



SEASON OPENERS



Record in Season Openers: 76-42-5, .638 (Home 53-20-1, .723; Road 18-18-3, .500; Neutral 5-4-1, .550)

1890	at Denver A.C.	L	0-20	1964	at Southern Cal	L	0-21	1989	TEXAS	W	27- 6
1891	COLORADO MINES	L	6-10	1965	WISCONSIN	T	0- 0	1990	Tennessee (Anaheim)	T	31-31
1892	at Denver	W	46- 0	1966	MIAMI, FLA.	L	3-24	1991	WYOMING	W	30-13
1893	at Denver A.C.	L	0-14	1967	BAYLOR	W	27- 7	1992	COLORADO STATE	W	37-17
1894	at Denver East	W	46- 0	1968	OREGON	W	28- 7	1993	TEXAS	W	36-14
1895	at Denver Manual	W	36- 0	1969	TULSA	W	35-14	1994	NE LOUISIANA	W	48-13
1896	DENVER MANUAL	W	42- 0	1970	at Indiana	W	16- 9	1995	at Wisconsin	W	43- 7
1897	DENVER EAST	W	22- 0	1971	at Louisiana State	W	31-21	1996	WASHINGTON STATE	W	37-19
1898	DENVER NORTH	W	41- 0	1972	CALIFORNIA	W	20-10	1997	COLORADO STATE	W	31-21
1899	at State Prep	W	6- 0	1973	at Louisiana State	L	6-17	1998	Colorado State (Denver)	W	42-14
1900	at Denver Manual	W	29- 0	1974	at Louisiana State	L	14-42	1999	Colorado State (Denver)	L	14-41
1901	STATE PREP	W	5- 0	1975	CALIFORNIA	W	34-27	2000	Colorado State (Denver)	L	24-28
1902	STATE PREP	W	12- 0	1976	TEXAS TECH	L	7-24	2001	FRESNO STATE	L	22-24
1903	at State Prep	W	41- 0	1977	STANFORD	W	27-21	2002	Colorado State (Denver)	L	14-19
1904	ALUMNI	W	6- 0	1978	OREGON	W	24- 7	2003	Colorado State (Denver)	W	42-35
1905	at Denver North	W	28- 0	1979	OREGON	L	19-33	2004	COLORADO STATE	W	27-24
1906	at State Prep	W	22- 0	1980	at UCLA	L	14-56	2005	COLORADO STATE	W	31-28
1907	STATE PREP	W	40- 0	1981	TEXAS TECH	W	45-27	2006	MONTANA STATE	L	10-19
1908	at Longmont H.S.	W	6- 0	1982	CALIFORNIA	L	17-31	2007	Colorado State (Denver)	W	31-28 (OT)
1909	STATE PREP	W	3- 0	1983	at Michigan State	L	17-23	2008	Colorado State (Denver)	W	38-17
1910	STATE PREP	W	20- 0	1984	MICHIGAN STATE	L	21-24	2009	COLORADO STATE	L	17-23
1911	ALUMNI	W	11- 0	1985	COLORADO STATE	W	23-10	2010	Colorado State (Denver)	W	24- 3
1912	ALUMNI	W	20- 0	1986	COLORADO STATE	L	7-23	2011	at Hawai'i	L	17-34
1913	at Wyoming	W	7- 0	1987	OREGON	L	7-10	2012	Colorado State (Denver)	L	17-22
1914	ALUMNI	W	27- 3	1988	FRESNO STATE	W	45- 3				
1915	WYOMING	W	30- 0								
1916	ALUMNI	T	0- 0								
1917	ALUMNI	W	6- 0								
1918	N. COLORADO	L	0- 9								
1919	at Colorado State	L	7-49								
1920	at Denver	W	31- 0								
1921	DENVER	W	10- 7								
1922	at Regis	W	14- 0								
1923	BRIGHAM YOUNG	W	41- 0								
1924	WESTERN STATE	W	29- 0								
1925	CHADRON STATE	L	0- 3								
1926	CHADRON STATE	W	25- 0								
1927	WESTERN STATE	W	25- 6								
1928	at Northern Colorado	W	21- 6								
1929	REGIS	W	27-13								
1930	at Missouri	W	9- 0								
1931	at Oregon State	L	0-16								
1932	at Colorado Mines	W	31- 0								
1933	CHADRON STATE	W	19- 0								
1934	at Kansas	T	0- 0								
1935	at Oklahoma	L	0- 3								
1936	OKLAHOMA	L	0- 8								
1937	MISSOURI	W	14- 6								
1938	at Missouri	L	7-14								
1939	at Missouri	L	0-30								
1940	at Texas	L	7-39								
1941	TEXAS	L	6-34								
1942	COLORADO MINES	W	54- 0								
1943	FT. WARREN	W	38- 0								
1944	FT. WARREN	L	6- 7								
1945	FT. WARREN	L	0- 6								
1946	IOWA STATE	W	13- 7								
1947	at Iowa State	W	7- 0								
1948	NEW MEXICO	L	6- 9								
1949	KANSAS	W	13-12								
1950	at Iowa State	L	7-14								
1951	COLORADO STATE	W	28-13								
1952	SAN JOSE STATE	W	20-14								
1953	at Washington	W	21-20								
1954	DRAKE	W	61- 0								
1955	ARIZONA	W	14- 0								
1956	OREGON	L	0-35								
1957	at Washington	T	6- 6								
1958	KANSAS STATE	W	13- 3								
1959	WASHINGTON	L	12-21								
1960	at Baylor	L	0-26								
1961	OKLAHOMA STATE	W	24- 0								
1962	at Utah	L	21-37								
1963	SOUTHERN CAL	L	0-14								



The 1958 season opener against Kansas State. Boyd Dowler (44), George Adams (33) and Howard Cook (21) are visible.



CU's cheerleaders pose with the then-costumed mascot in the 1966 opener against Miami, Fla.



SEASON OPENER BESTS



INDIVIDUAL

Most Rushes: 30, on three occasions (*last: Charlie Davis vs. Cal, 1972*)

Most Rushing Yards: 217, Mike Pritchard vs. Tennessee, 1990

Most Rushing TDs: 4, Bobby Anderson vs. Tulsa, 1969

Most Pass Attempts: 50, Craig Ochs vs. Fresno State, 2001

Most Pass Completions: 31, Craig Ochs vs. Fresno State, 2001

Most Passing Yards: 409, Kordell Stewart vs. Colorado State, 1992

Most Passing TDs: 4, Kordell Stewart vs. Colorado State, 1992 and 4, Joel Klatt vs. Colorado State, 2003

Most Receptions: 10, Ed Reinhardt vs. Michigan State, 1984
10, D.J. Hackett vs. Colorado State, 2003

Most Receiving Yards: 222, Walter Stanley vs. Texas Tech, 1981

Most Receiving TDs: 2, on several occasions
(*last: Derek McCoy vs. CSU, 2003*)

Most Total Offense: 430, Kordell Stewart vs. Colorado State, 1992

Most Tackles: 25, Brian Cabral vs. Stanford, 1977

TEAM

Most First Downs: 30, vs. NE Louisiana in 1994

Most Rushes: 79, vs. California in 1975

Most Rushing Yards: 446, vs. Fresno State in 1988

Most Pass Attempts: 51, vs. Fresno State in 2001

Most Pass Completions: 31, vs. Fresno State in 2001

Most Passing Yards: 409, vs. Colorado State in 1992

Most Total Plays: 94, vs. California in 1975

Most Total Offense: 649, vs. NE Louisiana in 1994

Least Total Offense Allowed: 90, by Colorado Mines in 1942

Most Points: 61, vs. Drake in 1954 (61-0)



MEMORABLE CU OPENERS



Quite often, the first career start, or coming out party, is intertwined with making a season opener a memorable one. Perhaps the biggest example of this in Colorado history came in 1989, when sophomore Darian Hagan made his debut as CU's starting quarterback; he may or may not have won the job, but with senior Sal Aunese stricken with stomach cancer the previous March, Hagan was handed the keys to the CU offense. On the second play of the game, Hagan raced 75 yards on the option to the Texas 2, starting the Buffaloes on their way to a 27-6 win, the first triumph en route to an 11-0 record in the regular season. Hagan rushed for 116 yards and a touchdown, and passed for 95 yards and another score. Other memorable CU openers and/or game one performances include:

1937 Colorado 14, Missouri 6 Boulder

Erv Cheney scores both CU touchdowns, Byron White boots a still-CU record 83 yard punt, and for the first time in school history, there is a charge for parking on the Boulder campus (15 cents a game).

1953 Colorado 21, Washington 20 Seattle

The Buffs, a two-touchdown underdog, win in Seattle as Homer Jenkins, in his first collegiate game, did it all in CU's single-wing offense to often fill in for an injured Carroll Hardy. Jenkins threw two TD passes to Gary Knafelc, while Emerson Wilson added 87 yards on the ground and a score.

1965 Colorado 0, Wisconsin 0 Madison

The Buffs and Badgers battle to a 0-0 tie in Madison, the third-to-last scoreless tie in Division I-A history as the two combine in "hot and sticky" conditions for just 496 yards of total offense.

1971 Colorado 31, LSU 21 Baton Rouge

Charlie Davis rushes for 174 yards and two TDs in win at No. 9 LSU, the catapult to a 10-2 season and No. 3 rank.

1977 Colorado 27, Stanford 21 Boulder

Current assistant head coach Brian Cabral goes nuts as he racks up 25 tackles in CU's win.

1979 Oregon 33, Colorado 19 Boulder

The Buffs fall in the much ballyhooed first game for new head coach Chuck Fairbanks; it's also the first game televised by a fledgling sports network named ESPN that went on the air one day earlier.

1981 Colorado 45, Texas Tech 27 Boulder

Walter Stanley hauled down five catches for a CU record 222 (it still stands today), as CU's first game after a 1-10 season in 1980 exorcises some demons. Randy Essington throws for 345 yards in the win.

1989 Colorado 27, Texas 6 Boulder

In addition to Hagan's effort (see above) the CU defense stifled Texas in limiting the Longhorns to 268 yards.

1990 Colorado 31, Tennessee 31 Anaheim

Mike Pritchard subs for Eric Bieniemy at tailback and rushes for a CU season opener record of 217 yards as the Buffs open what would be their national championship season with a tie against Tennessee in Anaheim in the inaugural Disneyland Pigskin Classic.

1992 Colorado 37, Colorado State 17 Boulder

Kordell Stewart takes over from Darian Hagan and passes for 409 and 4 TDs in the win over the Rams.

1995 Colorado 43, Wisconsin 7 Madison

The NFL plucked off 10 CU starters in the draft in April, but new CU head coach Rick Neuheisel readied the Buffaloes in fine fashion as CU drilled Wisconsin in Madison. Koy Detmer threw for 267 yards and three TDs as CU scored 23 second quarter points to build a 26-7 halftime lead on the way to the win.

1998 Colorado 42, Colorado State 14 Denver

Mike Moschetti throws for 257 yards and 3 TDs in his first CU game and the first contest between the two in-state rivals in Denver at the old Mile High Stadium.

2003 Colorado 42, Colorado State 35 Denver

Joel Klatt comes in unsung and exits as the national player-of-the-week as he threw for 402 yards and 4 TDs in a 42-35 thriller over the Rams. CSU pulls even late, but Bobby Purify's 9-yard TD run wins it with :40 left.

2004 Colorado 27, Colorado State 24 Boulder

CU led the entire way, but CSU had a chance to steal it at the end; the Rams had a first-and-goal at the CU 1 with just under a minute left, but the Buffalo defense rose to the occasion and stuffed two plays, the last as time ran out, to seal the win. The Rams had fought back from 17-0 and 27-17 deficits.

2005 Colorado 31, Colorado State 28 Boulder

Mason Crosby drilled a 47-yard field goal with four seconds left to rally CU to the win. The Buffs trailed 21-10 entering the fourth quarter, having tied the game at 21 on a 48-yard Crosby kick with 2:32 left. CU turned an interception into the go-ahead touchdown, a 23-yard run by Hugh Charles, with 1:30 remaining, but CSU rallied with an 80-yard TD drive to tie the game with 36 ticks to go on the clock. Stephone Robinson returned the kickoff to the 40 and three plays later, the Buffs were in position for Crosby's winning kick, as the teams scored 20 points in just 152 seconds.

2007 Colorado 31, Colorado State 28 (OT) Denver

Kevin Eberhart dutifully waited for his chance playing behind two-time All-American Mason Crosby for three years, but when the fifth-year senior had his chance in the spotlight, he connected on field goals to force overtime and then to win the game as the Buffaloes defeated CSU, 31-28. Crosby was the hero in 2005, and this time around Eberhart made clutch kicks from 22 yards out with 13 seconds left in regulation, and then the game winner in overtime from 35 yards after Terrence Wheatley snuffed out CSU's overtime chance with an interception in the end zone. The Rams worked to a 28-17 lead early in the third quarter but were shut down after that point by a staunch Buff defense, as CU rallied from 11 down for the second time in three years against their in-state rivals.