

COLORADO vs. Oklahoma (Oct. 27, 1990)

TEAM STATS-N-FACTS

- The Buffaloes were the only undefeated regular season team in college football in 1989, and have one of the top three records in college football since the start of the 1989 season, 17-2-1 (Nebraska is 17-2, Notre Dame is 16-2; CU's 17-1-1 regular season mark is the best in that time frame). CU's lone loss this season (23-22 at Illinois) was CU's first regular season loss to a non-league opponent since losing to Oregon in 1987.
- CU has now fallen in the wire service polls three times after victories this year (Stanford, Missouri, Iowa State). Though the Buffs stayed No. 14 in the Associated Press polling last week, the Buffs went from 11th to 14th in the UPI (coaches) balloting, only to jump to No. 8 following the Kansas victory. The Buffs have been ranked in the AP's top 25 for 25 straight weeks (the low rank was No. 20), and have their sights set on the school record of 32 (set between 1971 and 1973).
- Colorado attained its first-ever No. 1 national ranking last November, and followed that up by appearing in the wire service top five in the preseason for the first time since 1972 (AP and UPI had CU No. 5 to open the season). The Buffs finished No. 4 in all major polls following the Orange Bowl loss to Notre Dame last January.
- Colorado trailed in its first seven games of 1990, as the opponent has scored first in all seven. Tennessee led the Buffs 7-0; Stanford was up 14-0; Illinois was up 3-0; Texas took a 7-0 lead; Washington went ahead of the Buffs 7-0; Missouri took a 7-0 lead, and Iowa State was on top 9-0. CU sprinted to a 17-0 first quarter lead last week at Kansas, returning to its form of 1989.
- The Buffs have fell behind at home after taking a lead only once since 1988, that in the Washington game. After CU took a 10-7 lead over the Huskies, UW rallied for a 14-10 edge before CU rallied to win, 20-14. Colorado has been unbeatable at home, winning 11 straight games (outscored the opponent 374-143 in the streak).
- **SIX-PACK OF HEART STOPPERS...** The first six games of the 1990 season all went down to the wire. The first five games were not decided until the final two minutes (with key plays within scoring range in the final minute in four of them). The sixth game turned out to be the most thrilling of them all, as CU drove 88 yards in 15 plays in the final 2:32, with quarterback Charles Johnson scoring from the one as time expired to give CU a 33-31 win at Missouri (albeit controversial). The six games have been decided by 20 points (0, 4, 1, 7, 6, 2), the closest stretch of six games at any point in a season in CU history (in 1950, there was a six game span separated by 29 points (CU went 2-3-1)).
- **COACH BILL MCCARTNEY...** Bill McCartney (Missouri '62) is in his ninth season at the reins of the CU football program, and has compiled a 52-46-2 record through eight-plus campaigns. "Mac" is 45-21-1 over the last five-plus seasons, and is 38-12-1 since the start of the 1986 conference season.) "Mac" has enjoyed his least success in the Big Eight against Oklahoma, as the Buffaloes are 1-7 against the Sooners, with the win coming last year at Norman. "Mac" has been the Buff pilot for 100 games, topped only by Eddie Crowder (119), Dal Ward (110) and Fred Folsom (102). Those same three and Myron Witham are also the only ones ahead of McCartney in number of seasons coached (Folsom 15, Witham 12, Ward and Crowder 11 each) and in victories (Folsom 77, Crowder 67, Witham and Ward 63 each). In the Big Eight, Mac is 32-26-1 in conference games (27-10 since 1985), and is second only to Tom Osborne of Nebraska in longevity in the league.

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- Colorado's live mascot, Ralphie the Buffalo, is the only such live mascot in the Big Eight Conference, and is one of the premier sights in college football as she leads the Buffs on to the field prior to the start of each half. She travels usually only to bowl games, but on occasion makes a special road trip.
- Colorado set the table for 1989 through hard, diligent work, as the Buffs methodically improved annually from 1985. The 39 wins by the Buffs in that time frame are the most by a CU team in a five-year span ever (the previous most was 37 on three occasions).
- Since an 0-4 start in 1986, CU is 38-9-1 in regular season games (0-3 in bowls). The Buffs are 24-7 in Big Eight league games in that time frame (14-2-1 non-conference).
- Since converting to the wishbone in 1985 (and moving to the I-Bone in 1988, Colorado is 45-21-1 overall and has posted the following records (bowl games included):
 - 30-2-1 when rushing for 300 or more yards;
 - 15-19 when held under 300 yards rushing; 3-11 when held under 200);
 - 12-0 when rushing for 400 or more yards;
 - 21-5 when passing for 100-plus yards (2-0 with 200-plus);
 - 25-0-1 when amassing 400-plus yards total offense (10-0 with 500-plus);
 - 12-0 when punting two or fewer times (17-4 with three or fewer);
 - 25-0 when holding opponent to under 100 yards rushing;
 - 27-5 when holding opponent under 300 yards total offense;
 - 30-6 when scoring first (have won 24 of last 26);
 - 23-2 when running more plays than the opponent;
 - 31-8 when committing two or fewer turnovers (9-1 with zero);
 - 35-2-1 when holding edge in time of possession (10-19 when not);
 - 4-8-1 when committing four or more turnovers;
 - 24-1 when converting over 50 percent on third down attempts;
 - 25-2 when making 20-plus first downs;
 - 35-6 when average field position is CU30 or better;
 - 36-7 when holding opponents to 17 points or less (40-7 in Mac Era);
 - 11-0 when two CU players rush for 100-plus yards.
 - 27-2-1 when rushing for 300 or more yards;
- Colorado went 11 years (1976 to 1987) before playing a game without committing a turnover. The Buffs have committed zero turnovers in 10 of their last 41 games, but the five they had against Tennessee was the most in a game since 1988 (six against Oklahoma State). The Buffs had only 13 in 1989, the second fewest in the nation, but have surpassed that total this year with 18 (only four in the last three games).
- CU has scored in "only" 25 of 32 quarters this season, compared to 39 of 44 quarters in 1989. Only Oklahoma held CU without a score two quarters in a game last year, which Stanford did in game two. CU scored a team record 452 points in 1989.
- Colorado has thrown only 24 interceptions in the last 36 games (428 attempts), and has only 56 turnovers in its last 33 games, less than two per outing.
- Colorado has allowed 40 or more points only twice in the last five seasons (spanning 67 games), and Oklahoma State did it both times (OSU, twice, Tennessee and Missouri are the only teams to score more than 30 on the CU defense in the last 53 games). In 43 of the last 63 regular season games, the opponent has been held to 17 points or less (and to 21 points or less in 51 of the last 67 games).
- As a team, Colorado has 11 interceptions (the team record is 22, set in 1965), giving the Buffs 74 picks in their last 52 games (1.4 per outing). Only one of those is by a down lineman, Tom Reinhardt against Iowa State in 1988; that's the only intercept by a DT, NT, NG, MG, DE, DL, etc. since 1978 (George Visger).

- Is Colorado's all-time leading rusher (3,352 yards) and scorer (218 points), taking over both positions this season. He's also the first CU player to eclipse the 1,000-yard mark in two different seasons. For a look at Eric's records, see the box below.
- Has rushed for 100 yards in six of the seven games this season, missing only against Texas, when he had 99 yards. He sat out the Tennessee game, serving a one-game suspension for a minor altercation with fire department officials from Aurora (Colo.) in early July. He received an eight month deferred sentence after pleading no contest to the charges (that's legalese for not admitting guilt but to work the matter out).
- Colorado is 14-3 in games when he has rushed for 100 or more yards (14-2 regular season). He has the school record for the most 100-yard games, 17, in CU history.
- Eric is seventh Buff to accumulate 3,000 yards of total offense in a career, and will likely finish second on that list.
- Suffered a clean break of his right fibula (leg) bone in last year's Iowa State game, which forced him to miss the last five games of the season (he got in for a play against Nebraska, an option pass, and Kansas State), but was at 100 percent for the Orange Bowl. In that game, he rushed for 66 yards on 11 carries.
- Though he played roughly half the season, he was still an honorable mention all-American by The Sporting News and an honorable mention all-league pick by UPI. He still gained 561 yards for the year.
- A unanimous first-team All-Big Eight selection as a sophomore, and garnered honorable mention all-America honors.
- Finished sixth in the nation in rushing in 1988, averaging 124.3 yards per game. He rushed for 100-plus yards seven times, tying the school record for most 100-yard rushing efforts in a season.
- His 1,243 yards in 1988 was the third highest season total for rushing yards in Colorado history. Charlie Davis set the record with 1,386 in 1971, and James Mayberry was next with 1,299 in 1977. He probably would have set a single season rushing standard at CU if he had not suffered a pulled hamstring against Nebraska, which limited him to six carries in that game and sidelined him the next week.
- His best career effort came against Missouri this year, when he rushed for 217 yards and three touchdowns. He would have had more had it not been for Missouri's turf.
- Has worked as a teacher's aide (4th grade) at University Hill Grade School in Boulder.
- A favorite with the fans in Boulder because of his diminutive stature (5-foot-7). He's earned the nickname, "Scooter."
- The only current member of the team to be selected to CU's "All-Century" Team, which was selected through a unique balloting system which involved both lettermen and fans.
- Has good speed (4.39 in the 40) and strength (owns a 500-pound squat); his running style is comparable to Barry Sanders, as both are very hard to bring down.
- A second-team USA Today All-American in high school, as he rushed for 2,002 yards and 30 touchdowns his senior year at Bishop Amat in Bakersfield, Calif.

BIENIEMY'S "NO. 1" MARK ON COLORADO FOOTBALL		CU Rank
Accomplishment/Category		
3,352 Career Rushing Yards	only twice in the past five seasons	1st
3,415 Career Total Offense Yards	(OSU, twice, Tennessee and Oklahoma State did it both times)	3rd
17 100-Yard Rushing Games		1st
2 200-Yard Rushing Games	opponent has been held to 100 points	tie-1st
2 1,000-Yard Rushing Seasons	(57 games)	1st
589 Career Rushing Attempts		1st
36 Career Touchdowns (35 rush, 1 receiving)	22, set by Tom	1st
218 Career Points	54 games (1.4 per outing). Only one of	1st

(2) Deon Figures, CB

- Had an impressive 13 tackles (10 solo) in the season opener against Tennessee, his first game in two years, and has 65 on the year with 53 of those solo stops.
- Has four interceptions in his career: two two-pick games, against Iowa State in 1988 and against Washington last week, including a game-saver with 0:59 left.
- Displaced David Gibbs as the starting right cornerback with a week left in fall drills. Figures started the last five regular season games as a freshman in 1988, along with the Orange Bowl, and probably would have started last year had he not been serving a disciplinary suspension.
- An honorable mention all-Big Eight player (AP) as a freshman.
- Was a member of the boys' choir at Compton High School.

(3) Darian Hagan, QB (DAVEY O'BRIEN AWARD CANDIDATE)

- Has had more than his fair share of injuries this season, which have all but eliminated him from Heisman contention. He had a sprained finger and a slightly torn tendon (against Tennessee), a sprained ankle and shoulder sprain (against Washington). He reinjured the shoulder against Missouri and did not start against Iowa State.
- Colorado is 15-2-1 in games he has started; 21-3-1 in games he has appeared in.
- Finished fifth in the Heisman Trophy balloting (52 first place votes; 292 points) as a sophomore in 1989. He was just happy to make his first-ever trip to New York.
- He was selected The Sporting News' "Player-of-the-Year" in college football for 1989.
- Selected as the Big Eight's 1989 Offensive player-of-the-year by AP and UPI.
- Became the sixth player in NCAA history (the first and only ever in the Big Eight Conference) to rush and pass for 1,000 yards in the same season (1,004 rushing and 1,002 passing) in 1989. Ironically, three players did it in '89... Hagan's feat is even more awesome when it is realized that he played in roughly 33 of the 44 quarters.
- His 2,006 yards of total offense in 1989 was the second most ever at Colorado.
- Led the Buffs to scores an amazing 61 percent of the drives he engineered (63 scores in 104 drives) in 1989. CU averaged 3.78 points per drive he engineered.
- Became the first CU quarterback to complete over 50 percent of his passes since 1975 by connecting on 48 of 85 attempts for 56.5 percent last fall.
- He has excelled in directing the Buffs to scores in the two-minute drill, as he has led CU to scores 12 times in 14 opportunities in his career.
- Rushed for 100-plus yards five times in 1989, a CU record by a quarterback, and also did it in the Orange Bowl. Counting the 1990 Stanford game, that's seven times in his career, in which CU is 6-1 in those games.
- Already is in 19th place on the school's rushing charts (1,492 yards), and is less than 100 yards away from cracking the top 15. He is 11th on the passing yards list and 15th on the scoring chart.
- An excellent baseball player; in fact, he was drafted this past summer (40th round) as a shortstop by the Toronto Bluejays in the 1990 Amateur Draft.
- Has the ability to throw the ball with both arms. He's a natural right hander, but has scrambled to his left in practice and has thrown, with decent strength and accuracy, with his left arm. He has pitched the ball with both arms in a game, and threw for the first time with his left arm against Illinois (a seven-yard completion to Bieniemy).
- Did not have enough plays to letter as a freshman (71; needed 100), but did see action for two fourth quarter drives in the Freedom Bowl (field goal, interception).
- Is big-time scared of heights; did not want to visit any of the tall sites in New York City on his Heisman Trophy visit.
- A very distant cousin of Walter Payton (see press guide for detailed explanation).

(4) Charles Johnson, QB

- Made college football "lore" by scoring on what turned out to be fifth down against Missouri to win the game for CU. But he's quick to remind people that he wouldn't have spiked the ball on what he thought was third down if he had known it was really fourth.
- Stepped in to start two games (Missouri and Iowa State) in Darian Hagan's place, and performed admirably. For the year, he's directed the team to seven scores in 19 drive opportunities (five TD's). He engineered CU's 15-play, 88-yard touchdown drive in the final 2:24 to win the Missouri game.
- Is the team's holder on placements... a tough job in that he's replacing Jeff Campbell, who 'held' the job for four years. Campbell, who is now with the NFL Detroit Lions, didn't muff one in four years (200-plus tries).
- A very capable backup to Hagan, and looks great when he's in there with the first-team linemen. A very flashy runner who has proven that he can make the smart decision at quarterback. He has had clutch drives in a pair of situations when Hagan had to leave the lineup (against Washington and Kansas).
- Played a couple of plays in the Tennessee game as Hagan was out with a slight knee sprain for a little over a minute.
- Rejoined the team midway through the 1989 spring practice, as he was going to leave school due to financial problems (as an out-of-state walk-on, he was faced with major expenses). He worked them out, and has since earned a scholarship.
- President of CU's Black Student Alliance, and is a member of Students for Campus Unity.
- Has "custody" of his younger brother, Chris, 17, as Chris is a junior at Boulder's Fairview High School. His mother let Chris move in with Charles so Chris could get a better education than in his native inner Detroit. Chris is much taller (6-4) and is on the Knights' basketball team.

(5) O.C. Oliver, WB

- Is seeing some action on CU's kickoff coverage unit, but hasn't played from scrimmage.
- Was switched to wingback in 1989, his third position in as many years. In 1988, he was switched from halfback to cornerback during spring ball, but never really adjusted to the position. He was moved back to halfback (which eventually meant tailback in the CU offense) one week into the '89 season, and then was redshirted.
- Saw limited action in 1987, as he missed the first game of the year with a slightly separated shoulder and never worked his way back into the lineup.
- Oliver was brought along on a schedule in 1986, seeing increased action as the season progressed, and he wound up gaining 668 yards, a new freshman record at Colorado.
- He was only the second freshman to ever lead CU in rushing, joining Lee Rouson (currently of the NFL New York Giants) who gained 656 in 1981.
- Actual first name is Darius (O.C. is a nickname that has stuck with him since his grandmother called him that when he was a youngster). Very few people call him Darius, just some friends and relatives in Louisiana.
- Uncle (Marcus Anderson) played collegiately at Tulane and was a five-year NFL veteran as a wide receiver. He was drafted by the Toronto Bluejays in the 1990 Amateur Draft.
- Was runnerup to Oklahoma State's QB Mike Gundy for the 1986 Big Eight Conference's Newcomer-of-the-Year.

(6) Eric Hamilton, SS

- CU's nickel back in passing situations, as he has the most plays (182) of all the non-starters on defense.
- Leads the Buffs in "special teams points" with 15, on the strength of nine solo stops on punt and kickoff coverage.
- Still carries a souvenir of sorts around in his body, albeit not a pleasant one; he was an innocent bystander in a drive-by shooting over Christmas break (Jan. 1989) and took a bullet in his chest. It's lodged deep inside him and offers no health threats.

(9) Mike Pritchard, WR (ALL-AMERICAN CANDIDATE)

- A big play man for CU... he has 112 career touches (rushes, receptions, returns) for 1,973 yards (17.6 per touch). Minus kick returns (25 for 579 yards), it's a healthy 16.0 average every time he has touched the ball.
- Is seventh on the all-time CU receiving yards list (883). He needs 175 to move up to the next rung (Dave Hestera's 1,057).
- For the season opener, he was moved from wide receiver to tailback, although he actually started the game at wingback, his 1989 position. He has demonstrated the ability to play all three quite well.
- Rushed for a career high 217 yards against Tennessee... actually he more than doubled his previous career yardage (146 going in). It was the sixth best rushing day in CU history and the top effort in a season opener.
- May be the only player in history who went from 217 rushing yards to zero between games without being injured... but he caught two passes for 41 yards in the Stanford win.
- Named the Big Eight Offensive Player-of-the-Week (and the CU Athlete-of-the-Week) for his efforts against the Volunteers, the first time he has won either award.
- Touched the ball twice in CU's 33-31 win at Missouri, for a 69 yard average: he ran a reverse in from 68 yards for a score and caught another for 70 yards for another TD.
- Moved to wide receiver in spring practice and looked good there, although he has practiced at all three positions for the Tennessee game.
- A top kickoff return threat; he spent much of 1989 among the national leaders, but eventually didn't have enough returns to qualify. His 44-yard return at Oklahoma after the Sooners had cut the CU lead to 10-3 gave CU the ball at midfield, and the Buffs went in for a field goal which help to put the game out of reach.
- Became the first Buff to have two touchdown receptions in a game since 1984 when he did it at Iowa State last October (1989).
- Third on the team in pass receiving in 1988, with seven catches, and averaged a whopping 30.9 yards per reception -- and that was second on the team.
- Averaged an impressive 6.9 yards per carry as a freshman (17 carries, 117 yards).
- Was the Nevada Player-of-the-Year his senior season at Las Vegas' Rancho High School, as he rushed for over 1,200 yards.

(10) Tom Rouen, P (ALL-AMERICAN CANDIDATE)

- Earlier this season, he had a career effort in back-to-back games (64 yards against Stanford, and 65 against Illinois), both kicks of which pinned the enemy inside the two (the one against Illinois led to a safety, and the Stanford one helped turn the game around for CU). A pooch 35-yarder at Texas also led to a safety.
- Suffered a groin pull on his next-to-last kick against Stanford and didn't kick for a week. He was a bit tentative for his first three at Illinois, and then he let loose. He hasn't kicked as consistent since the injury but says it hasn't really hampered him.
- Will have a hard time repeating as an all-American, as the injury, 13 pooch kicks, and his unlucky knack for kicking into a major wind 12 times will hurt his chances.
- A Playboy Preseason All-American, the magazine's first acknowledgement of a CU punter.
- A consensus All-American in 1989 (AP, UPI, Writers, Camp), CU's fourth in the last five years at punter. He was consensus all-Big 8, the fifth straight year for CU punters.
- In '89, he averaged 45.9 yards per punt, as he became the second straight CU punter to lead the nation (Keith English did it in 1988).
- His net average, 43.8, also topped the NCAA, as Colorado's punt coverage team is the nation's best since 1985 (averaging a net of 41.9, three yards up on Auburn).
- He averaged 47.8 yards on punts inside the CU 30 last season.
- Had the task of filling a position that has seen two consensus All-Americans the last four years: Keith English (1988) and Barry Helton (1985, 1986). Helton is now the punter for the San Francisco 49ers; English signed as a free agent with the Chargers.
- Transferred to Colorado from intrastate rival Colorado State because he felt that the CU coaching staff emphasized the punt more (since Mike Hankwitz arrived at CU in 1985, the Buffs have had three consensus All-America punters and five all-Big Eight punters).
- Very active in community relations, as he often speaks at high schools and to young people in the Denver-Boulder metro area.

(12) Dave McCloughan, CB (ALL-BIG EIGHT CANDIDATE)

- Suffered a fractured nose and a deviated septum in practice the Wednesday prior to the Tennessee game. He was sore for the game, but played with a special face mask and "protective frog." He went out and had an interception, eight tackles, and became the first CU player since 1981 to return a punt for a touchdown.
- Has two touchdowns on punt returns (55 yards against Tennessee, 90 yards at Kansas), the first CU player to return multiple kicks for touchdowns since 1971 (Cliff Branch returned four punts for scores that season).
- A second-team (coaches) all-Big Eight selection in 1989, and is one of the most underrated players in the nation at his position.
- Switched from right corner to the left side the first week of August drills in 1989 and has remained on the left side since.
- A two-time academic all-Big Eight selection, he has already graduated (marketing) and is currently enrolled in CU's M.B.A. program.
- Suffered a knee injury in the 1988 Iowa game (on the play, he forced Chuck Hartlieb to fumble, ending what would have been a clinching scoring threat by the Hawkeyes on the CU 15. The Buffs then drove 85 yards for the winning score). He had an arthroscope on the knee the next day and missed just the next game.
- Was given a shot at playing halfback in the spring of 1987 (after he was redshirted in 1986 -- he suffered a fracture of the fibula bone in his left leg. He did heal enough so he could practice with the team for its Bluebonnet Bowl drills). He was returned to cornerback for the fall of 1987.
- In the first series of his career, he intercepted a pass late in the fourth quarter against Kansas. However, on the very next play, Willie Vaughn beat him enroute to a 98-yard touchdown (which tied a Big Eight record). Quite an interesting debut.
- At one time, he was a member of CU's track team (long jump). He owned the team's second best leap last spring at 21-7 1/4 (1988).
- Father (Kent) played collegiately at Nebraska and six years with the Oakland Raiders.

(14) Pat Blottiaux, PK

- Started kicking barefoot following the Orange Bowl and kicked shoeless during the spring. The kicking race is very close; odds are that he will be kicking at some point during the upcoming season.
- Redshirted last year and played in two games in 1988 as a freshman, helped turn the game
- Dates Buffy Romero, a junior on the nationally ranked CU volleyball team.
- Suffered a groin pull on his last-to-last kick against Stanford and didn't kick for a week. He was a bit tentative for his first three at Illinois, and then he let loose.

(15) David Gibbs, CB

- Displaced as a starter by Deon Figures in August drills, but sees special teams action.
- Suffered a slight concussion late in the Tennessee game, but was okay the next day.
- He suffered another against Washington, and will be monitored closely by CU's sports medicine staff if he comes close to another (writers' Camp). CU's fourth in the last five
- Had two interceptions in his first season as a collegiate starter in 1989. He played exceptionally well, considering that he stepped into the starter job in August (due to a pair of team suspensions), on Oct. 14, 1989.
- The son of Alex Gibbs, the offensive line coach of the NFL Los Angeles Raiders, joined the team as a walkon in 1986, but was redshirted. He was second on the team in 1987 in special team points (several statistical categories for CU special teams), and was rewarded with a scholarship in the offseason for his efforts.
- He was second on team in special team points in 1987 with 23, as he had eight tackles (three solo, all inside the 20) and had eight pressures on opponent punts, PAT or FG attempts. It necessitated a jersey change, as he wore 18 for the first four games, but his playing time improved to where he was issued his own number -- 15. (He was in a duplicate jersey which was worn by M.J. Nelson, punters and five all-Big Eight punters.
- A two-time member of the Big Eight Honor Roll, he has already graduated (marketing) and is currently enrolled in CU's M.B.A. program.

(16) Jim Harper, PK

- Made good on a 54-yarder against Illinois, and nailed three straight 57-yard efforts in practice leading up to the game. Has a low trajectory on his kicks, part of the reason that he has had three blocked this season.
- The winner in a fierce August battle at placekicker, and handled kickoffs and place-ments against Tennessee (4-4 XP, 1-2 FG, the miss was blocked). He thus won the job permanently with that performance.
- Is 26-of-26 on PAT's, as CU kickers have made 92 straight PAT's in regular season play.
- The last player to sign a scholarship in the '90 recruiting year for the Buffs, as he earned several California JUCO honors after a stellar career at L.A. Valley College.

(17) Tim James, FS (ALL-BIG EIGHT CANDIDATE)

- Has 11 career interceptions, including two against Tennessee in the Pigskin Classic, the first multiple pick game of his career. The theft against Washington moved into sole possession of third place on CU's all-time pick list (the leader has 16, the runnerup 14).
- Is currently fourth in the Big Eight in interceptions (four), and is 26th in the NCAA.
- Moved back over to the strong side this past spring after playing the 1989 season on the free side.
- Has started 32 straight games (including two bowls), tied for the longest on the team.
- Switched from the strong side to the free side in 1989 spring practice, and had trouble at first adapting to the new position. He did just that in August drills, finally looking at home at the position after two-a-days.
- A very active player on CU's special teams as well, as he had seven solo tackles on kick coverage last season.
- Has already graduated (sociology) and is currently taking graduate courses in criminology at CU. He had an offer to join the Los Angeles Police Academy this past summer, but he elected to play his senior year. He is interested in corrections work once his football days are over.

(19) Greg Biekert, ILB (ALL-BIG EIGHT CANDIDATE)

- Leads the Big Eight in tackles (105), and may be the national leader (tackle statistics are not kept nationally).
- Named the Big Eight's Defensive Player-of-the-Week for his effort against Illinois. In that game, he had 20 tackles (including a school record 19 solo), three of which were for losses. One of those was for a safety, and he also added a special teams tackle.
- Had an impressive outing in his first career start against Tennessee: 13 tackles (eight solo), two for losses and a pass broken up. He leads the team in tackles with 69.
- A player the coaches have been keen on since his arrival at CU. Has seen action at both inside and outside 'backer (he backed up Kanavis McGhee a year ago), and moved permanently to an inside spot this past spring.
- Won the Fred Casotti Award for the team's top junior-to-be following spring practice. The award is gauged on the year in the program as opposed to athletic eligibility.
- Wore #53 last year, and temporarily relocated into #49 for two days earlier in August drills. He didn't like the number, so he moved into #19 instead.

(21) Dwayne Davis, FS

- See some action in CU's nickel defensive package, as well as on special teams (he is on the coverage teams and also returns kickoffs).
- Is second on the team in "special team" points with 10, as he has earned points in five different categories.
- High school teammate of Chris Jackson, the Denver Nuggets number one draft pick (and the NBA's third overall) in the league's June 1990 draft. Davis and Jackson were guards at Gulfport (Miss.) High School.

(22) George Hemingway, FB

- The man who nailed Coach Mac with a jug of ice water on Mac's 50th birthday last week.
- Is in the top condition of his CU career, and is a double threat out of the fullback position. He has demonstrated that he can break the long run (is tough to tackle), and has exceptional hands and is a weapon as a receiver.
- Top game of career came against Texas earlier this season, as he rushed seven times for 76 yards and caught three passes for 54 yards, including a 38-yard TD pass from Hagan.
- Against Iowa State, he earned six first downs in seven touches.
- His running against Washington in 1989 (5 carries, 44 yards), helped CU break Washington's defensive game plan, paving the way for a 45-28 win.
- Had a trial at halfback in the spring of 1988, but was moved back to fullback in fall drills the same year.
- Was switched from fullback to tight end on first an experimental basis after CU's first game in 1987, and got into the lineup at the position for the first time on a PAT kick for the injured Troy Wolf). He went on to start five games that season.
- Lost his father (George, Sr., complications from a kidney transplant) in the summer of 1989, but he said the experience helped him mature. He went through tumultuous season nonetheless, and it all reached a boil when he was sent home from the Orange Bowl for violating team rules.
- Several schools backed off this high school All-American because of his academics, but Hemingway passed the ACT with room to spare and was admitted with no problem to CU.
- A second-team USA Today All-American his senior year at Colton (Calif.) High School, as he led the state of California in rushing with 2,245 yards.

(25) Mark Henry, WR

- A player who has paid his dues and has seen a good amount of action this season. He was hobbled for awhile (sprained ankle, he did not travel to Missouri). With Mike Pritchard playing at tailback, he was a "co-starter" for the Tennessee game.
- Played as a prep at Fleming High School, located on the northeaster Colorado plains.
- Though he is not listed as such on the roster, he was CU's backup punter the past two years and can perform the duties in an emergency situation.

(27) Greg Thomas, FS

- Made his first career start against Tennessee, and played well at times. Has developed nicely and with marked improvement through the season's initial eight games.
- Has two key defensive plays against Kansas, as he intercepted a pass and recovered a fumble, one ending a KU scoring threat and the other setting up a CU score.
- One of, if not the biggest hitter on the team. He put wide receiver Rico Smith out of practice for three days during two-a-days with a fierce hit to the waist.
- At one time, he had decided to transfer from CU. He changed his mind during the spring of 1989 and eventually came back out for the team.

(32) Dave Brown, TE

- Switched over to offense this past spring, as he will play tight end his senior year. He has looked good at the position and is tied for second-team honors on the depth chart. He caught his first career pass for seven yards against Kansas.
- Third on the team in 1989 with 17 special team points (highlighted by 12 solo tackles; he also turned in an extraordinary effort against Oklahoma State: five tackles, one assist and a fumble recovery).
- Was to contend for starting honors at inside linebacker in 1989, but never really threatened those ahead of him for the job. A disciplinary suspension for the Texas game probably hurt him.
- Has already graduated (sociology) and is currently taking graduate courses in criminology at CU.

(33) James Hill, FB

- The latest in a long line of versatile CU fullbacks, as he can run with style and determination and also catch the ball, a key at the position in the CU offense.
- He had a spectacular 22-yard catch against Iowa State on a crucial third down play right before halftime which eventually led to CU's go-ahead score in the game.

(34) Chad Brown, ILB

- Played as a redshirt freshman in 1989, and the coaches have really been high on him since his first day in pads... his playing time increased weekly in 1989, and he even started one game (Oklahoma State) as a freshman (seven tackles in that contest).
- Forged his way to the top of the depth chart midway through August drills.
- Was held out of spring ball as he completed rehabilitation for shoulder surgery he had in January. The surgery was to correct an old injury (separation).
- A solid hitter, and he seldom needs to finish a tackle... 45 of 50 stops in '89 were solo, and 61 of 91 this year are unassisted.
- A good special teams player... he was fifth in special team points last season.
- Has one of the more interesting hobbies on the team, if not in college football: he collects and breeds both snakes and lizards. Through the summer of 1990, he had 11 snakes (3 pythons, 2 boa constrictors, 2 California Kings, 2 green snakes and 2 northern pines) and four lizards (2 iguanas, 2 solomon's isle monkey tail skinks).

(35) Chuck Snowden, TB

- Has a smooth, flashy running style which makes him a very capable backup to Bieniemy at tailback. He's gained 91 yards on only nine carries (10.1 per), as he is tough to bring down (he's spurted free after several defensive first hits).

(42) Michael Simmons, WB

- Can see action at any of three positions: tailback, wingback and fullback, and he made his first start at tailback since 1987 against Tennessee (rushed 9 times for 52 yards). He returned to his starting position at wingback against Stanford.
- Caught his first career pass (for 11 yards) against Tennessee, and his second career reception went for a 32-yard touchdown against Illinois. He has two touchdown catches in four career catches, not a bad percentage, and played well at times. Has developed.
- Returned to the team in 1989 after serving a one-year suspension (personal reasons).
- He came back with a vengeance, as he is averaged 7.8 yards per carry last fall.
- Top game was against Oregon in 1987, the first of his career. He gained 142 yards on 18 carries as a redshirt freshman in the 10-7 loss to the Ducks.
- Celebrated his second wedding anniversary (Rebecca) on Sept. 2. He is one of three players on the team who are married.
- Clubbed a softball 350-feet (over a fence) for a three-run homer in the Seniors 21-18 win over the Football Staff this past summer. Hitting from the left side, he sent a softball about as far as those present had ever seen.

(46) Paul Rose, OLB

- Has seen limited action at outside 'backer in his career (53 plays last season, 15 this year), but contributes several other ways, most notably on special teams.
- One of the top special teams players on the Buffs; he led CU in special team points with 25 in 1989, highlighted by 15 tackles and six knockdown blocks.
- Had four tackles alone on special teams against Illinois (two solo, two assists).
- Wore #50 the first two-plus seasons of his career before switching to #46 midway through his junior year. The reason for that became known in CU's 20-14 win against Washington, as he caught a 24-yard pass from Tom Rouen out of the punt formation. He had to switch to a eligible receiver number to be legal for that play.

(48) Terry Johnson, ILB

- Started 10 games a year ago, and played very well. He was to compete with David Brown for the starting role, but Chad Brown emerged and eventually shared time with T.J.
- Johnson's been displaced primarily by Brown and the emergence of Greg Biekert as a force at inside linebacker (Biekert was moved from OLB in the spring). He did start against Iowa State and has seen more action lately from scrimmage.
- First start of his career came in the '88 game against Oklahoma State, subbing for the injured Don DeLuzio.
- "T.J." led the nation in interceptions for one week -- he plucked off two in the season opener vs. Fresno State: one of five Buffs to have two interception games since 1987.
- Celebrated his first wedding anniversary on Sept. 23 (Michelle), as he proceeded down the isle during CU's open week in 1989. Unfortunately, that same night was when Sal Aunese passed away.

(52) Jay Leeuwenburg, OC (ALL-AMERICAN CANDIDATE)

- An honorable mention all-Big Eight selection (UPI) in 1989, and has been tabbed as a preseason All-American (first and second team) by several preseason publications.
- Did not have a muffed center-quarterback exchange in 600-plus snaps in 1989.
- Had the task of replacing All-Big Eight center Erik Norgard, who is one of two Buffs to garner first-team league honors at the position in the last three seasons (Eric Coyle did it in 1986).
- The coaches felt he would develop into an excellent center, and their call was correct; the talent around him last year (three all-Big Eighters) helped him mature.
- An english major, he will graduate prior to his senior year (either next May or August) and will work for his certification as a teacher (preferably high school in english). He also has an interest in becoming a football coach on the prep level.
- A diabetic since eighth grade, he gives himself two shots of insulin daily and is monitored by CU's sports medicine staff. He has to eat three square meals fairly close to a daily schedule, so a team "brunch" really throws him out of kilter.

(62) Joe Garten, OG (ALL-AMERICAN CANDIDATE; OUTLAND, LOMBARDI CANDIDATE)

- Selected as one of the two team captains (along with Alfred Williams) following CU's non-conference season. With so many seniors, the coaches wanted leaders to emerge before allowing the players to select their captains.
- One of three Buffs who have been nominated for the Lombardi Award. Only 12 players are on the committee's initial nomination list, and CU is the only school with three players nominated (Auburn is the only other with two). Kanavis McGhee and Alfred Williams were the other Buffs nominated.
- One of 20 finalists, along with teammate Mark Vander Poel, for the Outland Trophy.
- Colorado's first consensus all-American lineman since 1970 (Don Popplewell), as he was named to the AP, UPI, Kodak and Writers teams. He was the first CU guard to receive national accolades since 1968 (Mike Montler).
- Seems to have bad luck when it comes to ankles... both have been severely sprained during his CU career.
- Started all 11 games at left guard as a redshirt frosh, as he has become CU's first four year starter on the offensive line. Has 40 career starts to his credit, as he broke Mickey Pruitt's school record of 39 last week at Kansas. The only time he didn't start, he didn't play (ironically, he missed the 1988 game at Kansas with a sprained ankle). He has started the last 26 straight games since that injury.
- Has been named CU's lineman of the week 11 times in his career, a top honor when you look at the strength of CU's offensive line.
- From an athletic family: his brother (Steve) played football at UNLV; his sister Donna volleyball at Cal-State Fullerton.
- The strongest player on the team, with 1,307 total pounds to his credit in the August conditioning drills... He is tied for a team-high 455 pound bench press and also has a 545 pound squat to his credit.

(72) Mark Vander Poel, OT (ALL-AMERICAN CANDIDATE; OUTLAND TROPHY CANDIDATE)

- One of 20 finalists, along with teammate Joe Garten, for the Outland Trophy.
- Had an outstanding game against Iowa State, so good that he was CU's nomination for the Big Eight's Offensive player-of-the-week.
- A Playboy Preseason All-American, and is projected by many as a first-round NFL draft pick. Also made the preseason teams by several other publications.
- A first-team all-Big Eight selection in 1989 (AP, UPI, Coaches), and was an honorable mention all-American by UPI and The Sporting News.
- Has started 29 straight games (including two bowls), tied for the longest on the team.
- The first player in Colorado history to line up on opening day at 300-plus pounds, which he did as a junior in 1989. His weight has fluctuated between 290 and 305 pounds the last two years.
- The team giant, standing 6-foot-8 to go with his 300-pound frame. Yet, he is quick on his feet, as he owns 5.05 speed in the 40. Thus, the reason he coveted by the pros.
- From an athletic family; his sister (Jackie) was a three-year starter on the Cal-Irvine basketball team; and his uncle (Dutch Warmerdam) was the first person in the world to clear 15-0 in the pole vault using a bamboo pole (in 1940).

(76) Ariel Solomon, OT

- Made his first career start against Tennessee.
- Selected as a preseason all-Big Eight pick by The Sporting News.
- A two-time member of CU's "Academic Starters" team, as he is an economics major.
- A very quiet and reserved person, but he has an interesting background. He was born in Brooklyn, but moved to El Salvador as a toddler when he parents ventured into the exotic business of collecting reptiles. His parents currently own Reef Encounter, an aquarium business of international scope in Boulder.

(77) Jim Hansen, OT

- A candidate for the Rhodes Scholarship in the future, as he carries a 3.986 grade point in a difficult major, aerospace engineering. He has all "A's" in his college career with the exception of one "A-."
- He was selected as the sophomore "engineering student of the year" on the CU-Boulder campus last April. That award is for all students, not just athletes. Following CU's
- Switched to offense from defensive tackle during spring ball, and changed from #90 into #77... it keeps a CU tradition alive, as Bill Coleman wore that number for three seasons, and he, too, was an engineering major.

(79) Russ Heasley, OG

- Made his first career start against Tennessee, and has played well. He has been hampered lately by an assortment of injuries, most notably a sprained shoulder, which forced him to miss a start at Kansas in January since 1970 (Don Bonaglevell), as he was
- Reported in the best shape of his CU career and has accepted the challenge of becoming a starter on one of the nation's top offensive lines.
- Has the task of replacing all-Big Eight guards Darrin Muilenburg, who came sponsored making the Denver Broncos as a free agent.

(81) Jon Boman, TE

- Did not make the trip to Kansas as he was nursing a severely sprained foot. He did
- Had a big 30-yard reception on the game-winning TD 98 yards against Stanford. He tipped the ball into the air, caught it and proceeded downfield. He took exception when the media wrote the next day, "he 'lumbered' downfield..."
- Made his first career start against Tennessee.
- Switched from inside linebacker to tight end during 1989 spring practice, as it was probably the most successful personnel move that season. He looked excellent at the position his first year in it, and comes back as the post starter. His credit in the August
- Took over as the snapper on punts and placements midway through the 1989 season.
- Bedspined as a true freshman in 1987, as injuries kept him from earning a spot on the depth chart.

(91) Lamarr Gray, OLB

- One of the best "behind-the-scenes" players on the CU team. Six times in 1989 he won scout team player-of-the-week honors, which is presented by the coaches (hardly anyone had ever been singled out three times in a season).
- Is quite active when he gets his chance (and that's minimal since he backs up Alfred Williams). Had three sacks against Kansas State in 1988, and has 20 tackles while he has been in on his 159 career plays (an 8-to-1 play-to-tackle ratio).
- A genuine "nice guy" with an infectious smile, he owns the nickname of "Gooch."

(93) Joel Steed, NT (ALL-BIG EIGHT CANDIDATE)

- Received plenty of preseason accolades, and some tabbed him as a All-America.
- His clogging of the middle has helped to hold opponent running games in check. His number of plays on defense is always less than the rest of the defense, as he comes out when CU goes into the nickel defense.
- Nine of his 36 solo stops in '89 were tackles for losses (including two sacks). The biggest of these was on a third-and-short play by Nebraska late in the game.
- The youngest defensive starter for the Buffs in 1989 (a sophomore), but the coaches expected big things from him. He won the Hale Irwin Award in spring '89 as the team's top sophomore-to-be.
- Trimmed about 15 pounds from his frame after arriving at CU, and has built himself into one of the three strongest players on the team (tied for the team best with a 455 pound bench press).
- One of the players who hates to be on television, but when he gives in and does it, he is eloquent with an impressive vocabulary. A sociology major, he worked as intern this past summer in a Denver law office.

(94) Alfred Williams, OLB (ALL AMERICAN CANDIDATE; BUTKUS, LOMBARDI AWARD CANDIDATE)

- Selected as one of the two team captains (along with Joe Garten) following CU's non-conference season. With so many seniors, the coaches wanted leaders to emerge before allowing the players to select their captains.
- One of three Buffs who have been nominated for the Lombardi Award. Only 12 players are on the committee's initial nomination list, and CU is the only school with three players nominated (Auburn is the only other with two). Kanavis McGhee and Joe Garten were the other Buffs nominated. He's a top candidate for the Butkus Award as well.
- Has succeeded at something that he has struggled at during his career... keeping on weight. He's played each of his first three years at 230, but an off-season conditioning program has him every between 242 and 245 this year.
- Has started 32 straight games (including two bowls), tied for the longest on the team.
- Has a quarterback sack in eight straight games (and in 12 of last 14), and has a sack in 25 of 43 career games. He's CU's all-time leading "sacker" with 32.
- A Playboy Preseason All-American, and is projected by many as a first-round NFL draft pick. Selected by several other publications as a first-team All-American and as the preseason Big Eight defensive player-of-the-year.
- A consensus All-American selection in 1989 (UPI, Kodak, Football Writers; second-team AP), and was an across-the-board Big Eight pick. He was the first consensus all-American linebacker in CU history (although Joe Romig played the position, he was honored more for his ability at guard).
- The unanimous Defensive Player-of-the-Year in the Big Eight Conference for 1989. He led the Big Eight in sacks (10.5) to go with 81 tackles (58 solo) and five PBU's.
- Named the Big Eight's Defensive Player-of-the-Week (the fourth time in his career) for his effort against Texas (10 tackles, three for losses (two sacks), a safety a 2 PBU).
- Rated the top outside linebacker in the nation by The Sporting News in its college football preview edition... teammate Kanavis McGhee is listed second.

WILLIAMS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

Williams, continued

- Won CU awards for the top junior-to-be in 1989 and the top senior-to-be last spring.
- He is 19th on the all-time tackles list at CU (240; he's only six out of the top 15).
- One of 1987's recruits who contributed a lot in a short time. He saw considerable action (320) plays as a freshman, and became a permanent starter as a sophomore.
- He always has had trouble gaining weight because of his love for basketball (he plays in the off season and in the summer, and even spent six weeks as a member of the men's varsity last winter).
- The coaches originally planned on playing him as a down lineman, but moved him to outside 'backer his freshman year.
- One of the "H-Boys", as he and fellow defender Kanavis McGhee both hail from Houston.

(95) Garry Howe, DT (ALL-BIG EIGHT CANDIDATE)

- Enjoying a solid year, with top games against Stanford (eight tackles (six solo), a sack, a hurry and a forced fumble) and Illinois (11 tackles and two sacks). He has a quarterback sack in seven of CU's eight games this year, hiding in Al Williams' shadow.
- Had a great Orange Bowl, as he had seven tackles (two for losses), a quarterback sack and a blocked field goal against Notre Dame.
- The last thing he looks like is a football player (short, big gut), but he may be the most underrated football player in college football.
- Transferred to CU from Drake after the Bulldog program dropped a classification. He sat out 1988, and saw plenty of playing time as junior in 1989 (288 plays).

(96) Kanavis McGhee, OLB (ALL AMERICAN CANDIDATE; BUTKUS, LOMBARDI AWARD CANDIDATE)

- One of three Buffs who have been nominated for the Lombardi Award. Only 12 players are on the committee's initial nomination list, and CU is the only school with three players nominated (Auburn is the only other with two). Joe Garten and Alfred Williams were the other Buffs nominated; he's a top candidate for the Butkus Award as well.
- One of four finalists for the 1989 Lombardi Award, as he was flown to his native Houston to attend the ceremonies.
- With 274 career tackles, he ranks seventh on CU's all-time tackle list. He needs 24 to pass current CU inside linebacker coach Brian Cabral into sixth place.
- A first-team All-American in 1989 (Walter Camp), and a second-team choice by UPI. He was all-Big Eight by AP and UPI.
- Rated as the number two outside linebacker in the nation by The Sporting News in its college football preview edition, losing out to teammate Alfred Williams. Several have tabbed him as a preseason All-American.
- Third on the team in tackles in 1989 (75, with 46 solo), to go with seven sacks (six full sacks and two half sacks). He played his best game of the year at Oklahoma, with 13 tackles (seven solo) in CU's 20-3 win.
- He broke his ankle late in the 1988 Nebraska game. He was held out of spring practice while he completed rehabilitation, and it took him halfway into the season to regain confidence in the ankle. He returned to his old form midway through the season.
- Was a unanimous all-Big Eight pick in 1988 and garnered second-team All-America honors.
- Had 102 tackles (66 solo) in 1988, and was a very active player. He had the best day of his career against Oklahoma, as he had 23 tackles (15 solo) and two for losses.
- High school coach at Houston's Wheatley High School was Kenny Houston, the former all-pro safety from the Houston Oilers.
- His biggest moment in college isn't on the football field; it was when he was accepted into CU's tough business school this past summer. He even posed for a poster last spring for a Norlin Library promotion on the CU campus.
- Was surprised by his high school last Jan. 18, when his former school celebrated "Kanavis McGhee Day." He was presented with a mayoral proclamation and was honored by his school, parents, and his high school lead coaches.
- One of the "H-Boys" as he and fellow defender Alfred Williams both hail from Houston. Art Walker, who is with the Phoenix Cardinals, completed the trio in 1989.

(97) Marcellous Elder, DT

- Has battled Leonard Renfro for playing time at left defensive tackle, and started a couple of games after Renfro went out with an injury.
- Has 14 tackles in 123 scrimmage plays, as he has seen the most action of the non-starters with the exception of Eric Hamilton, who is in on nickel plays.
- Nickname is "Earthquake," as he owns a 6-5, 285-pound frame.
- Has over 400 comic books in his collection.

(99) Leonard Renfro, DT

- Was off and running as a freshman, until he was sidelined for the year after breaking a bone in his right foot against Illinois. Since that came early in the third game of the season, he was granted a hardship year by the Big Eight Conference. He did participate in spring drills at 100 percent.
- Has developed nicely at the position, but was sidetracked for a couple of games due to a knee sprain. He did not suit up for the Missouri game, and he came in off the bench against Iowa State before returning to the starting lineup against Kansas.
- Has 35 tackles on the season with 1.5 sacks and a "pass deflection from hell." He batted a pass back behind the line of scrimmage against Kansas which was almost picked off by Alfred Williams.
- Could be the oldest looking 20-year-old you'll ever see... mainly due to a full mustache and goutee-style beard, not to mention his size (6-4, 285).