



FOOTBALL SUPPORT STAFF



PAUL CREIGHTON
Graduate Assistant (Defense)

Paul Creighton is in his second year as the defensive graduate assistant, as he joined the Colorado staff in February 2009. His primary role is assisting Ron Collins with the outside linebackers after assisting defensive line coach Romeo Bandison last season.

Creighton, 27, returned to his alma mater after a stint at Auburn University where he was the graduate assistant strength and conditioning coach for two years.

Originally a walk-on at Colorado where he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2006, he was placed on scholarship after just one semester. In 2002, he practiced all fall at tight end and earning the Scout Team Offense award for the Big 12 Championship game against Oklahoma. He then saw action 47 games at Colorado at tight end, fullback and extensively on special teams. In 2003, he saw action in 11 games and earned two special teams points. In 2004, he played in all 13 games including the Houston Bowl and saw action at both tight end and fullback due to injuries as well as special teams. As a junior in 2005, he finished fourth on in special teams points and played in all 13 games including the Champs Sports Bowl. He missed two games as a senior in 2006 but saw action in 11 games plus the Independence Bowl and started two games when the Buffs opened the game in a two-tight end formation.

He was born July 22, 1983 in Tecumseh, Neb., and graduated from Niwot High School in Niwot, Colo., in 2002. He lettered three times in football at both tight end and defensive end and was an all-state player as a senior. He also lettered in basketball four times, earning honorable mention all-state honors as a senior, and outdoor track three times where he was an all-conference and all-region selection in the 110-m hurdles. He is married to the former Kathleen Almon.



BEN STEELE
Graduate Assistant (Offense)

Ben Steele enters his second year on the University of Colorado football staff, his first year as the offensive graduate assistant after working as an operations assistant for the 2009 season. He joined the staff in March 2008.

Steele, 32, came to Colorado from Mesa State College, where he was an offensive assistant coach in 2008. Prior to returning to his alma mater at Mesa State to coach, he attended the Harvard Business School as part of the NFL Executive Business Program in 2006 where he received master's credit from the school.

Steele played in the National Football League for six seasons, signing with the San Francisco 49ers in 2001 and earning a spot on the practice squad there as a tight end. He then signed with the Oakland Raiders for the 2002 season where he was a practice squad member for the Oakland team that advanced to Super Bowl XXXVII. He was a member of the Minnesota Vikings in 2003 before signing with the Green Bay Packers for the 2004-05 seasons and finishing his career on the Houston Texans from 2006-07.

He saw NFL game action in Green Bay in both 2004 and '05, playing in 17 games and registering four receptions for 42 yards on offensive and 15 tackles while playing special teams. He also signed with the Frankfurt Galaxy for the 2002 season where he recorded 11 receptions for 110 yards and a touchdown.

He graduated from Mesa State College (Grand Junction, Colo.) in 2001 with a degree in communications, with an emphasis in broadcasting. While there he worked at various local media outlets including KMSA radio and he also returned to Grand Junction to work at KKCO NBC 11 News where he served as the weekend sports anchor during the off season in 2002 and '03. He earned All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference honors at Mesa State as a junior and senior year played in a Division II all-star game.

Steele started his collegiate career at Fort Lewis College, where he played football from 1996-98. He redshirted the 1996 season and then played tight end in 1997 and '98 where he hauled in 10 receptions for 84 yards and one touchdown.

He was born May 27, 1978 in Denver and attended Palisade High School in Palisade, Colo., where he played basketball and football. He is married to the former Rachel Stophlet.



ANTHONY TUCKER
Offensive Technical Intern

Anthony Tucker enters his first year as the offensive technical intern, joining the Colorado staff in March 2010.

Tucker, 34, came to Colorado from Lakewood High School in Lakewood, Calif., where he was an assistant coach from 2006-09 serving as the offensive coordinator and wide receivers coach. In both 2008-09, he also coached the quarterbacks and wide receivers in the Best of the West skills camp.

He spent four years in the National Football League, originally signing as a free agent with the New York Giants in 1999 and earning a spot on the team's practice squad in 2000. He was allocated to NFL Europe from the Giants in 2001 and played for the Amsterdam Admirals, where he caught 17 passes for 172 yards and scored a touchdown. He signed with the St. Louis Rams in 2002 and then suffered a career-ending leg injury.

He played collegiately at Fresno State as a wide receiver from 1994-98, starting as an upperclassman. He led the team in receiving yards as a junior in 1997 when he had 32 catches for 414 yards and three touchdowns. He was on the Bulldog roster in 1998 when the team played CU at Folsom Field.

He graduated from Fresno State in 1999 with a B.S. in Criminology. He was a Western Athletic Conference Scholar-Athlete and was a member of the Dean's List three times and earned President's List honors on one occasion for having a 4.0 grade point average.

A football and track & field star at Los Alamitos (Calif.) High School, under football coach John Barnes, the winningest coach in Orange County history, he helped his team compile a perfect 14-0 record his senior season in 1993 to win the school's third straight CIF championship. He was a team captain on the track, where he participated in hurdle and sprinting events.

He was born February 27, 1976 at the Fort Carson Army Base in Colorado Springs, Colo. He lived in Seoul, Korea for a year as a child. He has been a boxing enthusiast most of his life and also studied film, commercial and improvisational acting in Philadelphia. He enjoys reading and considers himself a novice film editor.



BERT WATTS

Defensive Technical Intern

Bert Watts is in his first year as the defensive technical intern, joining the Colorado staff in June 2010.

Watts, 31, came to Colorado from Bishop Kenny High School in Jacksonville, Fla., where he served as the defensive coordinator for the 2009 season. In 2008, he was the defensive backs coach for Jacksonville's Bartram Trail High School.

He headed to Florida from Vienna, Austria, where he was the defensive coordinator for the Raiffeisen Vikings for the 2007 season.

He spent two seasons as the defensive graduate assistant as his alma mater, California, in 2004-05, helping the team to a combined 18-6 mark in those two seasons, including a 10-2 season in 2004 that ended with a berth in the Holiday Bowl. Watts was on the same staff at Cal as assistant head coach Eric Kiesau, then the wide receivers coach for the Bears; Watts was a senior in Kiesau's first year at Cal in 2002. As a safety, Watts led the Bears with 80 tackles that year, helping lead the team to a 7-6 record, which was the program's first winning season in nine years. He had a career-high 15 tackles against USC as a senior and received the team's Joe Roth Award, which is given for courage, attitude and sportsmanship. He holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Education from California.

He was a multiple-position threat at Ridge High School (Basking Ridge, N.J.), where he played quarterback, tailback, wide receiver and safety. He scored 25 touchdowns as a senior, helping the team to a league title with an 8-1 record, the best mark in school history.

He was born August 31, 1979 in Piedmont, Calif., where he grew up prior to moving to the east coast. His grandfather played football at Oregon State, while his dad (Rich) played football at San Jose State and signed a free agent contract with the Atlanta Falcons. One brother, Rich, Jr., earned All-America honors in baseball at UC-Davis and played for two years in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization while another brother, Tom, played football at UC-Davis. His brother-in-law, Greg Tremble, played football at Georgia. He is engaged to Lyndsay Graubard.



TODD RITTER

Coordinator of On-Campus Recruiting

Todd Ritter enters his third season on the University of Colorado football staff as a full-time employee and his second year as coordinator of on-campus recruiting. Previously, he served as the assistant to the head coach in 2008 and was a volunteer assistant in the football operations

office during the 2006 and '07 seasons.

Ritter, 30, was enrolled in a Ph.D. program for political science at the University of Colorado from 2005-06. Prior to enrolling at CU, he was an assistant coach for linebackers at Colorado College in 2004.

He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Albion College in Albion, Mich., in 2001 where he lettered four times in football and three in baseball. He earned All-Conference mention as a defensive back and on the diamond, he played third base and shortstop.

He earned a master's degree in public administration from Valdosta State College in December 2003 and served as a graduate assistant football coach during the 2002 and '03 seasons there. Valdosta State recorded a 24-3 record those two years and lost in the NCAA Championship game in 2002.

Born March 28, 1980 in Rochester, Mich., he graduated from Seaholm High School in Birmingham, Mich., where he lettered in baseball and football three times and basketball once.



CHIP MARKS

Director of Football Administration

Chip Marks is in his second year as the director of football administration at the University of Colorado after joining the staff in June 2009. In his primary role, he directs all football administrative operations and serves as the primary point of contact for the CU football program.

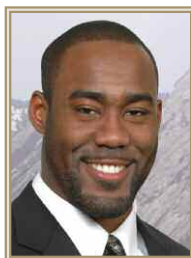
Marks, 42, came to Colorado from the Colorado School of Mines where he was a wide receivers and special teams coach in 2008, and where he worked with the inside receivers in the spring of 2009. As a member of the CSM staff, he was a key contributor to a Mines team that finished the regular season 8-3 and earned a berth in the 2008 Dixie Rotary Bowl in Saint George, Utah. During that season, he coached first-team All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference receiver Adam Saur and three RMAC player-of-the-week winners.

A 1990 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, Marks played wide receiver for the Falcons from 1986-88 and also played baseball (outfield). While at the Academy, he garnered academic and military recognition as a member of the Dean's, Commandant's and Superintendent's lists and as an upperclassman held several leadership positions within the Cadet Wing. From 1990-97, he served on active duty as an Air Force officer, attaining the rank of Captain, where he served in various roles and theaters of operation, including Africa, Europe, the Middle East and South America.

Upon release from military service and prior to his coaching stops, Marks worked in the private sector, most recently as a bank vice president, specializing in agricultural finance. In this role, he was recognized as a regional expert on grain, dairy and beef cattle production and frequently consults on agriculture-related issues in Colorado. He currently serves as vice chairman of American Pride Cooperative, Inc., a regional energy and agricultural supply distributor headquartered in Colorado, and has served on the company's board of directors since January 2001. From 2002 to 2006, he served as an elected official in Weld County, Colo., serving as President of the Weld County Council in 2005. He continues to operate a small farming and livestock business in Colorado during the off-season.

Marks earned his master's degree in operations management from the University of Arkansas in 1993.

Born December 14, 1967, he attended Smoky Hill High School in Aurora, Colo., where he lettered in baseball and football and was named the school's honors athlete-of-the-year as a senior. He is married to the former Ruth Rhea of Casper, Wyo., and the couple has two daughters, Kristen and Abby.



JASHON SYKES

Coordinator of Football Relations

Jashon Sykes is in his fifth year as a member of the football staff, his second as an assistant director of football operations and coordinator of football relations after working two years as the assistant director of on-campus recruiting.

He returned to his alma mater in August 2006 as an administrative assistant, working in recruiting and operations, after retiring from professional football.

He is in his second year as an area radio personality, co-hosting *In The Red Zone* alongside Andy Zodin Saturdays on 93.7FM/1510AM (Mile High Sports Radio) between 6-9 p.m. through the Super Bowl.



Sykes, 30, spent the four years prior to his return in the National Football League, signing on as a free agent with the Denver Broncos after his CU career and was on the team's practice squad for the 2002 season. He was a member of the team the next two years, starting 11 games at linebacker in 2003 (including a playoff game at Indianapolis), as he had 65 tackles, two fumble recoveries and a blocked punt for the NFL's fourth-ranked defense. He ended his career with the Washington Redskins.

He interned with the Broncos during the 2007 and '08 training camps. In 2007, he worked with the linebackers as an intern; a year later, he worked with the operations department, helping out primarily with the defensive line.

At Colorado, he finished his career 10th all-time in tackles (330), tied for 16th in quarterback sacks (12½), tied for 12th in tackles for loss (33) and tied for fifth in forced fumbles (7). Interestingly, he has had 14 tackles each time out in three games versus Nebraska for 42 of those 330. As a senior in 2001, he started the first four games of the season, but a herniated disc and subsequent operation ended his season. He decided to forego pursuing a medical redshirt and declared for the NFL draft. He had been on the official watch lists for both the Butkus and Lombardi awards.

As a junior (2000), he earned honorable mention all-Big12 honors as he had 111 tackles (78 solo), 13 third down stops, three-and-a-half sacks, four hurries, two pass deflections and interception. He had at least seven tackles in all 11 games, and hit double figures eight times. His sophomore season, he blossomed into one of the nation's top linebackers at CU's new defensive position, "hawk" linebacker, one of two inside positions in the CU scheme. He earned defensive MVP honors in the Insight.com Bowl, when he had nine tackled and returned an interception for a touchdown against Boston College. He earned second-team All-America honors from the *Football News*, with the *Associated Press* selecting him first-team All-Big 12. He was selected by his teammates as the Zack Jordan Award winner as CU's most valuable player, and he also won the Dave Jones Award for the most outstanding defensive player as presented by the coaching staff. He led the team and was second in the Big 12 in tackles with 134 (including 82 solo), just the fifth sophomore to lead the Buffs since tackles started being tracked in 1965. He forced seven fumbles, which not only set a school record, but led the nation as well.

He developed rapidly his true freshman year, as he played in all 12 games and started four of the last five, including the Aloha Bowl. He finished seventh on the team in tackles with 52 (31 solo), with 28 in the last four regular season games including 14 at Nebraska; the 52 tackles were the most ever by a true freshman at the time. He was a co-winner of the Lee Willard Award, presented by the coaching staff to the most outstanding freshmen, and *The Sporting News* selected him as a first-team freshman All-American.

As a high school senior at Serra (Los Angeles), he earned a host of All-America honors, and received the maximum 10 votes in being named to the prestigious *Long Beach Press-Telegram's* Best-In-West team. He also lettered three times in tracks (sprints) and once in basketball.

Born September 25, 1979 in Los Angeles, Calif., he graduated with a degree in Ethnic Studies from CU in 2002, and is taking graduate courses in Business Administration. He is married to his high school sweetheart, the former Qiana Turner, and the couple has two daughters, Joslyn (5) and Autumn (born Nov. 2007). As a player, he played with a small bible on the left side of his football pants. It was given to him from his grandmother on her deathbed before he watched her take her last breath, and he would think about her and that situation before every game.



KIRK JONES

Operations Specialist

Kirk Jones is in his second year on the University of Colorado football staff in a full-time position, his first as operations specialist.

He joined the staff as a student intern for the operations staff in January 2009 and served as an operations assistant for the 2009 season.

Jones, 25, graduated from Metro State College in Denver in May 2009 with a degree in sport industry operations. Jones attended the University of Colorado from 2003 to 2006 before transferring to Metro State.

Born Dec. 8, 1984 in Grand Junction, Colo., he attended Grand Junction high school where he lettered in cross country and track and field and also played baseball and basketball. He was an all-conference and all-region track and cross country performer from his sophomore through senior seasons.



JEAN ONAGA

Administrative Assistant

Jean Onaga is in her 25th year with the Colorado football program as the administrative assistant to the assistant coaches, handling all secretarial duties for both the offensive and defensive coordinators and each staff as well.

She also coordinates all football office volunteers and facilitates program activities and events including: pro scout visits, Pro Timing Day, Junior Team Pro Day, Coaches' Clinic, Passing Jamboree and Big Man DL-OL Camp. She also assists with registrations for various football camps and the Friday Night Lights camp.

She joined the football staff in January 1986 and is the longest continuous employee in the football department; only four current employees have been associated with the entire athletic department longer than her. She has worked with four CU head coaches: Bill McCartney, Rick Neuheisel, Gary Barnett and presently with Dan Hawkins.

For her years of service, Jean was recognized as an honorary member of the Alumni C Club by the Board of Directors during CU-Missouri game on November 3, 2007.

Originally from Honolulu, Hawaii, Jean and her husband Loren, moved to Boulder in 1985. She graduated from McKinley High School and graduated from Kapiolani Community College with a degree in business.