two institutions before coming to Boulder. He personally thrives on the teaching and developmental relationship with his players, working on the total person concept in academics, athletics and character.

He's already pulled it off at Colorado, as six players caught 20 or more passes in a season for just the third time in school history in 2007, including a team-best 43 by a redshirt freshman walk-on, Scotty McKnight, and 23 by a true frosh, Josh Smith. McKnight led the team again with 46 receptions in 2008, with another former walk-on, Cody Crawford, second with 31. Due to attrition at the position, Kiesau often coached a group that had three walk-ons on the field at the same time but would hold their own for the most part.

In 2005, his receiving corps produced four 100-yard receiving games. Robert Jordan and DeSean Jackson were his stars at the starting positions, with Jackson having two of the century games, 128 versus UCLA and 130 at New Mexico State, the latter being the most yards ever by a Cal freshman. Jordan's top performance came at Washington, when he caught 11 passes for 192-yards, the sixth-best single game total in school history; he also had three touchdowns, all in the first half, tying a school record. And with Jackson and Jordan sidelined due to injury, former walk-on LaReyelle Cunningham caught five balls for 112 yards and a score in his first career start.

Though injuries sidelined four of his top five receivers for much of 2004, the Bears continued to field first-rate pass catchers in a Cal offense triggered by quarterback Aaron Rodgers. Second-team All-American Geoff McArthur set school career marks for receptions (202) and receiving yards (3,188). In 2003, McArthur ranked second nationally and set a school season receiving record with 1,504 yards on 85 catches. That same year, Kiesau developed two walk-ons, Burl Toler and Vincent Strang, as the pair combined for 65 receptions for 814 yards and eight touchdowns, as both blossomed as they emerged in the regular rotation of receivers.

In 2002, his first campaign at Cal, he developed a wide receiving corps that featured Jonathan Makonnen (54-682, 7 TDs), LaShaun Ward (39-709, 9 TDs) and McArthur (36-454, 1 TD), a trio that combined for 129 receptions, 1,845 yards and 17 TDs.

Kiesau earned his bachelor's degree in business communications at Portland State in 1996, where he lettered at quarterback (he was PSU's starter as a senior in 1995). He was an All-American junior college quarterback as a sophomore in 1992, as selected by JC Gridwire, at Glendale Community College in southern California.

Upon graduation from PSU, he worked the better part of five years in private business, for Corporate America in Portland, and then for Eclipse Specialties, Inc., a family-owned and operated company, in North Hollywood, Calif. He first entered coaching while employed by his JUCO alma mater, Glendale Community College. He then made a brief four-month stop at the University of Oregon as head coach Mike Bellotti's teamwork coordinator in the winter and spring of 2000.

His first full-time collegiate coaching position followed later that year, when he was named running backs and receivers coach at Utah State University under Mick Dennehy. In 2000, he tutored Emmett White, Utah State's third team All-American who led the nation in all-purpose yards and ranked 13th in NCAA rushing, including a school-record 322-yard effort against New Mexico State in 2001. In his second year at USU, he coached wide receiver Kevin Curtis, who would earn *Associated Press* All-American honors that season with an NCAA-high 100 passes (while ranking third in yards per game and eighth in all-purpose yards). He was a semifinalist for the Biletnikoff Award, accomplished after walking on at Utah State the previous year.

He was born November 24, 1972 in Pasadena, Calif., and graduated from Glendale (Calif.) High School, where he lettered in football and baseball. He is married to the former Wendy Kanan, and they have a daughter, Tayler (11) and a son, Blake (5). (*His last name is pronounced key-saw.*)

TOP PLAYERS COACHED—All-Americans (3): Kevin Curtis, Geoff McArthur, Emmett White. All-Pac-10 Performers (1): McArthur. All-Big West Performers (1): White. NFL Players/Draft Picks (3): Curtis, Chase Lyman, Patrick Williams.

RECORD—He has coached in 121 Division I-A games as a full-time coach (16-33 at Colorado, 33-17 at California and 9-13 at Utah State); he has coached in four bowl games.





RON COLLINS

Defensive Coordinator



Ron Collins is in his fifth year as defensive coordinator at Colorado, as he was one of four assistant coaches to join Boise State head coach Dan Hawkins when he accepted the Colorado position in December 2005. He oversees all phases of the defense for the Buffaloes, but does not coach a specific position.

Collins, 46, served as Boise State's defensive coordinator for four seasons, while coaching the linebackers all five years he spent on the BSU staff under Hawkins. Under his guidance, the Boise State defense developed into one of the top defenses nationally and as the best in the Western Athletic

Conference. All together, Collins had 26 players earn All-WAC recognition during his four seasons as defensive coordinator.

His first Colorado defense in 2006 was solid against the run (fourth in the Big 12, 30th in the NCAA at 112.4 yards per game) and allowed 341 yards per game overall in limiting five opponents to fewer than 20 points in a game while forcing 24 turnovers.

In 2007, the Buff 'D' was again strong against the run (31st nationally), and had a three-week stretch where the opponent gained only 590 total yards, the second lowest total CU allowed over the previous 42 seasons. Within that run, the Buffs contained a powerful Oklahoma offense to only 230 yards, and Rivals.com selected him as the National Coordinator of the Week for Colorado's 27-24 win over the third-ranked Sooners.

The 2008 team was decimated by injuries on both sides of the ball, but despite all the prolific offenses in the Big 12, CU was the only school in conference action not to allow 500 or more yards in any game. And in a 14-13 win over Kansas State, CU held that precarious 1-point lead the final 25:49 of the game, the longest any team protected a 1- or 2-point lead in Division I-A (and the NFL) in 2008 and the longest a CU defense was asked to do it since 1936.

His 2009 defense was 11th in the nation in forcing "three-and-outs" with 53, and was seventh in the NCAA in red zone defense. It also registered the most sacks (29) at CU in the Hawkins Era, and held Texas (313 yards) and Nebraska (217) to regular season offensive total yardage lows.

The 2005 Boise State defense ranked 15th nationally against the run (107.9 ypg), a figure that also topped the WAC; it was also among the best in the nation in forcing turnovers with 26. Collins also had one of his players, linebacker Korey Hall, repeat as a first-team all-WAC performer.

His 2004 unit may have been his best. That year, the Broncos ranked in the top 10 nationally in three categories: interceptions (second), turnovers gained (fifth) and rushing defense (10th), while also finishing 13th in turnover margin.

That same team also ranked first in the WAC in five different categories, including rushing defense (103.9 yards per game), turnover margin (0.83) and interceptions (23), and was also second in total defense (357.8 ypg). Seven of BSU's starters selected were selected either first or second-team or honorable mention All-WAC in 2004, including first-team linebackers Hall and Andy Avalos and cornerback Gabe Franklin.

Those accomplishments followed up on a solid 2003, when BSU ranked in the top 20 nationally in interceptions (sixth), pass efficiency defense (seventh), rushing defense (11th), scoring defense (12th), turnovers gained (14th) and turnover margin (17th). Boise State was also 37th in total defense, and ranked first in the WAC in seven of the nine major categories, including scoring defense (17.1 points per game), rushing defense (100.5 ypg), total defense (348.4 ypg), pass efficiency defense (99.0), interceptions (21) and third down conversion defense (31.3 percent). All three of Collins' linebackers earned All-WAC recognition: Avalos was first-team, Travis Burgher was second-team and Hall an honorable mention selection.

In 2002, Boise State led the WAC in eight defensive categories, and finished 16th in the nation in rushing defense and 17th in scoring defense. One of his linebackers also garnered postseason recognition, as Chauncey

Ako was named second-team All-WAC.

During his first year at BSU, he helped develop a young linebacker corps into a solid and deep group. He had one player, Greg Sasser, named second-team All-WAC.

He spent 13 seasons at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., the first full-time position of his career, as he joined the Bear staff under coach Ken Woody as secondary coach for the 1988 season. He was elevated to defensive coordinator a year later under new coach Larry Kindbom, a position he would hold through the 2000 season. In addition to his defensive coordinator duties, Collins also served as the special teams co-coordinator during the 1999 and 2000 seasons, and worked as the school's strength and conditioning coach for his entire 13-year stay.

With Collins at the helm of the defense, Washington University had one of the school's top football decades during the 1990s. In producing a 68-33 record from 1990-2000, Washington University shared three University Athletic Association (UAA) titles and won seven or more games on five occasions. In 1999, Collins coached the top ranked Division III defense in the country, as Washington allowed just 192 yards of total offense per game and a school record 49.8 rushing yards per game in making the NCAA playoffs for the first time in school history.

Prior to joining the Washington University staff, Collins was a graduate assistant at Iowa State University during the 1987 season. He started his coaching career as a volunteer assistant at his alma mater, Washington State, in the spring of 1987.

Collins is a 1987 graduate of Washington State, earning a bachelor's degree in physical education. The defensive team captain as a senior, he lettered four years for WSU at strong safety for coach Jim Walden. He started three seasons (1984-86) and once had three interceptions in a game (versus Stanford as a sophomore in 1984). He received a master's degree in education administration from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 1991.

He was born January 30, 1964 in Wenatchee, Wash., and graduated from Cashmere (Wash.) High School, where he earned a total of 10 letters in football, wrestling and track. He is married to the former Sharon Arthallony, and the couple has two daughters, Taylor Rae (11) and Alexandra (9).

TOP PLAYERS COACHED—All-Western Athletic Conference Performers (4): Chauncey Ako, Andy Avalos, Korey Hall, Greg Sasser.

RECORD—He has coached in 113 Division I-A games as a full-time coach, owning a record of 69-44 (16-33 at Colorado, 53-11 at Boise State); he has coached in five bowl games. He coached in 120 Division III games (76-44), including one playoff game at Washington University.





ROBERT PRINCE

Passing Game Coordinator / Receivers



Robert Prince is in his first year as the passing game coordinator and receivers coach, joining Dan Hawkins' CU staff on February 12, 2010. He actually replaces Hawkins as the receivers coach; Hawkins coached the position for the 2009 season, one of just seven Division I (FBS) head coaches to do so.

Prince, 45, has been reunited with Hawkins, as he served in the same capacity for him at Boise State for the 2001-03 seasons. He coached the receivers all three years and assumed the passing coordinator role for his last season there before moving on to the NFL.

Prior to returning to the college ranks, Prince spent the six seasons as an assistant coach in the National Football League. He came to Colorado from the NFL's Seattle Seahawks, where he coached the wide receivers in 2009 under coach Jim Mora, Jr., who was unfortunately let go after just one season with his entire staff. Previously, he spent two years as the assistant wide receivers coach with the Jacksonville Jaguars.

He first broke into the professional coaching ranks with the Atlanta Falcons, where he spent three seasons (2004-06), the first two as an offensive assistant and the last as assistant quarterbacks coach. He earned his shot at the NFL after serving as a coaching intern through Bill Walsh's NFL Minority Coaching Program with San Francisco (2000 and 2002) and San Diego (2001), a program that enabled aspiring coaching candidates to learn the inner workings of the NFL in the summer while still serving as an assistant in the collegiate ranks, where Prince spent 15 seasons before ascending to the pros.

He got his start at his alma mater, Humboldt State, as a graduate assistant for the 1989-90 seasons. He then moved on to Montana State (1991), Sacramento State (1992-93) and then to Fort Lewis (1994-95), his first stop in Colorado. Prince's next stop took him halfway around the world, as he coached with the Tokyo-based Recruit Seagulls of the Japanese American Football League (1996-97). He returned to the states for three seasons at Portland State (1998-2000) before joining Hawkins at Boise State.

He earned both his bachelor's degree in Mathematics (1990) and his master's in Physical Education (1992) from Humboldt State, where he lettered in football at receiver and was an all-conference performer in track.

Though born in Okinawa, Japan, where he lived until he was 7, he considers himself a native of San Bernardino, Calif. He graduated from San Geronimo High School in San Bernardino, where he lettered in football and track. He is married to the former Susan Gentle; they are the parents of three, daughters Hayden (15) and Jasmin (10) and son Tyson (13).

TOP PLAYERS COACHED—All-WAC Performers (3): Tim Gilligan, Jay Swillie, Billy Wingfield.

RECORD—He has coached in 39 Division I-A games as a full-time coach, owning a record of 33-6 (all at Boise State); he has coached in two bowl games. Professionally, he coached in 100 National Football League games, including four playoff games, with three different teams (Atlanta, Jacksonville, Seattle).





ASHLEY AMBROSE

Secondary



Ashley Ambrose is in his first season as secondary coach at Colorado, as the popular 13-year National Football League veteran was promoted to the position on February 12, 2010.

He had just finished two seasons as CU's defensive technical intern, a role he assumed in March 2008, and had actually been groomed to become the receivers coach by head coach Dan Hawkins until the defensive backs position opened up when Greg Brown left for a coordinator's

job at Arizona. Hawkins coached the receivers in 2009.

The 39-year old Ambrose brings a wealth of professional experience to the Buffalo staff after a long and distinguished career in pro football. After being selected out of Mississippi Valley State by Indianapolis in the second round (29th pick overall) of the 1992 NFL draft, he went on to play 13 years in the league, four seasons with the Colts (1992-95), three with Cincinnati (1996-98), three with New Orleans (1999, 2003-04) and three with Atlanta (2000-02). He earned All-Pro honors with the Bengals in 1996, when he was also the AFC Defensive Back of the Year. During his career, he had 42 interceptions, returning three for touchdowns, and also had 178 pass deflections to go with 514 tackles (464 solo).

After 192 games (which included 135 starts), he retired from professional football after the 2004 season, and started to enjoy his retirement. But got right back into football a year later, spending the 2006 season an intern coach with the Atlanta Falcons.

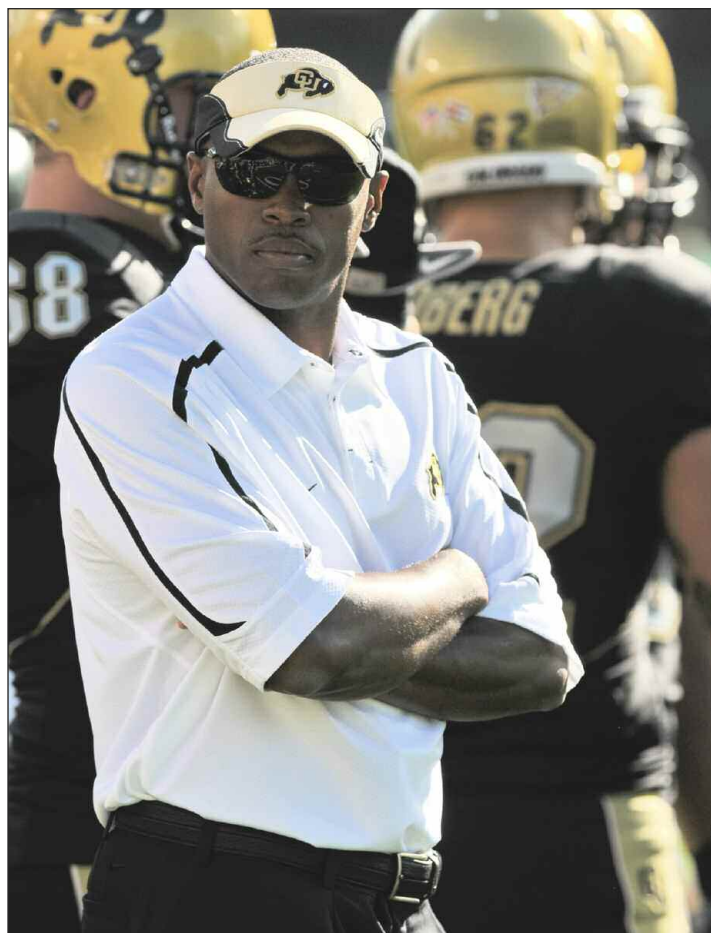
Ambrose earned his degree in Industrial Technology in 1992 from MVSU, where he lettered four years at cornerback. He had 17 interceptions, 40 pass deflections and 110 tackles during his college career, when he also had seven kick returns for touchdowns (four punt, three kickoff).

He has long been active in community service, as he developed the "Ashley Ambrose All-A's Club" that rewarded high school football players who excelled academically. He participated in VH-1's Save the Music program and in the NFL United Way Hometown Huddles Campaign among many things he did as a professional, which included donating hundreds of tickets to scholar-athletes.

A native of New Orleans, he graduated from Alcee Fortier High School in 1988, where he lettered in football, basketball and track. He is the father of two children, Aisha (10) and A.J. (8).

TOP PLAYERS COACHED— N/A; in his first season as a college coach.

RECORD—N/A; in his first season as a college coach. Atlanta (NFL) was 7-9 in 2006 when he served as an intern coach.





ROMEO BANDISON

Defensive Line



Romeo Bandison is in his fifth year as defensive line coach at Colorado, as he was one of four assistants to join Boise State head coach Dan Hawkins when he accepted the Colorado position in December 2005.

Bandison, 39, was Boise State's defensive line coach for five seasons. Under Bandison, the Bronco defensive line anchored one of the top rushing defenses in the country for four seasons (2002-05), as the Broncos ranked in the top 16

in rushing defense all four of those years: 15th in 2005, 10th in 2004, 11th in 2003 and 16th in 2002.

He had an immediate impact at Colorado, tutoring All-Big 12 Conference defensive end Abraham Wright in 2006, who with 11½ quarterback sacks, registered the most in that category by a Buffalo in 13 seasons. His defensive line was a key component in limiting opponents to just 112.4 rushing yards per game.

In 2007, he coached tackle George Hypolite to All-Big 12 honors, the first non-senior Buff defensive lineman to earn first-team all-conference honors since 1996. Once again, his defensive front played a big role in plugging the run as the Buffs ranked 31st nationally in allowing just 128 yards per game. Hypolite earned second-team honors as a senior in 2008. He had the responsibility of tutoring nearly a senior-less defensive front in 2009 (the unit had just two seniors, one a walk-on), and was fairly inexperienced with four sophomores and three freshmen (two true) playing the bulk of the snaps.

At BSU in 2005, two of his players garnered All-Western Athletic Conference honors, Alex Guerrero (first-team) and Andrew Browning (second-team); both were honorable mention performers the previous year. In fact, in his final four years in Boise, he had two linemen recognized with postseason honors each of those seasons, as defensive end Julius Roberts earned first-team All-WAC honors, while Dane Oldham was an honorable mention All-WAC selection in 2003, and in 2002, both Ryan Nelson and Oldham were named to All-WAC teams.

Bandison began his coaching career at his alma mater, the University of Oregon, where he was a standout player for the Ducks before joining the coaching staff. During the 1999 and 2000 seasons, he served as a graduate assistant for the Ducks, working with the defensive line and coordinating the defensive scout team. Oregon made consecutive postseason bowl appearances in those two seasons, winning both the Sun Bowl (1999) and Holiday Bowl (2000).

He also served a two-week internship with the Oakland Raiders in the National Football League prior to the 2002 season.

Bandison earned his bachelor's degree in economics in 1994 from the University of Oregon, where he lettered as a defensive end and nose guard for the Ducks from 1990-93. Oregon advanced to two bowl games during his playing career, the Freedom Bowl in 1990 and the Independence Bowl in 1992.

Following his senior season, Bandison played in the Hula Bowl and East-West Shrine Classic all-star games before being selected in the third round of the 1994 NFL Draft by the Cleveland Browns. Bandison continued his NFL career the next three years (1995-97) as a defensive tackle with the Washington Redskins. He completed his professional playing career in 1998 with the Amsterdam Admirals of the World Football League.

He was born February 12, 1971 in The Hague, The Netherlands, and moved to the United States as a youth and would graduate from Tamalpais High School (Mill Valley, Calif.), where he lettered in football. He is married to the former Amy Kowalewski, and the couple has 4-year old fraternal twins, Dominic and Olivia. (*His first name is pronounced row-may-oh.*)

TOP PLAYERS COACHED—All-Big 12 Conference Performers (2): George Hypolite, Abraham Wright. All-Western Athletic Conference Performers (2): Alex Guerrero, Julius Roberts. NFL Players/Draft Picks (2): Maurice Lucas, Wright.

RECORD—He has coached in 113 Division I-A games as a full-time coach, owning a record of 69-44 (16-33 at Colorado, 53-11 at Boise State); he has coached in five bowl games. Oregon was 19-5 in his two seasons as a graduate assistant coach.





DARIAN HAGAN

Running Backs



Darian Hagan, one of the names synonymous with Colorado's rise to glory in the late 1980s, is in his fifth season as running backs coach and sixth overall on the CU staff, as he was one of two assistant coaches retained by new CU head coach Dan Hawkins when he was named to the position in December 2005.

Hagan, 40, was named an offensive assistant coach on Gary Barnett's staff on February 9, 2005, and worked with the skill position players on offense in the spring and fall in his first year as a full-time collegiate assistant.

A popular coach with his players yet with a stern touch, he was coaching true freshman Rodney Stewart on the way to a 1,000-yard season in 2008 until a season-ending injury sidelined him in the ninth game of the 2008 season. Stewart's 622 yards were the third most by a CU freshman in school history. In 2007, he tutored Hugh Charles to a 1,000-yard year including the Independence Bowl; he has since gone on to play successfully in Canada.

Hagan made a difference in his first season (2006) mentoring the running backs, as CU had three 500-plus yard rushers for just the 10th time in its history. He also played a role in the development of quarterback Bernard Jackson, as Hagan's own skills of blending the run and the pass rubbed off on the Buff junior in his first year as a starter.

He had a brief taste of coaching in the spring of 2004 as he subbed as secondary coach when the staff was minus a full-time assistant. Otherwise, he was the defensive technical intern for the '04 season, assuming that role in February of that year. It marked the third time he has made the University of Colorado his destination of choice.

He starred at quarterback for the Buffaloes between 1988 and 1991, leading the school to its first national championship, and following his professional playing career, returned in the mid-1990s to work as CU's Alumni C Club Director.

Hagan left CU in the spring of 1998 to work as an area sales manager for the Transit Marketing Group. Three months into his new position, he was promoted to Southeast Regional Sales Manager. He remained in that position for over five years until deciding to pursue his dream as a coach and return to his alma mater for the third time. By working as a technical intern, he learned the intricacies of the profession in a hands-on role in his desire to coach; when a temporary vacancy opened on the staff, he was "activated" as a coach to work with the defensive backs and it added to his penchant for the profession.

Arguably the best all-around athlete in the history of the CU football program, he was an integral part of CU's run at two national championships in 1989 and 1990. The Buffs were 11-1 in 1989, losing to Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl, but went 11-1-1 in 1990 with a win over the Irish in an Orange Bowl rematch to give CU its first national title in football. CU was 28-5-2 with him as the starting quarterback for three seasons, including a 20-0-1 mark in Big Eight Conference games as he led the Buffs to three straight league titles in 1989, 1990 and 1991. His 28-5-2 record as a starter (82.9 winning percentage) is the 37th best in college football history.

In 1989, he became just the sixth player in NCAA history at the time to run and pass for over 1,000 yards in the same season, finishing, as just a sophomore, fifth in the balloting for the Heisman Trophy. He established the school record for total offense with 5,808 yards

(broken three years later by Kordell Stewart), and is one of two players ever at CU to amass over 2,000 yards both rushing and passing along with Bobby Anderson. He was a two-time all-Big Eight performer, and the league's offensive player of the year for 1989 when he also was afforded various All-America honors. He still holds several CU records and was the school's male athlete-of-the-year for the 1991-92 academic year.

In 2002, he was a member of the fourth class to be inducted into CU's Athletic Hall of Fame, and his jersey (No. 3) is one of several to have been honored.

Hagan played for Toronto, Las Vegas and Edmonton over the course of five seasons in the Canadian Football League, mostly as a defensive back and special teams performer. He returned to CU to earn his diploma just prior to his last professional season, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology in May 1996. He was hired later that year (December 1) as the Alumni C Club Director, a position he held for 16 months until leaving for an incredible opportunity in private business.

He was born February 1, 1970 in Lynwood, Calif., and graduated from Los Angeles' Locke High School in 1988, where he lettered in football, basketball, baseball and track. He was drafted in two sports, football (by San Francisco in the fourth round in the 1992 NFL Draft) and baseball (selected as a shortstop by both Seattle and Toronto). He is the father two sons, Darian, Jr. (21), a senior defensive back at California, and DeVaughn (18), and a daughter, Danielle (14).

TOP PLAYERS COACHED—CFL Players (1): Hugh Charles.

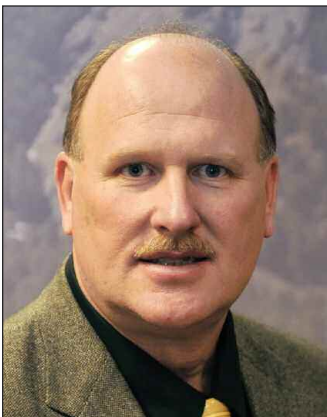
RECORD—He has coached in 62 Division I-A games as a full-time coach, all at Colorado.





DENVER JOHNSON

Offensive Line



Denver Johnson is in his second season as Colorado's offensive line coach, having joined Dan Hawkins' staff on February 18, 2009. A nationally respected veteran coach, his resume includes nine years as the head coach at Illinois State University prior to coming to CU.

Johnson, 51, summed up his love for coaching offensive linemen the day he was hired. "I have been a head coach for 12 years, but I'm an offensive line coach by trade," he said. "That's my passion."

His first CU line was youthful ... to the point that it was the first offensive line at Colorado that did not have a single senior at any of the five

positions in school history, and the first time one of the starters wasn't a senior since 1998.

Johnson resigned as ISU head coach following the 2008 season, announcing the move after the Redbirds' season-ending 17-10 loss to Southern Illinois that dropped Illinois State to 3-8. The Redbirds had winning records in five of his nine years, including a 9-4 mark in 2006, the second most wins in school history.

He was the Redbirds' head coach for the 2000 through 2008 seasons. He posted a 48-54 record, highlighted by reaching the quarterfinals of the 2006 NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (I-AA) and a season-ending No. 8 national ranking. Johnson's teams produced some of the most prolific offensive campaigns in the program's history by establishing 28 offensive school records, including the most points and the most rushing, passing and total yards in a season.

His ISU teams produced 34 players who were afforded some kind of All-America honor and 62 first-team All-Missouri Valley Football Conference selections, including the MVC's first-ever three-time defensive player of the year, Boomer Grigsby; and the offensive and defensive players of the year in 2005 with Laurent Robinson and Brent Hawkins, respectively. During his tenure, the Redbirds also boasted the Valley Football Defensive Player of the Year for five straight seasons, from 2002-06, with Grigsby winning the honor three times, followed by Hawkins and Cameron Siskowic.

Johnson had originally joined the Illinois State staff after a three-year head coaching stint at Murray State, where he compiled a 21-12 mark. He owned a 69-66 career record in his 12 seasons as a head coach.

Johnson graduated with a degree in Business Management from the University of Tulsa in 1981. A four-year letterman at offensive tackle, he helped the Golden Hurricane to the 1976 Independence Bowl as a player and was a two-time All-Missouri Valley Conference offensive lineman under former Ohio State and Arizona State head coach John Cooper. He was also an academic all-conference pick.

He was drafted in the eighth round of the 1981 National Football League Draft by the Tampa Buccaneers, and was with the club for two seasons. He then joined the Los Angeles Express of the now-defunct United States Football League for the 1983 and 1984 seasons and wrapped up his professional career with the USFL's Houston Gamblers in 1985. His USFL playing days included playing stints with quarterbacks **Jim Kelly** and **Steve Young**, both of whom went on to stardom in the NFL.

Following the 1985 USFL season and after four years of playing professional football, he made the decision enter the coaching ranks and began his climb in the fall of '85 as a graduate assistant at Oklahoma State. The Cowboys went 8-4 that season, were at one time ranked as the No. 5 team in the nation and earned a spot opposite Florida State in the Gator Bowl. He traveled with OSU to Boulder that season when the Cowboys eked out a 14-11 win over Bill McCartney's Buffaloes, which were on the rise at the time.

His first full-time coaching job came at Tennessee-Martin, where he was assistant head coach and coached the offensive line for three seasons (1986-88) under head coach Don McCleary, whom Johnson met as a player when McCleary was on the staff of the USFL's Express. His last year there, UTM featured an explosive offense and advanced to the quarterfinals in the NCAA Division II playoffs before finishing the year with an 11-2 record.

Johnson then returned to Stillwater where he would coach the offensive

line for Oklahoma State for the next four seasons (1989-92), and was on the sidelines for the '91 game when CU called perhaps its most famous trick play in its history, a fake field goal trailing 12-10 with 12 seconds remaining. With the winds howling as they often do in the plains in November, holder Robbie James completed a 20-yard pass to tight end Christian Fauria and CU won, 16-12 (missing the PAT kick into the wind).

He then joined the staff at Mississippi State where he spent the next three years, also as the offensive line mentor. The 1993 Bulldogs earned a spot in the Peach Bowl, and in 1995, Johnson was recognized as one of the top assistant coaches in the Southeastern Conference. He then returned to Oklahoma for a third time in his coaching career, but this time with the University of Oklahoma for the 1996 season.

Early in 1997, he was named head coach for Murray State. A late hiring process and the loss of several key players from the previous year's team appeared to have Johnson poised for a slow start at MSU, but that was not the case. The Racers responded with a 7-4 mark, the same record they would post in the 1998 and 1999 seasons before Johnson moved on to Illinois State. His first ISU team opened 1-4 and then caught fire, winning its last six and was one of the better teams in I-AA by the end of the year.

He was born October 17, 1958 in Seminole, Okla. He is married to the former Danita Kay Powell, and the couple has two grown daughters, Taylor and Kelsey. He collects vintage cars and guitars, has skydived and lists water skiing as one of his hobbies. Johnson's father, the late Luke Johnson, was a decorated veteran of World War II, and his mother, Claudia, still resides in Seminole, Okla., near the farm on which the family lived. Throughout his career, he has been a public speaker in high demand, as he is known for an interesting delivery style featuring home spun humor with his natural southern drawl.

TOP PLAYERS COACHED—All-Big 12 Conference Performers (1): Nate Solder. All-Missouri Valley Conference Performers (67; too numerous to list). NFL Players/Draft Picks (7): Boomer Grigsby, Brent Hawkins, Laurent Robinson (SIU), Brian Anderson, Melvin Hayes, Pervis Hunt, Jesse James (MSU).

RECORD—He has been a part of 285 game days in the collegiate coaching ranks across three divisions. He has coached in 101 Division I-A games as a full-time coach (15-17-2 at Mississippi State, 12-30-2 at Oklahoma State, 3-8 at Oklahoma, 3-9 at Colorado); OSU was 8-4 the year he was a graduate assistant (1985). He has coached in two bowl games (one New Year's Day). He was head coach for 135 Division I-AA games, guiding Murray State and Illinois State to a 69-66 record, and UT Martin was 22-15 in three seasons there, reaching the D-II quarterfinals in 1988.





KENT RIDDLE

Tight Ends/Special Teams



Kent Riddle is in his fifth year as tight ends coach and special teams coordinator at Colorado, as he was one of four assistants to join Boise State head coach Dan Hawkins when he accepted the Colorado position in December 2005.

Riddle, 41, was Boise State's running backs and special teams coach for five seasons, all under Hawkins. Many of his special team units finished regularly in the NCAA top 25, as the kickoff return team was in the top 21 all five years and the punt return team placed in the top 18 the last four seasons. And over the course of his five years, precision reigned in the kicking

game, as BSU kickers converted 96.8 percent of their PAT kicks (330-of-341) and 73.1 percent of their field goal tries (68-of-93).

While his units didn't rank as high as he is accustomed to in his first season at Colorado, he coached two All-Americans: senior placekicker Mason Crosby was a repeat first-team selection, while punter Matt DiLallo was the unanimous first-team Freshman All-America performer.

In 2007, however, Colorado was one of just of just six schools in the nation to rank in the top half in all five special team categories: net punting, punt returns, kickoff returns, punt return defense and kickoff return defense. In 2008, the units were affected a but by injuries in the two-deep that prevented many starters from filling roles, with CU's top unit nationally, kickoff return, finishing 38th in the NCAA with a 22.3 average; that same unit was 21st in 2009 with a 23.9 figure. Both numbers dropped near the end of the year as opponents often kicked short to limit the return distances; the Buffs were in the top 15 in both the bulk of both seasons. Also in 2009, CU was 27th in kickoff return defense, a number skewed by one return TD, otherwise it was also a top 20 unit.

In 2005, Boise State ranked 12th in the nation in kickoff returns (24.2), anchored by Lee Marks, who was 10th nationally as an individual (27.9, 1 TD). The Broncos were also 18th in punt returns (12.8), with Quinton Jones second in the country with a gaudy 20.9 yards per return, including three scores. The coverage units were exceptional as well; BSU was 17th in punt return defense (5.9) and 29th in kickoff return defense (18.7).

Riddle coached placekicker Tyler Jones to an All-American season and a spot as one of three finalists for the Lou Groza Award in 2004. Overall, BSU's special teams proved to be as good as any unit in the country. In addition to Jones, punter Kyle Stringer was named second-team all-WAC, averaging 43.9 yards per punt. The Broncos finished third in the nation in punt returns (16.6), 21st in kickoff returns (23.0) and 29th in net punting (37.3 yards). The Broncos also blocked four kicks for the second straight season, including a possible game winning field goal by San Jose State. Following the 2004 season, he spoke at the American Football Coaches Association convention on special teams, one of his many personal highlights.

In 2003, the Broncos ranked 15th in the country in both kickoff and punt returns, following up a 2002 campaign when both finished 13th in the NCAA. The Broncos also led the WAC in punt returns and kickoff coverage, allowing just 17.0 yards per return. In 2001, David Mikell was seventh in the nation in kickoff returns (28.4, 1 TD), leading the team to a 19th place national ranking.

He achieved significant success as the Broncos running back coach as well. Though the perception is out there that Boise State makes its bones as a passing team, the 2005 edition under Riddle's tutelage finished 19th in the NCAA, averaging 202.5 yards per game. That followed up a 2004 effort which saw the Broncos finish 14th nationally (229.8 per game), which was good for second in the WAC, as the "tailback-by-committee" scheme that featured six different players scored a school record 49 touchdowns.

In his first three seasons at Boise State, the Broncos produced a 1,000-yard rusher every year. In 2003, David Mikell earned honorable mention all-WAC honors after rushing for 1,142 yards and 13 touchdowns. In 2002,

Brock Forsey was named the WAC Offensive Player of the Year, as he rushed for 1,611 yards (11th in the NCAA), and led the nation in scoring with 26 touchdowns. In his first year, 2001, Forsey was a first-team all-WAC performer after gaining 1,207 yards.

Riddle had moved on to Boise State after serving as an assistant coach at the United States Military Academy for six seasons. At Army, his first full-time coaching position, he coached the fullbacks for his four seasons there (1995-98), and then switched to special teams coach and recruiting coordinator for the 1999 and 2000 seasons. He worked his first five years there under head coach Bob Sutton, and was retained when Todd Berry was named coach in 2000. Additionally, he worked as Army's junior varsity head coach and offensive coordinator, while also overseeing the program's summer camp. In 1996, he helped coach Army to its only 10-win season in history, as the Black Knights went 10-2, including a loss to Auburn in the Independence Bowl.

Prior to joining the Army staff, Riddle began his coaching career in 1991 as a student assistant football coach at Oregon State University. In 1992, he was promoted to a graduate assistant position with the Beavers, first working one year as the video G.A. before working as the offensive grad assistant in both 1993 and 1994, helping tutor the running backs while also being in charge of preparation for the defensive scout team.

He earned his bachelor's degree in hotel, restaurant and tourism management from Oregon State in 1992, after completing his playing career for the Beavers, as he played quarterback for coach Dave Kragthorpe.

He was born June 25, 1969 in Iowa City, Iowa, and graduated from City High School in Iowa City, where he lettered in football, basketball and track. His grandfather, Bucky O'Connor, was the legendary men's basketball coach at Iowa, where he led the Hawkeyes to a 108-54 record in seven seasons; he coached the '54-55 Hawkeye team that lost to Colorado in the national third place game. He is married to the former Camaren Matlock, and the couple has a son, Connor (10) and daughter Kayleigh (4).

TOP PLAYERS COACHED—All-Americans (3): Mason Crosby, Quinton Jones, Tyler Jones (Lou Groza Award finalist). All-Big 12 Performers (1): Crosby. All-WAC Performers (6): Chris Carr, Brock Forsey, Tim Gilligan, Q.Jones, T.Jones, Kyle Stringer. NFL Players/Draft Picks (4): Carr, Crosby, Forsey, T.Jones. CFL Players/Draft Picks (1): Gilligan.

RECORD—He has coached in 180 Division I-A games as a full-time coach, owning a record of 95-84-1 (16-33 at Colorado, 53-11 at Boise State, 26-40-1 at Army); he has coached in six bowl games. He also worked 44 games in his various roles at Oregon State.





JEFF PITMAN

Director of Speed-Strength & Conditioning



Jeff Pitman is in his fifth year as Colorado's director of speed-strength and conditioning, having joined the program in May 2006, just ahead of summer conditioning drills.

He works directly on a day-to-day basis with football, while overseeing the speed, strength and conditioning needs of all 16 CU varsity programs. In his first year with the Buffaloes, his coaching regimen and techniques, which includes a no frills and no nonsense

approach, made a difference in the overall strength of the football team, and that has continued annually as players continually post improved numbers across the board in all facets of the conditioning program.

The 2010 Buffaloes are no different, entering the season the strongest and fastest team CU will field since early last decade.

He instituted the Iron Buffalo Award in 2007 to recognize those at each position who represent hard work, dedication, toughness and total poundage lifted in the weight room; the winners are selected by him and his staff every spring.

Pitman, 39, came to CU from Boise State, his alma mater, where he spent seven years as the head strength and conditioning coach. He played an integral role in the Broncos emerging as the dominant school in the Western Athletic Conference, winning six league championships in that span. He thus was reunited with former BSU head football coach Dan Hawkins and four of his assistants, all of whom moved on to Colorado in December 2005; the group spent six football seasons together in Boise.

His first full-time strength and coaching position was as an assistant at Montana State University, as he was with the Bobcats from 1995 to 1997; he was in charge of the programs specifically for football, women's skiing and women's track. He then moved on to San Jose State University in the fall of 1997, where he supervised the training programs for all 16 of the Spartan sport teams for the next two years before returning to his alma mater.

He is certified as a strength and conditioning specialist by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NCSA), and is also certified as a level one club coach by USA Weightlifting.

A three-year letterman at center for Boise State from 1990-92, he originally walked on to the team in 1988, eventually earning a scholarship and becoming a two-year starter at center. He was a member of the Broncos' 1990 team that finished 10-4, advancing to the semifinals of the Division I-AA playoffs, where the Broncos went down fighting in three overtimes to Nevada.

Dedicated to hard work in the weight room, Pitman was recognized as an NCSA Strength and Conditioning All-America in 1992, one of 10 BSU players in history to win the award.

He graduated from Boise State with a degree in health promotion in 1993, and immediately went to work as a graduate assistant strength and conditioning coach for the University of Minnesota. While coaching for the Gophers, he earned his master's degree in education in the spring of 1995.

Born September 14, 1970 in Melba, Idaho, he grew up on a dairy farm near the Snake River and graduated from Melba High School, where he lettered in football, basketball and track (throws). He is married to the former Gina Muralt, and the couple has two sons, Nicholai (13) and Jacob (10), and a daughter, Isabelle (8).

