



COLORADO'S BIGGEST WINS



Nov. 26, 1891—Colorado 24, Colorado Springs A.A. 4

(at Colorado Springs)

The first win in the program's history (after eight straight losses).

Oct. 8, 1904—Colorado 6, Nebraska 0 *(in Boulder)*

Referred to as the program's biggest victory at that point in history, as CU upset heavily favored Nebraska.

Nov. 25, 1920—Colorado 40, Oklahoma A&M 7

(at Stillwater, Okla.)

In Myron Witham's first year as coach, CU won its only non-league game to close with a 4-1-2 record.

Nov. 6, 1937—Colorado 17, Utah 7 *(at Salt Lake City, Utah)*

The win secures CU the title in the first year of the Mountain States Conference, and paves the way for CU's first-ever bowl game appearance (against Rice in the Cotton).

Oct. 9, 1948—Colorado 19, Nebraska 6 *(in Boulder)*

Another benchmark in the program, as the win was both CU's first in the Big Seven Conference, and the first for coach Dal Ward.

Oct. 6, 1951—Colorado 35, Kansas 27 *(in Boulder)*

Colorado's first-ever win over a ranked opponent (*Kansas was No. 20*).

Sept. 27, 1952—Colorado 21, Oklahoma 21 *(in Boulder)*

Not a win, but not just a tie—the only blemish on Oklahoma's amazing 47-0-1 record in Big Seven Conference play (1948-57).

Jan. 1, 1957—Colorado 27, Clemson 21 *(Orange Bowl at Miami, Fla.)*

The first-ever bowl victory by the Buffs comes over No. 19 Clemson.

Nov. 4, 1961—Colorado 7, Missouri 6 *(in Boulder)*

The win over No. 10 Missouri paved the way for CU's first Big Eight Conference title.

Nov. 18, 1961—Colorado 7, Nebraska 0 *(at Lincoln, Neb.)*

On a cold day in Lincoln, CU limits Nebraska to zero first downs and just 31 yards on offense to clinch the Big Eight crown.

Oct. 21, 1967—Colorado 21, Nebraska 16 *(at Lincoln, Neb.)*

The win vaults CU to a No. 3 national ranking, its highest in history at the time, and returns CU to the national college football map.

Oct. 25, 1969—Colorado 31, Missouri 24 *(in Boulder)*

CU stops unbeaten and No. 5 Missouri.

Dec. 13, 1969—Colorado 47, Alabama 33

(Liberty Bowl at Memphis, Tenn.)

In one of the most exciting bowl games ever, CU defeats Bear Bryant's Crimson Tide to climb back into the final national rankings (*No. 16*).

Sept. 26, 1970—Colorado 41, Penn State 13 *(in Boulder)*

CU blows out No. 4 Penn State, ending the Nittany Lions' 31-game unbeaten streak.

Sept. 11, 1971—Colorado 31, Louisiana State 21

(at Baton Rouge, La.)

CU grabs season-opening win over No. 9 LSU in Cajun Country.

Sept. 25, 1971—Colorado 20, Ohio State 14 *(at Columbus, Ohio)*

Colorado's second win on the road at a top 10 school (*Ohio State was No. 6*) gives CU instant national respect and a No. 6 ranking.

Dec. 31, 1971—Colorado 29, Houston 17

(Bluebonnet Bowl at Houston Texas)

CU posts its first-ever 10 win season (10-2), and the win enables the Big Eight to finish 1-2-3 in the nation (*Nebraska No. 1, Oklahoma No. 2, Colorado No. 3—still the only time one conference has had the top three spots in the final poll*).



Darian Hagan

Oct. 21, 1972—Colorado 20, Oklahoma 14 *(in Boulder)*

CU tops No. 2 Sooners, the highest-ranked team CU had defeated at the time (*and to this date—CU has beaten No. 2 twice*).

Nov. 20, 1976—Colorado 35, Kansas State 28 *(at Manhattan, Kan.)*

Buff's stave off Wildcats in a wild one, and the win enables CU to claim a share of the Big Eight title—and with CU winning the tiebreakers, the Buffs earn a trip to the Orange Bowl.

Oct. 28, 1978—Colorado 28, Missouri 27 *(at Columbia, Mo.)*

Colorado rallied from 20 points down in the third quarter to defeat the No. 13 Tigers, the most points the Buffaloes have ever rallied from behind to post a victory.

Sept. 28, 1985—Colorado 14, Arizona 13 *(at Tucson, Ariz.)*

CU holds off Arizona, ranked in the coaches poll, to move to 3-1 on the season and show the first indication that the program is headed for its first winning season since 1978.

Oct. 25, 1986—Colorado 20, Nebraska 10 *(in Boulder)*

Referred to as "The Turning Point" in CU's return to national prominence, as the Buffs defeat Nebraska, ranked No. 3 in the nation, for the first time since 1967.

Oct. 31, 1987—Colorado 42, Iowa State 10 *(at Ames, Iowa)*

The 500th win in Colorado's history, as the Buffs join a select group of schools to accomplish the feat.

Sept. 17, 1988—Colorado 24, Iowa 21 *(at Iowa City, Iowa)*

The Buffs dominate from the start to finish and rally to win at No. 19 Iowa in a big challenge the second week of the season.

Sept. 4, 1989—Colorado 27, Texas 6 *(in Boulder)*

Expectations are high, as CU is ranked in the preseason for the first time since 1978 (*No. 14*)—Darian Hagan erases the butterflies with a 75-yard run to set up a score on the game's second play.

Sept. 30, 1989—Colorado 45, Washington 28 *(at Seattle, Wash.)*

No. 5 Colorado wins at No. 21 Washington, but the real story is the emotional win one week after quarterback Sal Aunese died due to complications from stomach cancer.

Oct. 28, 1989—Colorado 20, Oklahoma 3 *(at Norman, Okla.)*

The nation finds out the Buffs are for real with CU's first win in Norman since 1965.

Nov. 4, 1989—Colorado 27, Nebraska 21 *(in Boulder)*

No. 2 Colorado defeats No. 3 Nebraska to all but clinch league title and the Orange Bowl berth that goes with it.



Sept. 22, 1990—Colorado 29, Texas 22 (*at Austin, Texas*)
Called the impetus for CU's national title run after a 1-1-1 start, CU rallies from 22-14 deficit in the fourth quarter to grab the win.

Oct. 27, 1990—Colorado 32, Oklahoma 23 (*in Boulder*)
The win over the No. 2 Sooners, only the third time CU had ever beaten OU back-to-back, set up CU for a title showdown at Nebraska the following week.

Nov. 2, 1990—Colorado 27, Nebraska 12 (*at Lincoln, Neb.*)
Colorado beats No. 2 Nebraska on four fourth-quarter Eric Bieniemy touchdown runs to win Big Eight for second straight season.

Jan. 1, 1991—Colorado 10, Notre Dame 9
(*Orange Bowl at Miami, Fla.*)
Colorado wins its first national championship in football with the win over the Irish.

Oct. 16, 1993—Colorado 27, Oklahoma 10 (*at Norman, Okla.*)
The 78th win of Bill McCartney's coaching career, making him the program's all-time winningest coach.

Sept. 24, 1994—Colorado 27, Michigan 26 (*at Ann Arbor, Mich.*)
"The Catch." Kordell Stewart's 64-yard touchdown pass to Michael Westbrook, via a Blake Anderson tip, wins the game after time expired. It was the national play-of-the-year in all of sports and won an ESPY.

Nov. 19, 1994—Colorado 41, Iowa State 20 (*in Boulder*)
The win had two significant highlights: eventual Heisman Trophy winner Rashaan Salaam went over the 2,000-yard mark in rushing and quarterback Kordell Stewart became the Big Eight's all-time total offense leader. And following the game, head coach Bill McCartney announced his retirement.

Sept. 23, 1995—Colorado 29, Texas A&M 21 (*in Boulder*)
CU rallies for win over No. 3 Aggies, as John Hessler comes off the bench to lead CU to the win after replaced injured quarterback Koy Detmer.

Sept. 30, 1995—Colorado 38, Oklahoma 17 (*at Norman, Okla.*)
CU becomes only the third school in history to win four straight times in Norman, defeating the No. 10 Sooners and moving to No. 4 in the nation.

Dec. 30, 1996—Colorado 33, Washington 21
(*Holiday Bowl at San Diego, Calif.*)
The win enables CU to enjoy its third straight 10-win season, a first in school history.

Dec. 25, 1998—Colorado 51, Oregon 43
(*Aloha Bowl at Honolulu, Hawaii*)
The win is CU's fifth straight in bowl games, the longest active streak in the nation, and comes in the program's 1,000th

Dec. 31, 1999—Colorado 62, Boston College 28
(*Insight.com Bowl at Tucson, Ariz.*)
Colorado defeated the No. 25 Golden Eagles in one of its most dominant performances ever. The Buffs built a 35-0 lead in the second quarter on touchdown runs by Cortlen Johnson and Mike Moschetti, interception returns for scores by Jashon Sykes and Rashidi Barnes, and the longest punt return in NCAA bowl history, 88 yards, by Ben Kelly. It was also the sixth straight bowl win for the CU, adding to its nation's best active streak.

Nov. 23, 2001—Colorado 62, Nebraska 36 (*in Boulder*)
Colorado's 62-36 win over No. 2 Nebraska sent shockwaves throughout the college football world. In scoring the most points ever against a Husker defense, the Buffaloes matched NU's 7-1 record in the Big 12 North Division with the win and earned the right to play Texas the following week in the league title game. Chris Brown rushed for 198 yards and a school record six touchdowns, with Bobby Purify racing for 154 yards and one score.

Dec. 1, 2001—Colorado 39, Texas 37
(*Big 12 Championship Game at Irving, Texas*)
In July, when Coach Gary Barnett attended the Big 12's media day in Dallas, he asked Chris Theisen of the league office if the Buffaloes could stop by Texas Stadium on the way back to the airport. Barnett, along with seniors Andrew Gurode and Michael Lewis, who both hailed from Texas, had a mini-tour of the stadium after meeting with the press. Then as conference play began two months later, co-defensive coordinator Vince Okruch purchased a replica of the stadium, and the team soon placed the opposing team's helmet decal on it after each victory. But one was missing—Texas was the only team to defeat the Buffs during the regular season, but CU would exact its revenge and in defeating the No. 3 Longhorns, 39-37, claimed its first Big 12 title. Chris Brown followed up his stellar performance against Nebraska in rushing for 198 yards and three scores, while the Buff defense intercepted UT's Chris Simms three times in the first half.

Sept. 21, 2002—Colorado 31, UCLA 17 (*at Los Angeles*)
The Buffs, reeling with a 1-2 record, were coming off their worst home loss in 19 years and had a game at No. 20 UCLA. But thanks to 188 rushing yards and three touchdowns from Chris Brown, three Patrick Brougham field goals and a solid game from quarterback Robert Hodge (117 yards), CU's 31-17 win ignited the season and started an 8-1 run over the next nine games.

Sept. 4, 2004—Colorado 27, Colorado State 24 (*in Boulder*)
The entire program was in the midst of surviving a largely manufactured ordeal off the field, and when the season opener rolled around, the team had a lot of pent up frustration. Rival CSU was set on ruining the opener, rallying from 10 down in the final five minutes to close to within 27-24 and faced a first-and-goal from the CU 1 in the final minute of the game. But the Buffalo defense rose to the occasion, stuffing two running plays as time ran out to preserve the win.

Sept. 29, 2007—Colorado 27, Oklahoma 24 (*in Boulder*)
The win, which snapped a 14-game losing streak to ranked teams, was the first over a top 25 teams for second-year head coach Dan Hawkins as the Buffs rallied from a 24-7 deficit midway through the third quarter for a 27-24 win over the No. 3 Sooners. Kevin Eberhart's 45-yard field goal as time expired completed the fourth biggest comeback in school history and was only the fourth such instance in school history where the Buffs won on a score as time expired.

Nov. 23, 2007—Colorado 65, Nebraska 51 (*in Boulder*)
Colorado needed a win to become bowl-eligible, took a 17-7 lead over the rival Huskers only to fall behind 35-24 at halftime but scored 41 points after halftime to roll to the victory. The outburst tied the school record for the most points in a second half and prevented Nebraska from qualifying for the postseason for just the second time in four decades.

Nov. 25, 2011—Colorado 17, Utah 14 (*at Salt Lake City*)
In the resumption of the CU-Utah series which had been dormant since 1962, CU jumped up early on Utah, 10-0, and then held on for the win which would snap a school record 23-game road losing streak for the Buffs. It also eliminated the Utes from contention for the first Pac-12 South Division title, and was a little payback to the school which had ended CU's national championship hopes in 1961.

DID YOU KNOW?... That CU's records for rushing yards in a single game and season have a common link? In 1971, **Charlie Davis** rushed for 342 yards in a 40-6 win over Oklahoma State, and in 1994, **Rashaan Salaam** rushed for 2,055 yards en route to winning the Heisman Trophy. The link? Davis also went over the 1,000-yard mark for the season in the OSU game, doing so on a 67-yard touchdown run around the right end. Salaam went over the 2,000-yard mark in the finale against Iowa State—on a 67-yard touchdown run around the right end.