



UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO FOOTBALL

2012 SENIORS

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Exp	Hometown (High School/Previous College)
BAKHTIARI, David	OT	6- 4	295	Jr.	3L	Burlingame, Calif. (Junipero Serra)
DANNEWITZ, Ryan	OL	6- 6	300	Sr.	4L	San Jacinto, Calif. (San Jacinto)
EBNER, Dustin	WR	6- 1	185	Sr.	3L	Arvada, Colo. (Pomona)
#GROSSNICKLE, Zach	P	6- 2	195	Jr.	2L	Denver, Colo. (East)
KASA, Nick	TE	6- 6	260	Sr.	4L	Thornton, Colo. (Legacy)
MAJOR, Jon	OLB	6- 2	235	Sr.	4L	Parker, Colo. (Ponderosa)
PERICAK, Will	DL	6- 4	285	Sr.	4L	Boulder, Colo. (Boulder)
POLK, Ray	DB	6- 1	205	Sr.	4L	Scottsdale, Ariz. (Brophy Prep)
RICHTER, Eric	OG	6- 3	310	Sr.	1L	Mission Viejo, Calif. (Capistrano Valley/Saddleback College)
RIPPY, Doug	ILB	6- 3	245	Sr.	4L	Columbus, Ohio (Trotwood-Madison)
#THORNTON, DaVaughn	TE	6- 4	230	Jr.	3L	Denver, Colo. (East)

#—Graduating in May 2013 and forgoing senior year of eligibility.

59 DAVID BAKHTIARI, OT

6-4, 295, Jr., 3L, Burlingame, Calif. (Junipero Serra)

NOTE: He declared his eligibility for the NFL Draft on January 7, 2013, forgoing his senior year of eligibility.

AT COLORADO: 2012 (Jr.)—He earned second-team All-Pac 12 honors from the league coaches for a second straight year, also tabbed second-team by *Phil Steele's College Football* and collegesportsmadness.com. He was a first-team All-Colorado performer as selected by the state's chapter of the National Football Foundation for the second time as well, and he was the co-recipient of the John Mack Award as the team's most outstanding offensive player. CU's beat media also selected him as the co-winner of the Best Interview Award. He started 11 games at left offensive tackle (missing the Oregon game with a slight knee sprain, though he traveled and tried to make a go of it in pregame). He graded out as the team's top lineman at 89.8 percent, with 655 "plus" plays out 729 total. He was second on the team in "will-breaker" blocks with 41 (similar to pancakes, but tougher to earn), allowed just two-and-a-half quarterback sacks and only one pressure, with two direct touchdown blocks and over three dozen downfield blocks. He graded out above 80 percent in all 11 games he appeared, with a season-best of 92.5 percent grade against Washington State. He was on the official watch lists for both the Outland Trophy (one of 18 offensive tackles and 71 players listed overall) and the Lombardi Award (one of 128 on its list). *Phil Steele's College Football* placed him on its preseason first-team All-Pac 12 squad and ranked him as the No. 29 tackle in the nation, while *Athlon's*, *Blue Ribbon Yearbook*, ESPN.com and *Lindy's Sports* also selected him on their first-team All-Pac 12 units.

2011 (Soph.)—He earned second-team All-Pac 12 honors from the league coaches, *Phil Steele's College Football* and collegesportsmadness.com, was a second-team sophomore All-American by collegefootballnews.com and a first-team All-Colorado performer as selected by the state's chapter of the National Football Foundation. He started 11 games at left offensive tackle; he suffered a severe knee sprain on just the seventh offensive play of the game in the season opener at Hawai'i and missed the next two games (Cal, CSU). He graded out to 84.4 percent for the season, second highest of all the offensive linemen (532 plus plays out of 630 total snaps), he had 21 "great effort" blocks, two touchdown blocks and 12 downfield blocks while allowing just two quarterbacks sacks and three pressures; he was called for just one penalty all year. His top game grade was 90.4 percent at Ohio State, his first game back after the injury, and graded out to 80 percent or better in nine of his 11 games. He entered the fall atop the depth chart at left tackle, as he switched over from the right side where he played as a redshirt freshman; he basically was groomed to replace CU consensus All-American and Outland Trophy finalist Nate Solder on the left side.

2010 (Fr.-RS)—He played in all 12 games, starting 11; he did not start against Texas Tech, but did play 24 snaps. He earned honorable mention Freshman All-America honors from collegefootballnews.com, and was an honorable mention All-Big 12 performer by the *Associated Press*; the state's chapter of the NFF/College Hall of Fame selected him second-team All-Colorado. He played the third most snaps on offense, 796, trailing Nate Solder and Ryan Miller, and with 715 "plus" plays, he graded out to 89.8 percent for the year, second best among the O-linemen (behind Solder's 94.3). He graded out to 80 percent or higher in all 12 games, and 90 percent or greater seven times. He had 59 finishing/knockdown blocks, fourth on the team (eight versus Iowa State was his single-game high), with three touchdown blocks, tied for the third-most. He allowed just one quarterback sack and seven pressures, but was flagged for six penalties, most early in the season when he was getting his feet wet. He had five or more finish/KD blocks on eight occasions, and his best single-game grade of 94.7 percent came in a dominant performance against Kansas State (71 plus plays out of 75 total). At Kansas, he recovered a fumble after a quarterback sack and returned it seven yards, reducing a 13-yard loss to six.

2009 (Fr.)—Redshirted; he practiced on the offensive line the entire fall.

HIGH SCHOOL—A two-year letterman in football, he was named honorable-mention All-Western Catholic Athletic League (WCAL), All-Metro (Bay Area) and All-San Mateo County as a senior when the team finished 8-4 under Patrick Walsh and won the WCAL championship while making it to the state semifinals. He was honored by the *Bay Area News Group* as a member of the 2008 Cream of the Crop team among senior football players, ranking No. 8 out of the 25 players from northern California selected on college potential after a survey of college coaches. His senior season was his first as a starter on the football field at any level. Most memorable games include Sacred Heart when he held highly touted senior Kevin Greene to no sacks and just a pair of tackles in a 42-14 victory, against De La Salle when Junipero Serra lost 29-28 but it was to one of the top teams in the state and against Gilroy when he had at least eight pancake blocks. He has also lettered twice in lacrosse as a sophomore and junior (lacrosse is played in the spring), winning the Lock Down award as the team's top hitter. He captained the team as a sophomore and played since seventh grade but Junipero Serra only added the sport his sophomore year.

ACADEMICS—He is majoring in Communication at Colorado. He earned second-team Academic All-Big 12 honors as a redshirt freshman.

PERSONAL—He was born Sept. 30, 1991 in San Mateo, Calif. He considers himself a gym rat, enjoying lifting, basketball, swimming, waterskiing and snow skiing. His oldest brother, Eric, was a defensive lineman at the University of San Diego and is in the NFL with the Tennessee Titans. Another older brother, Andrew, is a junior defensive end at USD. An uncle, Dan Jackson, played quarterback at California. He wants to return to California after graduation to work with and eventually take over his father's (Karl) real estate business. One of his two middle names is unique: Afrisiab. (*Last name is pronounced Bock-T-are-E.*)

53 RYAN DANNEWITZ, OL

6-6, 300, Sr., 4L, San Jacinto, Calif. (San Jacinto)

AT COLORADO: 2012 (Sr.)— He eased back into things in August camp as he was dealing with a chronic lower back injury, missing the season opener. He returned to action the second week of the season and played in eight games (including one start, at left tackle at Oregon for an injured David Bakhtiari). But the following week against Stanford he suffered torn knee ligaments and missed the remainder of the season. He was in for 210 plays for the season, grading out to 75.7 percent (159 plus plays), with his best game grade of 82.6 percent against Oregon in his lone start (also when he played his most single game snaps – 46). He had 13 will-reaker blocks, allowed four quarterback sacks (and two pressures) and was called for a single penalty. He played an additional eight snaps on the FG/PAT unit on special teams. He missed most of spring drills with the back injury, which dated to June 2011, participating on a very limited basis but in no contact.

2011 (Jr.)—He played in all 13 games, including 11 starts, his first career one against California coming at left tackle and the last 10 games of the year at right tackle. He played 774 snaps overall, the third most among the lineman and fourth most by an offensive player, grading out to 79.5 percent on the season. He had 21 great effort blocks and three touchdown blocks, allowing three quarterback pressures and five sacks. He graded out to 80 percent or better in six games with his best single-game grade coming at Ohio State (88.5%). He also played an additional 10 snaps on the Field Goal/PAT unit on special teams. He missed a good portion of spring practice after being diagnosed with mononucleosis.

2010 (Soph.)—He did not see any action from scrimmage, but did play all 50 snaps on the field goal/point after touchdown unit on special teams. He was the backup at left tackle all season to All-American Nate Solder, who played all 847 snaps at the position.

2009 (Fr.-RS)—He saw action in the final 10 games of the season, in two on offense (27 total snaps): he was in for one snap late in the win over Wyoming, and for 26 snaps at right tackle at Iowa State (where he graded out to 85 percent). He was on the field goal/point after touchdown unit on special teams, where he played an additional 41 snaps. He added about 15 pounds between his true and redshirt freshman seasons.

2008 (Fr.)—Redshirted; practiced at both guard and tackle over the course of the year.

HIGH SCHOOL—As a senior, he earned All-West Region honors from *PrepStar* and All-Far West Region accolades from SuperPrep, which ranked him as the No. 84 player overall in California, Hawai'i and Nevada (and the 13th ranked offensive lineman). Rivals.com ranked him as the No. 64 player in California and the No. 49 offensive lineman, while Scout.com pegged him the No. 73 player in the state and the 53rd best O-lineman nationally. As a senior captain, he was named first-team All-State, All-CIF, All-Mountain Pass League and All-Riverside County, while being named his team's most valuable player. He played in the Navy Marine Corps All-Star Classic for the Marine Inland team. A four-year letterman, he started all 52 games of his prep career. At offensive tackle, he had 130 pancakes on the year and allowed zero sacks, while playing defensive end on the other side of the ball, he registered 56 tackles, a sack and two fumble recoveries. As a junior, he was named first-team All-CIF and All-League, as well as second-team All-County and All-State. He had 84 pancakes on the year, allowing just one sack, and picked up a teammate's fumble and advanced it for a touchdown. Defensively, he played occasionally, filling in at defensive tackle. He was a first-team All-League selection as a sophomore, with 75 pancakes and just one sack allowed. He had several top performances against players headed for Division I: as a sophomore, he held future Arizona Wildcat defensive end Ricky Elmore in check in a 20-7 loss to Grace Brethren. In the same season, he held a similar edge over UCLA-bound linebacker Akeem Ayers. As a senior, he had four pancakes and zero sacks allowed in a loss to undefeated Citrus Hill in the regular season. Under coach Bill Powell, San Jacinto went 11-3 both his junior and senior seasons (losing in CIF final both times, to Big Bear and Citrus Hill, respectively), was 9-4 his sophomore year (advancing to the semifinals) and 7-4 when he was a freshman. He also lettered twice in basketball (center), averaging 10 points and seven rebounds as a senior, and was a four-time letterman in track (throws); he had prep bests of 50-2 in the shot put and 160-0 in the discus.

ACADEMICS— He graduated with a double major in Psychology and Sociology at Colorado in May 2012 and was enrolled in additional coursework after graduation. He was an Honor Roll student throughout high school while maintaining a 3.5 grade point average. He was one of 22 Scholar-Athletes honored for Riverside County.

PERSONAL—Born June 14, 1990 in Fontana, Calif. His hobbies include weightlifting, fishing, bowling and golfing. One of the highlights of his youth included traveled to Cooperstown, N.Y., to visit the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

(Last name is pronounced dan-uh-wits)

83 DUSTIN EBNER, WR

6-1, 185, Sr., 3L, Arvada, Colo. (Pomona)

AT COLORADO: 2012 (Sr.)—He played in all 12 games (one start, but was a regular in the rotation), catching 10 passes for 116 yards and a touchdown, his first career score, as he caught a 17-yard TD pass from Jordan Webb against UCLA. Four of his catches earned first downs, and his long reception was a 41-yard grab at Fresno State. He caught a season-high three passes (for 17 yards) against Arizona State. He caught six passes for 56 yards in the main spring scrimmage action, including a 14-yard touchdown pass from Connor Wood to open the scoring in the spring game. He was placed on scholarship for the first time for the spring semester.

2011 (Jr.)—He saw action in the last five games of the season (no starts), after dressing for four of the first eight. He did not catch any passes, but did record three special team points in the strength of two tackles (one solo) and a caused penalty.

2010 (Soph.)—He was in the regular rotation at the start of fall practices, but suffered a broken fibula in the first full scrimmage (August 12) and wasn't able to resume running until the second half of the season. He finally dressed for the first time for the Iowa State game, the 10th of the season, but did not see any game action the rest of the way. He caught four passes for 35 yards in the three main spring scrimmages.

2009 (Fr.-RS)—He saw action in eight games, including one start (versus Texas A&M). On the year, he caught three passes for 15 yards, with one reception each against Kansas State (for nine yards, his season-long gain), Toledo (his first career catch, for six yards) and A&M. One of the recipients of the team's Gold Group Commitment Award as selected by the coaches, as the honor recognizes excellence with class in a variety of areas. In the spring three full scrimmages, he caught one pass for two yards and saw action as a kick returner, returning five kickoffs for 80 yards (16.0 per return).

2008 (Fr.) —Redshirted; did not see game action but practiced all fall at wide receiver. He joined the team as a walk-on after the first day of classes.

HIGH SCHOOL—He earned second-team All-State and first-team all-conference as a wide receiver, helping Pomona to a 7-4 record as a senior in 2007. He had 42 receptions for 815 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior. He racked up over 1,000 receiving yards in his career, catching 18 passes for 218 yards and two touchdowns as a junior and three catches for 36 yards as a sophomore, giving him 63 catches for 1,069 yards and 11 touchdowns in his career. An accomplished track and field athlete, he set two school records in the 400-meter dash (49.25) and as a member of the 1,600-meter relay team (3:24.07). As a senior, he earned first team all-conference in both the 1,600-meter relay and the 200-meter dash, when he also took second-team all-conference in the 400-meter dash and honorable mention all-conference in the 800-meter relay. As a junior, he earned second team all-conference in the 400 and honorable mention status in the 200 and the 1,600-meter relay. As a sophomore, he was first team all-conference in the 1,600-meter relay and second team in the 800-meter relay. He also competed in the high jump.

ACADEMICS—He graduated with a degree in EBIO (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology) in December 2011, and took coursework in Integrative Physiology while completing his eligibility. He earned second-team Pac-12 All-Academic Team honors as a senior and first-team Academic All-Big 12 honors as a redshirt freshman. He was first-team Academic All-State all four years in high school.

PERSONAL—Born March 3, 1990. His hobbies include wakeboarding and water-skiing, and he owns a black belt in Karate. An older brother, Derek, is a model and actor; younger brother Drew joined the Buffs as a walk-on this spring, also at receiver. An uncle, Skip Jeranko, and a cousin, Mark Jeranko, both played basketball at Fort Lewis College. He is interested in pursuing dentistry after graduation.

Season	RECEIVING					High Games		
	G	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long	Rec	Yds
2009	8	3	15	5.0	0	9	1	9
2011	5	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
2012	12	10	116	11.6	1	41	3	41
Totals	25	13	131	10.1	1	41	3	41

15 ZACH GROSSNICKLE, P/PK

6-2, 195, Jr., 2L, Denver, Colo. (East)

AT COLORADO: 2012 (Jr.)—He handled the kickoff duties in nine games, with six of his 21 kickoffs going for touchbacks; many of his kicks were “pooch” style, as the average yard line where the 15 ones that were returned were fielded at the opponent 14. Six kicks were inside-the-25 and one inside-the-20. He had two tackles (one solo) covering his own kicks. He had a good spring, and averaged 46.0 yards on two punts (long of 54) in the spring game.

2011 (Soph.)—He did not see any action (he did dress for seven games); was second on the depth chart at punter the entire year.

2010 (Fr.-RS)—He became just the fourth player in CU history to serve as the team’s regular punter as a freshman, joining Stan Koleski (’73), Andy Mitchell (’94) and Matt DiLallo (’06); his 60 punts were the most ever by a Buff frosh (until 2011). He averaged 39.5 yards per punt (second best freshman figure at CU), with a net of 35.7. He placed 11 kicks inside the opponent 20 (six inside-the-10 and three inside-the-50, with 22 balls fair caught and just two that went for touchbacks; just 23 kicks were returned for an 8.0 average. He averaged 41.4 yards on 17 punts from inside the CU 25, with his long punt being 52 yards (he had two 50-plus). He also handled CU’s two free kicks (both punts) after safeties. He averaged 35.6 yards on 18 punts in the three main spring scrimmages (but had considerably higher numbers in daily drills), while converting 5-of-9 field goals (38 long) and both extra point tries. He earned the Bill McCartney Award as the most improved special teams player in spring ball, and was the Iron Buffalo Award recipient among all specialists for hard work, dedication, toughness and total poundage lifted in the weight room.

2009 (Fr.)—Redshirted; practiced as both a punter and placekicker the entire fall.

HIGH SCHOOL—He was ranked as the top placekicker in the western region, and second overall in the nation, by Ray Guy’s prokicker.com (which also pegged him as the No. 2 combo kicker/punter nationally). Scout.com ranked him as the No. 10 kicker in the nation, while Rivals.com ranked him as the No. 21 kicker in the USA (the top kicker from Colorado and the No. 18 player overall in the state). He earned first-team All-Colorado and All-State (5A) honors by the *Denver Post* (he was second-team All-State by the *Rocky Mountain News*) as a senior, when he also garnered first-team All-Central Metro League accolades (formerly known as the Denver Prep League for football; the league name did not change for other sports). As a senior, he made 12-of-13 field goals, his only miss from 58 yards that had the distance but was wide right; the 12 makes totaled exactly 500 yards (in order: 38, 37, 43, 53, 39, 44, 42, 35, 33, 47, 39, 50), or 41.7 yards per. His season long was 53 yards against Aurora Central (a Denver East school record, breaking the mark by a yard he had set as a junior) and was 10-of-10 inside of 50 yards. He connected on 35-of-37 PAT kicks, his only two misses being blocked, thus he scored 70 points for the year, second most by a 5A kicker in the state. He averaged 40 yards per punt (39 kicks), with 10 over 50 yards and nine inside-the-20, while 92 percent of his kickoffs went for touchbacks. As a junior, he made 5-of-7 field goals, a long of 52, and 23-of-24 PAT kicks (the miss was blocked), scoring 39 points overall; his 52-yard kick was East’s only points in its second round playoff loss to Thomas Jefferson. He averaged 39 yards for 12 punts with a long of 56 (three inside-the-20), and 80 percent of his kickoffs were touchbacks. Top games his senior year included a 49-30 win over Highlands Ranch, when he made three field goals, saw nine of 10 kickoffs go for touchbacks, and punted twice for a 41.5 average; on one of those punts he made the tackle and forced a fumble in the process. When he kicked his 53-yard field goal against Aurora Central, it opened the scoring of an eventual 47-0 win after a scoreless first quarter, in which he had put both his punts inside-the-20. He was East’s special teams most valuable player both years he lettered, and he never missed a field goal under 40 yards in his career. Under coach Ron Woolfork (the former Buff linebacker, 1990-93), East was 7-4 his senior year and 8-3 his junior season, advancing to the second round of the state playoffs both years. He also lettered twice in soccer, leading East to the state and DPL championships as a senior (in fact, football and soccer are both fall sports in Colorado, so he played the pair simultaneously). He scored 13 goals and had seven assists, ratcheting up his offense when it counted most, scoring three times each in East’s first two playoff wins over Sand Creek and Liberty. He was a first-team All-DPL performer his junior and senior years, garnering second-team All-State honors in the latter. He was also a member of East’s state champion team in Ultimate (flying disc) as a senior.

ACADEMICS—He is pursuing a double major in Business (International Affairs) and Political Science at Colorado and is on schedule to graduate in May 2013. In 2011, he enrolled in CU’s Maymester/Study Abroad program, where he studied in Florence, Italy, for five weeks. A National Honor Society member in high school, he owned a 4.22 grade point (on a 4.0 scale) and was enrolled in nothing but AP classes the spring semester of his senior year.

PERSONAL—He was born September 9, 1990 (09-09-90) in Denver. Hobbies include playing soccer, longboarding, ultimate Frisbee, 3D animation and hanging out with friends. His father (Reid) lettered in swimming at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. His older brother, Max, attends CU and is a junior physics major. In the Ray Guy Academy (kicking camp) in Colorado Springs in July 2008, Zach drilled several kicks well over 50 yards, including a long of 61 (which set a camp record). He won regional and semifinal competitions in the National Kicking Combine Series the same summer. Thanks to his soccer days, he might be one of the fastest kickers in the nation, as he has 4.55 speed in the 40-yard dash.

Season	G	PUNTING				In		had		Ret	Net	Net
		No	Yds	Avg.	Long	20	50+	TB	blk	Yds	Yds	Avg.
2010	12	60	2368	39.5	52	11	2	2	2	184	2144	35.7
2012	9	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Totals	21	60	2368	39.5	52	11	2	2	2	184	2144	35.7

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS—Kickoffs: 21 (6 TB, 3 EZ+, 1 In20, 6 In25). Special Team Tackles: 0,2—2 (2010); 1,1—2 (2012). (Net Yards includes touchback yardage.)

44 NICK KASA, TE

6-6, 260, Sr., 4L, Thornton, Colo. (Legacy)

AT COLORADO: 2012 (Sr.)—He started all 12 games (12 of the 13 games in his career as a tight end), yet he was one of only 26 on the official midseason watch list for the John Mackey Award (he did not advance to the semifinalist stage). He was invited to play in both the East-West Shrine and Senior Bowl games in the postseason, but only played in the latter (catching one pass for 8 yards). While still learning all the nuances of the position, he caught 25 passes for 391 yards for a team-best 15.6 per, seldom a stat that is led by a tight end, with three touchdown receptions (just the 21st time a CU tight end has caught three or more touchdown passes in a season). He was fourth on the team in receptions and third in yards, while having a team-best eight receptions of 20 yards or longer and earned 16 first downs, seven on third or fourth downs (16 of his 25 catches went for 10 or more yards). His 70-yard catch and run for a score at Washington State helped ignite CU's comeback 35-34 victory, and went on to have TD receptions the next two games against UCLA and Arizona State; in doing so, he was just the fourth CU tight end to score touchdowns in three straight games. He caught a career-high five passes (for 51 yards) in the season finale against Utah, with his 87 yards at WSU (three catches) his yardage best. He moved to tight end eight games into the 2011 season (played in one game there, the finale at Utah), and despite this being his first full-time season at the position, he earned honorable mention All-Pac 12 honors. He also earned first-team All-Colorado honors from the state's chapter of the National Football Foundation and shared the John Mack Award with tackle David Bakhtiari as the team's most outstanding players on offense. On special teams, he had 12 points on the strength of five first downfield credits (altering paths of return men), four knockdown blocks and three forced fair catches. He exhibited some speed (in the 4.55 range) and the ability to break away from the linebackers, going back to his roots in high school as a sprinter.

2011 (Jr.)—He appeared in 11 games (no starts), switching sides of the ball from defensive end to tight end late in the season; he moved over eight games into the year, practicing at tight end and appearing in a game on offense for the first time in the season finale at Utah, where he caught one pass for eight yards. He had seen action for 132 plays on defense in those eight games, recording seven tackles (five solo), two third down stops, a tackle for zero and a touchdown save (his two solo stops against Oregon include the pair of third down stops and the tackle for zero gain). He added two knockdown blocks on kickoff return unit duty on special teams. He missed the last three-fourths of spring ball after he went down with a severely sprained knee in the fourth practice session.

2010 (Soph.)—He played in all 12 games, including one start (versus Texas Tech), and saw action for 286 snaps from scrimmage. He was in on 18 tackles for the year, 12 solo and two for losses, including one quarterback sack, and two tackles for zero. He had a career-high four tackles (three solo) at Oklahoma, with three against Missouri; he had two in four other games. He registered his first career sack and third down stop on the same play against Iowa State (a 9-yard loss). He was the recipient of the Dan Stavelly Award for being the most improved defensive lineman during spring drills as selected by the coaches. In the spring, he was the second fastest defensive lineman on the team with 4.67 speed in the 40-yard dash.

2009 (Fr.)—He suffered a knee injury in the first fall scrimmage (August 13), but it did not require surgery. He did miss the first three games of the season, but returned to play in the next four (West Virginia, Texas, Kansas, Kansas State), but was then sidelined for the final five due to mononucleosis. Despite the unique set of circumstances, because he played four games in the middle of the season, NCAA rules state that he would not qualify for a medical redshirt. He saw action for 47 snaps in the four games, recording two solo tackles (one each at West Virginia and Texas), with the one against the Longhorns for a 3-yard loss. Prior to the knee injury, the coaches felt that he would have competed for a starting job.

HIGH SCHOOL—He earned All-American honors from *PrepStar* and *SuperPrep* as a senior, when he was a U.S. Army All-American and played in the all-star game in San Antonio. EA Sports selected him to its All-America second-team. *SuperPrep* ranked him as the No. 5 player overall from the Midlands region and the top player from Colorado, also placing him No. 41 on its Elite 50 list. He made the prestigious *Long Beach Press-Telegram's* Best-In-The-West team (the second of four defensive ends). The *Orange County Register* named him to its "Fab 15" second-team. One of 14 defensive linemen named to the prestigious *Tacoma News-Tribune's* Western 100 list. Rivals.com slotted him in as the No. 42 player overall in the nation, classified him as the best defensive end against the run, ranked him third on the list of strong-side defensive ends and the No. 5 defensive end nationally; Scout.com tabbed him as the No. 4 defensive end in the USA. *The Sporting News* ranked him No. 68 (the eighth DE) on its 2009 Top 100 List. He earned All-Colorado and All-State (5A) honors from both the *Rocky Mountain News* and *The Denver Post* as a junior and senior, with both papers selecting him as the state's defensive player of the year for 2008. He was also a three-time, first-team All-Front Range League performer his sophomore through senior years. He went straight to the varsity team upon entering high school, and would conclude his Legacy career as the Lightning's all-time leader in both tackles for loss (46) and quarterback sacks (31½) and as the second-leading tackler (207, which included the third most solo tackles, 130). He also set the marks for season (10) and single-game (3) sacks. A four-year starter at defensive end, as a senior he was in on 59 tackles (40 solo, 13 for losses including 10 sacks) and had one fumble recovery. He also started at offensive tackle on offense, where he did not allow a sack and did not receive a penalty while averaging three pancake blocks per game. He made 63 tackles as a junior (42 solo, 14 for losses with 8½ sacks), chased down Montbello's punter for a 22-yard loss and a safety, had an interception and a fumble recovery; on offense, he was a "powerback" (fullback), primarily used in blocking situations; while he did not get to carry the ball, he did catch a 2-point conversion pass.

High School (continued)—He had 59 stops as a sophomore (33 solo, 16 for losses, 9½ sacks) and recovered one fumble, and as a freshman, he had 17 tackles (11 solo, 3 sacks). The school didn't keep track, but he had numerous quarterback hurries, forced fumbles and passes broken up. He was also the school's backup punter all four years, but was never called upon to punt in a game. Top games as a senior included a 6-0 win over Greeley West, when he was in on 11 tackles (eight solo), four for losses including three sacks, and a 21-14 win at Poudre, another 11-tackle game (six solo) and a sack. As a junior, top contests came in a 19-6 win versus Fort Collins (seven tackles, two sacks and an interception) and in a 38-21 win over Rocky Mountain (five tackles, all solo, with three sacks). Under coach Wayne Voorhees, Legacy was 31-13 in his four seasons (9-2 his senior year, 9-3 as a junior, 7-3 as a sophomore and 6-5 as a freshman). He also lettered four times in track, and despite his size, was a sprinter (career bests of 11.1 in the 100-meter dash and 23.7 in the 200). He also played basketball as a freshman and sophomore but did not letter.

ACADEMICS—He is majoring in Communication at Colorado (scheduled to graduate in May 2013).

PERSONAL—He was born November 5, 1990 in Rochester, N.Y. Hobbies include snowboarding, swimming, playing Xbox and hanging out with friends. Father (Larry) played tackle and linebacker at the University of New Haven. (*Last name is pronounced Cah-suh.*)

Season	TACKLES												
	G	Plays	UT	AT	—	TOT	TFL	Sacks	3DS	Hurr	FR	FF	PBU Int
2009	4	47	2	0	—	2	1- 3	0- 0	0	0	0	0	0 0
2010	12	286	12	6	—	18	2-10	1- 9	1	0	0	0	0 0
2011	8	132	5	2	—	7	0- 0	0- 0	2	0	0	0	0 07
Totals	24	465	19	8	—	27	3-13	1- 9	3	0	0	0	0 0

Season	RECEIVING						High Games	
	G	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long	Rec	Yds
2011	11	1	8	8.0	0	8	1	8
2012	12	25	391	15.6	3	70t	5	87
Totals	23	26	399	15.3	3	70t	5	87

31 JON MAJOR, OLB

6-2, 235, Sr., 4L, Parker, Colo. (*Ponderosa*)

AT COLORADO: Career—He finished 47th all-time in tackles at Colorado with 225 (138 solo).

2012 (Sr.)—He played in 11 games, all starts, eight at the “sam” outside linebacker spot and three at the “mike” inside position (he missed the Stanford game with a hyperextended elbow, and played the last three games with the injury). He finished tied for second on the team in tackles with 70 (41 solo), which included seven stops at or behind the line of scrimmage (four for zero, three for losses including a quarterback sack). He also had eight third down stops (including one on fourth down), five passes broken up, three hurries, two fumble recoveries (which came against Southern Cal and Washington), one forced fumble and a touchdown save. He had his second career interception and it was a big one: it came in the fourth quarter in the red zone as Washington State was trying to put the game away, and his pick ended a threat and helped pave the way for CU’s 35-34 comeback win. He had seven or more tackles in eight games, including a season best 11 (seven solo) against Sacramento State, and nine against Colorado State in the opener (six solo) and Washington (seven unassisted). A second-team preseason All-Pac 12 team pick by *Athlon Sports* and Lindy’s College Football, *Phil Steele’s College Football* selected him to its third-team and ranked him as the No. 39 outside linebacker in the nation.

2011 (Jr.)—He started all 13 games, the first seven at the “sam” backer spot and the last six inside at his old “mike” position after Doug Rippey was lost for the season with a knee injury. He earned first-team All-Colorado honors as selected by the state’s chapter of the National Football Foundation as he led the team in tackles with 85, including 56 solo stops, second-most by a Buff. He had 11 stops at or behind the line of scrimmage (seven for losses, including three quarterback sacks, and four tackles for zero), along with six third down stops, two quarterback chasedowns (near sacks), three passes broken up, an interception (which came against California), a caused interception and a touchdown save. He had five or more tackles in nine games, registering 11 at UCLA (eight solo), 10 against Arizona (six solo) and nine versus Washington State (seven solo). He closed the season by being named the Pac-12 Conference Defensive Player of the Week for his efforts in CU’s 17-14 win at Utah: he had nine tackles, six solo with two for losses including a quarterback sack, three third down stops and a touchdown save. He had three special team points (one each tackle, fumble recovery and first downfield credit). Fully recovered from a knee injury that prematurely ended his sophomore season, he was moved from inside to outside linebacker during spring drills and responded well to the change. *Consensus Draft Services* placed him on its honorable mention preseason All-America team, with *Lindy’s College Football* selecting him as a preseason second-team All-Pac 12 performer. *Phil Steele’s College Football* ranked him as the No. 56 outside linebacker in the country.

2010 (Soph.)—He was having an all-league caliber season when he went down with a severe MCL sprain against Texas Tech (*Phil Steele’s College Football* had selected him second-team All-Big 12 at the midseason point). He still garnered second-team All-Colorado honors from the state chapter of the National Football Foundation. At the time of his injury, he was leading the Buffs in tackles with 57 (32 solo, 8.1 per game), a number that still placed him fifth on the team by season’s end. In 371 snaps from scrimmage, he also tied for second on the team in tackles for zero (8) and third down stops (7), in addition to recording two tackles for loss (both at Mizzou), two passes broken up and a key fumble recovery. Against Georgia, with 1:55 left and CU nursing a 29-27 lead, he scooped up the ball after B.J. Beatty forced a fumble at CU’s 30-yard line, ending UGA’s comeback attempt; he also had eight tackles (four solo) in the game. He 10 or more tackles three times, including career-highs of 13 overall and nine solo at Missouri and 12 against Tech before he was injured (six solo). He earned the CU’s Defensive Player of the Week nod for the Colorado State game, when he racked up 10 tackles (eight solo), two third down stops and two tackles for zero. He had at least eight tackles in five games, and led or shared the lead in tackles by the Buffs in four of those games. He had a good spring, with 18 tackles (nine solo, four for losses, another four for zero gains, two sacks) along with three third down stops and an interception in the three main spring scrimmages.

2009 (Fr.-RS)—He eased back slowly into things after major knee surgery canceled out his true freshman season, getting more playing time by the end of the year after being slowed midseason by a sprained knee and shoulder. He saw action in seven games (six on defense, no starts), playing 110 snaps from scrimmage. He was in on 13 tackles, nine solo, with four third down stops and a quarterback hurry; he added a solo tackle on special teams coverage duty. He had a season-best four tackles (all solo) at Iowa State, with three against Wyoming (two unassisted). He was a recipient of the Gold Group Commitment Award, selected by the CU coaches, which recognizes excellence with class in a variety of areas. He participated on a limited basis during spring drills (non-contact work), as he completed rehabilitation following knee surgery the previous August.

2008 (Fr.)—He had worked his way into second-team status on the depth chart after just a week of practice but went down with a torn ACL in a non-contact drill on August 13; he subsequently had surgery on September 2 and was lost for the season. The coaches named him one of the recipients of the Gold Group Commitment Award (for achieving excellence with class in several areas).

HIGH SCHOOL—Considered by most as the top high school senior in the state of Colorado in 2007 (he had over 50 scholarship offers from around the nation). As a senior, he was a *Parade* All-American and Colorado’s Gatorade Player of the Year, perhaps the top two of all his honors. He was a member of *PrepStar’s* Dream Team, as the publication ranked him as the No. 19 player overall (and as the nation’s No. 3 linebacker). *SuperPrep* named him to its All-America team (ranking him as the No. 8 player in the Midlands region, the third linebacker), and EA Sports tabbed him as a third-team choice (its picks significantly fewer players for its teams).

High School (continued)—The *Tacoma News-Tribune* named him to its Western 100 team (one of 12 linebackers), and was named to the prestigious *Long Beach Press-Telegram's* Best-In-West Team. Scout.com ranked him as the No. 1 Colorado prospect and the third-ranked linebacker nationally, while Rivals.com pegged him the top player in the state and the No. 9 linebacker in the country. Locally, he was named All-Colorado (*Denver Post, Rocky Mountain News*), along with garnering first-team All-State and All-Continental League honors. Ponderosa's team captain, Mustang of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year, following the season he played in the Under Armor All-American Game in Orlando. As a senior, he had a monster year as he racked up 153 tackles (83 solo), 23 tackles for losses including eight quarterback sacks, along with 18 quarterback hurries, 10 forced fumbles, six recoveries, two interceptions and 11 passes broken up. On offense, he had 17 rushes for 172 yards and three touchdowns playing some spot running back. As a junior, when he earned second team All-State and first-team All-Conference recognition, he recorded 107 tackles, 19 tackles for losses with two sacks, eight forced fumbles, two recoveries and an interception in being named his team's Defensive Player of the Year. As a sophomore, he was named second team All-Conference, as he tallied 109 tackles (41 solo), 10 tackles for loss with four sacks, five forced fumbles, three recoveries and an interception. He thus had 367 career tackles, 52 for losses with 14 sacks and 13 fumble recoveries. His top game as a senior came against Regis when he accounted for 20 tackles, two passes broken up and a fumble recovery while scoring two rushing touchdowns on offense in Ponderosa's 14-0 win. He also had a 20 tackle game as a junior in a 10-3 loss to Highlands Ranch. Under coach Randy Huff, Ponderosa went 5-5 his sophomore through senior years, advancing to the first round of the state playoffs each year. He also lettered twice in baseball.

ACADEMICS—He is majoring in Business (Finance & Marketing) at Colorado (scheduled to graduate in December 2012). A 2007 Colorado Chapter/National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete (one of 12 honored by the organization). He earned second-team Academic All-Big 12 Conference honors as both a sophomore and as a redshirt freshman. He maintained a 3.5 GPA in high school and was on the Honor Roll throughout.

PERSONAL—Born July 6, 1990 in Newport Beach, Calif. He enjoys playing video games and hanging out with friends. He has logged many hours of volunteer work and community service, including coaching kindergarten basketball in Parker. His father (Ken) played football at Rice and was named an honorable mention All-American; he was also one of his school's assistant coaches. Mother is Stephanie, an older brother (Justin) is one year ahead of him and attends CU and he has a sister, Jessica.

Season	TACKLES														
	G	Plays	UT	AT	—	TOT	TFL	Sacks	3DS	Hurr	FR	FF	PBU	Int	
2009	6	110	9	4	—	13	0- 0	0- 0	4	1	0	0	0	0	
2010	7	371	32	25	—	57	2- 3	0- 0	7	0	1	0	2	0	
2011	13	752	56	29	—	85	7-33	3-24	6	0	0	0	3	1	
2012	11	554	41	29	—	70	3- 9	1- 7	8	3	2	1	5	1	
Totals	37	1787	138	87	—	225	12-45	4-31	25	4	3	1	8	2	

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS—Interception Return Yards: 1-0 (2011), 1-0 (2012).

Special Team Tackles: 1,0—1 (2009); 0,1—1 (2011).

83 WILL PERICAK, DE

6-4, 285, Sr., 4L, Boulder, Colo. (Boulder)

AT COLORADO: Career—He set a Colorado record with 49 career starts (every game of his collegiate career), which also set the record for the most games played by a defensive player (topping the old mark of 48 previously held by four players). He became just the ninth defensive lineman to record 200 or more tackles in a CU career, finishing with 207 (which included 125 solo, the fourth most ever by a Buff defensive lineman); the 207 ranked 61st overall in CU history. He also had three career blocked kicks, the most by any CU player in two decades.

2012 (Sr.)—One of four team captains, he was an honorable mention All-Pac 12 performer as selected by the league coaches, he shifted full-time to defensive end three games into the season after starting the year at tackle; he played at both spots the first two games. His teammates selected him as the Zack Jordan Award winner as the Buffs' Most Valuable Player; a Boulder High School graduate, he was the first player from Boulder to be Colorado's MVP in 43 years, or since tailback Bobby Anderson won it in 1969. He also the recipient of the team's Dave Jones Award as the outstanding defensive player and received the Buffalo Heart Award, given by the "fans behind the bench." He enjoyed his finest season as a Buff, racking up 62 tackles (fourth on the team with 38 solo) with a lot of "garnish," topped by four forced fumbles, the most by a CU defensive lineman since 1990. In 563 snaps from scrimmage, he also had eight third down stops (including two on fourth down), six pressures, four passes broken up, six tackles for loss including two quarterback sacks, three tackles for zero, a fumble recovery, a touchdown save and a blocked PAT kick. He matched his career high with 10 tackles (3 solo) in the season opener against Colorado State, and also racked up eight against Arizona State and Utah; he had five or more in six games, with his solo best of five coming against Sacramento State (he had six total). In the preseason, *Phil Steele's College Football* ranked him as the No. 26 defensive tackle nationally, also selecting him to its second-team preseason All-Pac 12 team.

2011 (Jr.)—He started all 13 games, the first six and the last four at left defensive end, one at right defensive end and two at defensive tackle (though CU's front three were basically interchangeable). His teammates selected him as the co-recipient of the Dave Jones Award, presented to the team's most outstanding defensive player (shared with outside linebacker Josh Hartigan). He earned honorable mention All-Pac 12 honors from the league coaches, and garnered second-team All-Colorado honors from the state's chapter of the National Football Foundation. He played 652 snaps from scrimmage in finishing fourth on the team in tackles with 64 (33 solo); he had just a half-sack on the year but led the team in quarterback hurries with eight. He had five tackles at or behind the line of scrimmage (two for losses, three for zero), five third down stops, two passes broken up, a caused interception and a fumble recovery (the latter against Arizona). He had a career-high 10 tackles (seven solo) at Ohio State, with seven (one solo) at Utah, six (two solo) at UCLA and five on five other occasions. *Phil Steele's College Football* selected him to its preseason second-team All-Pac 12 squad, ranking him as the No. 37 defensive tackle in the nation; *College Sports Madness* named him to its third-team preseason Pac-12 unit.

2010 (Soph.)—He started all 12 games at nose tackle, earning honorable mention All-Big 12 honors from the *Associated Press* and the league coaches (he was second-team by the *Dallas Morning News* and third-team by *Phil Steele's*). He shared the team's Regiment Award with Rodney Stewart, presented by the coaches for the greatest contribution with the least recognition. In 621 plays, he was in on 45 tackles over the course of the season, 30 of the solo variety which included a team-best 16 at or behind the line of scrimmage (the most tackles for zero, 11, with five for negative yardage including two quarterback sacks). He also had six third down stops, four quarterback hurries and three QB chasedowns, or near-sacks. He had season-highs of seven tackles at California (six solo, including a team single-game best of three third down stops) and against Kansas State (five unassisted), with two for losses in each game; he had at least one tackle for zero in nine games. He earned the CU's Special Teams Player of the Week nod for the Colorado State game, when he blocked a Ram 37-yard field goal attempt as the first half ended to preserve a 17-0 CU lead. He was also the team's Lineman of the Week for the Hawai'i game, when he had two tackles, one for a loss, with both being third down stops. He was a preseason, fourth-team All-Big 12 Conference selection by *Phil Steele's*.

2009 (Fr.-RS)—He earned third-team Freshman All-American team honors from both collegefootballnews.com and *Phil Steele's College Football*, while *The Sporting News* and Rivals/Yahoo! Sports named him first-team Freshman All-Big 12. He also was named first-team All-Colorado by the state's chapter of the National Football Foundation. He started all 12 games at defensive tackle, the first freshman (true or redshirt) to start every game for an entire season in CU history; Leonard Renfro had the previous high with seven starts his redshirt frosh season in 1990. (He was the first to even start one game since Brandon Dabdoub in 2001.) He was in for 556 snaps from scrimmage, recording 36 tackles (24 solo, six for losses including three quarterback sacks and three for zero gains) to go with six third down stops, two fumble recoveries, two passes broken up and a forced fumble. He had a season-high eight tackles at Iowa State (five solo, two for losses with a sack), and he closed the year with six tackles (three solo, one sack) versus Nebraska. He added a wedge break on kickoff coverage duty on special teams. He was a recipient of the Gold Group Commitment Award, selected by the CU coaches, which recognizes excellence with class in a variety of areas. He added 35 pounds to his frame between arriving on campus as a freshman and the start of the 2009 season.

2008 (Fr.)—Redshirted; initially projected as a tight end as a true freshman, he was moved to defensive tackle just three days into camp practices. A valuable contributor on the scout team, he earned the Defensive Scout Team Award for his effort over the entire fall, which also earned him a Gold Group Commitment Award from the coaches.

HIGH SCHOOL—He earned All-Midlands honors from both *Prep Star* and *SuperPrep*, the latter ranking him as the No. 70 overall player in the region. Rivals.com ranked him as the No. 8 player in Colorado and the No. 33 linebacker in the nation, while Scout.com pegged him as the No. 10 performer in the state and the No. 26 middle linebacker nationally. The *Tacoma News-Tribune* named him to its Western 100 team at linebacker (one of 12). Closer to home, he was named All-Colorado by the *Denver Post* (for his play at linebacker), along with garnering first-team All-State, All-Centennial League (at both positions) and All-Region honors (the latter from the *Boulder Daily Camera*). As a junior team captain, he was named first-team All-Centennial League and second-team All-State (*Rocky Mountain News*) on defense, and was All-Region on offense at tight end. At tight end, he was named to the *Daily Camera* All-Region team and earned second team All-Centennial League honors. Boulder's overall Most Valuable Player and captain as a senior, he caught 33 passes for 283 yards and two touchdowns, while at fullback, he had 23 rushes for 110 yards and three scores. At linebacker, he recorded 118 tackles, 6.5 quarterback sacks, three forced fumbles and three recoveries. As a junior, he caught 18 passes for 168 yards and two touchdowns on offense; he was the team MVP on defense as at linebacker, he recorded 126 tackles (96 solo) with five quarterback sacks, two forced fumbles and two recoveries. As a sophomore, he received the team award for Hardest Working Underclassman, as he had 89 tackles, playing mostly linebacker, and also had 18 tackles as a freshman after being called up to varsity. He lettered three times in basketball, playing center, and was team captain as a junior and senior, and lettered twice in track, participating in the 100-meter dash and throws (discus, shot put); he was a state qualifier in the shot as a senior.

ACADEMICS— He is majoring in Business (Finance) at Colorado (scheduled to graduate in May 2013). A CoSIDA Academic All-District selection as a senior, he earned first-team Pac-12 All-Academic honors as a junior and senior and Academic All-Big 12 Conference honors both as a sophomore and redshirt freshman. As a senior at CU, he received the Dean Jacob Van Ek Award for academic excellence. He maintained a 3.97 GPA in high school, earning an academic letter three years and CHSAA Academic All-State honors as a junior and senior. A member of the 3.5-4.0 Honor Roll all four years in high school, he graduated 40th in his class of 460.

PERSONAL—Born December 30, 1989 in Boulder. He enjoys spending time with his family, and his hobbies include playing pickup basketball games, pottery and fly-fishing; his favorite fishing destinations are Green River, Wyo., and Sitka, Alaska, where his family has visited several times. He took part in the 2008 New Year's Day Polar Bear Plunge at Boulder Reservoir in 20-degree temperatures. He regularly volunteers with football and basketball youth camps at Boulder High School and tutors middle school kids in pottery classes. His mother (Wynn) is the assistant to the vice president of administration for the CU system, and he has an older brother (Tom) and sister (Zoe) who already attend CU. (*Last name is pronounced pre-check*)

Season	TACKLES												
	G	Plays	UT	AT	—	TOT	TFL	Sacks	3DS	Hurr	FR	FF	PBU Int
2009	12	556	24	12	—	36	6-33	3-21	6	0	2	1	2 0
2010	12	621	30	15	—	45	5-17	2- 9	6	4	0	0	0 0
2011	13	652	33	31	—	64	2- 4	½- 0	5	8	1	0	2 0
2012	12	563	38	24	—	62	6-33	2-16	8	6	1	4	4 0
Totals	49	2392	125	82	—	207	19-87	7½-46	25	18	4	5	8 0

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS—Blocked Kicks: 3 (FG vs. CSU, 2010; PAT vs. Cal, 2011; PAT vs. CSU, 2012).

7 RAY POLK, FS

6-1, 205, Sr., 4L, Scottsdale, Ariz. (Brophy Prep)

AT COLORADO: Career—He tied for 40th all-time at Colorado with 237 tackles (153 solo).

2012 (Sr.)—One of four team captains, he played in seven games (all starts), missing five games with a severe high ankle sprain he suffered in the first half of the season opener against Colorado State; he never really was at 100 percent after he did return but wanted to contribute in his senior season. In 332 plays of action, he was in on 45 tackles for the year (28 solo), with two for losses and one for zero for a total of three at or behind the line of scrimmage. He also had three touchdown saves, a third down stop and a pass deflection. He had a season-high 10 tackles in the finale against Utah (seven solo including a TFL), and had at least five tackles in each of the last six games of the season after returning from his injury. On special teams, he added two solo tackles, one inside-the-20, a knockdown blocked and a forced fair catch in addition to returning kickoffs for the first time in his career (he had five for 82 yards, or 16.4 per with a long of 26). He was fully healed from off-season wrist surgery which caused him to participate in the spring on a limited basis (he suffered the injury in winter conditioning). *Phil Steele's College Football* and *collegefootballmadness.com* selected him to its third-team preseason All-Pac 12 team. Steele also ranked him as the No. 14 free safety in the nation.

2011 (Jr.)—He started 11 games, all he played in as he missed the Oregon and USC games due to concussion symptoms, but still played 675 total snaps from scrimmage. He earned third-team All-Colorado honors from the state's chapter of the National Football Foundation as he tied for second on the team in tackles with 80; he led the Buffs in solo stops with 59. He was first in touchdown saves (8), second in pass deflections (6), and also had five third down stops and a forced fumble, the latter at Utah in the season finale at an important juncture: it came at midfield to thwart a Ute drive with less than five minutes left in CU's 17-14 win, which ended a 23-game road losing streak. Against Washington State, he made his first career interception, returning it 52 yards. He racked up eight special team points on the season (five tackles, four solo and one inside-the-20; a forced fair catch and a first downfield credit that altered a return). He had a career-high 17 tackles at Stanford, which included 11 unassisted, with eight tackles (all solo) versus California, seven on three occasions (Hawaii, Arizona, UCLA) and six three other times, including all of the solo variety at Utah.

2010 (Soph.)—He started all 12 games at free safety and played the second-most snaps from scrimmage by any defensive player (787, 12 fewer than Jalil Brown); that total was also the fifth highest on the team. He finished second on the team in tackles with 72, which included 42 solo. He had four third down stops, three touchdown saves, one tackle for zero (at Nebraska), one pass deflection (at Kansas) and one quarterback pressure. He had between five and eight tackles in a game 10 times, with season-highs of eight all in a row against Texas Tech (five solo), Oklahoma (four) and Kansas (three). He had five unassisted tackles on four occasions. He shared the team's Defensive Player of the Week nod for the Hawai'i game, when he racked up six tackles (five solo). On special teams coverage units, he earned eight points, as he was in one tackle (it was inside-the-20), with two forced fair catches on punts, two first downfield credits to alter return paths, a fumble recovery (which was against Iowa State) and a downed punt.

2009 (Fr.-RS)—He played in 11 games, 10 on defense, with three starts (Colorado State, Kansas State, Missouri); he missed the Iowa State game with a broken bone in his pinkie toe after he dropped a piece of furniture on his foot. He was in for 283 snaps from scrimmage, recording 40 tackles (24 solo, one for a loss), along with three quarterback hurries, two third down stops and two touchdown saves. He had a season-high 15 tackles (9 solo) at Kansas State, with nine the following game against Missouri. He racked up 10 special team points, tied for seventh-most on the team, on the strength of four tackles (three solo, one inside-the-20), two wedge breaks, a knockdown block, a forced fair catch and a caused penalty. He was a recipient of the Gold Group Commitment Award, selected by the CU coaches, which recognizes excellence with class in a variety of areas. He had limited work in the spring as he completed rehabilitation from shoulder surgery. He approached then-CU secondary coach Greg Brown on signing day in February, asking to be switched to defense.

2008 (Fr.)—Redshirted; he practiced as a tailback the first three months of the season but caught the eye of all the coaches with what he did on the scout team and on special teams. He was the Scout Team Offensive player of the week for the Iowa State game. Since he was redshirting, he took the opportunity to mend a shoulder subluxation with surgery on October 28.

HIGH SCHOOL—As a senior, he earned All-America honors from *PrepStar* and *SuperPrep*; the latter ranked him as the No. 4 overall player in Arizona (the second running back). *Rivals.com* ranked him as the No. 3 prospect out of Arizona and the No. 11 running back in the nation, while *Scout.com* tabbed him as the No. 10 state of Arizona product and the No. 43 running back in the country. The *Tacoma News-Tribune* named him to its Western 100 team (one of 14 running backs). A three-year letterman, he was a team captain during his senior season in which he gained 1,098 yards on the ground with 12 touchdowns in a balanced run-pass attack. He also filled in occasionally at cornerback, registering eight tackles, as he was called upon to fill in for the state semifinal and title game in the role. As a junior, he was a first-team All-State selection, as he rushed for 1,423 yards and 22 touchdowns; he played strictly cornerback as a sophomore. Top games included his sophomore season against Hamilton, as in a 15-14 win he made six tackles to go with an interception and a fumble recovery; as a junior, rushed for 220 yards and five touchdowns in a win over Westwood; in his senior season, he rushed for 212 yards and four touchdowns in a win over Mesa. Under head coach Scooter Molander, the former Colorado State quarterback, Brophy Prep went 12-2 his senior season, capturing the state title. His junior team went 8-3, advancing to the first round of the playoffs, and his sophomore team went 13-1, winning the state championship. An accomplished performer in track (three letters), he was considered one of the nation's top hurdlers in both the 110 and 300.

ACADEMICS—He is majoring in Political Science at Colorado (scheduled to graduate in December 2012).

PERSONAL—Born April 22, 1990 in Flagstaff, Ariz. His father (Raymond) played cornerback for Oklahoma State and was drafted by the Los Angeles Raiders in the 12th round of the 1985 NFL draft; he was traded to Tampa Bay before a torn hamstring ended his career. His father's uncle (Curtis Looper) is currently the running backs coach at Oklahoma State. One of his favorite things to do is visit Mission Beach, Calif., with a group of his friends every year. He has logged 70 hours of community service at the Upward Foundation, where he helps mentally challenged kids. The oldest of five boys in his family, his full name is Raymond Ray Polk and often goes by the nickname "Ray-Ray."

Season	G	Plays	TACKLES				TFL	Sacks	3DS	Hurr	FR	FF	PBU	Int
			UT	AT	—	TOT								
2009	10	283	24	16	—	40	1- 1	0- 0	2	3	0	0	0	0
2010	12	787	42	30	—	72	0- 0	0- 0	4	1	0	0	1	0
2011	11	675	59	21	—	80	0- 0	0- 0	5	0	0	1	6	1
2012	7	332	28	17	—	45	2- 2	0- 0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	40	2077	153	84	—	237	3- 3	0- 0	12	4	0	1	8	1

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS—Interception Return Yards: 1-52, 52.0 avg., 0 TD (2011).

Kickoff Returns: 5-82, 16.4 avg., 26 long. Special Team Tackles: 3,1—4 (2009); 1,0—1 (2010); 4,1—5 (2011); 2,0—2 (2012).

70 ERIC RICHTER, OG

6-3, 310, Sr., 1L, Mission Viejo, Calif. (Capistrano Valley/Saddleback College)

AT COLORADO: 2012 (Sr.)—He saw action in seven games on offense (no starts) and in 11 on special teams on the field goal/PAT unit. He graded out to 70.7 percent in 116 snaps from scrimmage (82 plus plays), playing primarily right guard; toward the end of the season he would be brought into to play on third down passing situations. He saw the most action in the finale against Utah (36 plays), when he had his best single-game grade of 77.8 percent. He has two will breaker blocks, did not allow a quarterback sack or pressure, and was flagged for just one penalty. He played all 36 snaps on the FG/PAT unit. He had entered the fall second at defensive tackle, but moved back to his old spot (guard) on offense the second day of August camp. In spring conditioning tests, he did 51 reps at 225 pounds (also did four reps of 440 and six at 405); those stats enabled him to make Bruce Feldman's (CBSSports.com) annual spring list of the Top 10 freaks (strongest in a good way), coming in at 10b.

(Jr.)—He saw brief action in one game (at Stanford), and dressed for six others; he was in for seven plays against the Cardinal. He moved to defensive tackle from offensive guard the first week of spring practices, and he adapted well to his new position. In the three main spring scrimmages, he recorded 12 tackles (nine solo, including one quarterback sack and two stops for zero gain) along with two hurries and a third down stop. Bruce Feldman (then with ESPN.com) ranked him as the fourth strongest player in college football on his annual Top 10 list, citing his sets of 6-to-8 reps of 405 pounds in the bench press, along with 41 reps at 225 pounds (and has done 500 pounds for 3 reps).

2010 (Jr.-RS)—Redshirted; he practiced all fall on the offensive line and also on the scout team. He was one of the strongest players on the team, as evidenced by his 505-pound bench press, the team best in spring conditioning drills. He enrolled at Colorado for the spring semester with three years to play two in eligibility.

AT SADDLEBACK COLLEGE (2008-09/Fr.-Soph.)—He was named the No. 56 on the *SuperPrep* JuCo 100 list and is the eighth offensive lineman on the list. He earned All-State and All-National Division Southern Conference honors as a sophomore in 2009 at Saddleback College under coach Mark McElroy. Saddleback earned a 16-6 record in his two years there, including 9-2 his sophomore season as he started at offensive guard in all 11 games and helped anchor one of the most prolific offenses in school history. Saddleback led the Southern Conference of the Southern California Football Association, scoring 37.5 points per game and racking up 370.9 yards of total offense per game, 142.0 on the ground and 228.9 through the air. Saddleback did not make the playoffs in 2009, but did host the Western States Bowl and defeated College of the Canyons, 31-20. He went head-to-head with Canyons' linebacker Evan Harrington, who also signed with the Buffs. Saddleback was 7-4 his freshman season and saw action in six games. The Gauchos advanced to the Southern California Football Association playoffs, losing in the first round that season.

HIGH SCHOOL—He earned first-team All-South Coast League mention as both a junior and senior at Capistrano Valley High School in Mission Viejo, Calif., in 2006 and '07, lettering twice under coach Chichi Biehn. He was also named the team's most valuable player as a senior. He started all 20 games his junior and senior seasons at Capistrano Valley.

ACADEMICS—He graduated with a degree in Sociology in December 2012 (he is interested in law enforcement as a career after college). He was an Honor Roll member every semester at Capistrano Valley.

PERSONAL—He was born July 19, 1990 in Huntington Beach, Calif. His older sister, Amber, played volleyball at Saddleback and earned the college's top female student-athlete award during the 2008-09 school year and is currently playing volleyball at Cal State-Fullerton. His younger sister, Crystal, plans to enroll at Saddleback and play volleyball next year. His cousin, Ian Kennedy, played baseball at Southern California and was recently traded to the Arizona Diamondbacks from the New York Yankees, where he was the 21st overall selection in the 2006 Major League Baseball draft and made his major league debut on September 1, 2007.

3 DOUG RIPPY, ILB

6-3, 245, Sr., 4L, Columbus, Ohio (Trotwood-Madison)

AT COLORADO: 2012 (Sr.)—He saw action in nine games (three starts, two at the mike linebacker spot and the other at the sam outside position due to injuries), playing 205 snaps from scrimmage. He sprained a knee in the season opener against Colorado State, and tried to make a go of it in the second week against Sacramento State, but after six plays, it was apparent he couldn't continue; he then missed the next three games. He posted 32 tackles on the year, 24 solo, one for a loss, three for zero, with two third down stops. He had a season-high seven tackles (six solo) at USC, and made six (five solo) against Washington when he also forced a fumble; he had five tackles in three other games: Oregon, Stanford (when he saw his most action of the year, 54 snaps) and Utah. He had entered the fall atop the depth chart at the "mike" inside linebacker position, but was to be limited in what he could do early on in August camp as he continued rehabilitation following knee surgery in November 2011. He was on the official watch list for the Dick Butkus Award (one of 51 players to earn the mention). He was presented with the Clancy A. Herbst Jr. Student-Athlete Achievement Award at the school's annual Academic Recognition banquet in April, as the honor is presented to athletes who overcome personal, academic or emotional difficulties to succeed both academically and athletically. In-between two knee surgeries, Rippy lost a longtime childhood friend, Damiko Russell, in a drive-by shooting in Columbus.

2011 (Jr.)—He started the first seven games at inside linebacker (the "mike" spot), before being sidelined the remainder of season after being felled by a knee injury and subsequent surgery. He still earned honorable mention All-Pac 12 honors from the league coaches (*Phil Steele's College Football* had tabbed him mid-season third-team All-Conference). He was the team's leading tackler through six games (52 at the time) and had added 10 more against Washington until he suffered torn ligaments (ACL and MCL) in the game in Seattle on Oct. 15; he underwent surgery on Nov. 15. He still finished fifth on the Buffs in tackles for the year with 62, 43 of which were solo that included five for losses and three quarterback sacks. He added three tackles for zero (giving him eight at or behind the line of scrimmage), two third stops, three quarterback hurries, a caused interception and a touchdown save. He had three games with double-digit tackle numbers, including a career-high 14 against California (nine solo, two for losses with a sack); he had 12 at Stanford (nine solo) and 10 against Washington (seven solo with one for a loss). His other sacks came against Colorado State and at Ohio State. He earned eight special team points on the strength of three tackles (one solo), three knockdown blocks and two forced fair catches. The coaches selected him as the Fred Casotti Award winner following spring practice, the honor going to the top junior-to-be.

2010 (Soph.)—He saw action in all 12 games (no starts), in each on special teams and in six on defense as a backup inside linebacker. He was in for 27 snaps from scrimmage, recording four tackles (one solo); three of those came against California, otherwise he had an assist versus Colorado State. He was a key performer on special teams, finishing third on the team in special team points with 23; those included a team season-high seven against Kansas State. He earned the points via six tackles (four solo, one inside-the-20), eight knockdown blocks, six first downfield credits that altered the opponents' return path and two wedge breaks. He moved to inside linebacker from the outside during the spring, when he had 10 tackles in the three main spring scrimmages. In spring conditioning tests, his 35-inch vertical leap tied for sixth-best on the team, showing he was fully recovered from postseason arthroscopic knee surgery by mid-January.

2009 (Fr.-RS)—Saw action in the first six games of the season, including one start at outside linebacker (at Toledo). He was hobbled by a sprained knee the second half of the year and underwent arthroscopic surgery in early December. He was in for 67 snaps from scrimmage in five of those six games before he got hurt, registering six tackles (one solo, a quarterback sack versus Wyoming). He also had a hurry, and tied the school record for the most blocked kicks in a game when he got his hands on two punts at Toledo (when he was in on a season-high three tackles, all assists). He earned eight special teams points on the strength of three tackles (two solo, one inside-the-20), the two punt blocks, a knockdown block and wedge break. FoxSports.com (Scout.com) named him to its preseason Redshirt Freshman All-America team.

2008 (Fr.)—Redshirted; practiced at both inside and outside linebacker over the course of the fall. He dressed for 10 games overall but was never pressed into duty.

HIGH SCHOOL—He earned All-Midwest Region honors from both *PrepStar* and *SuperPrep* as a senior team captain, when he was named first-team All-Greater Western Ohio Conference and All-District. SuperPrep ranked him as the No. 59 overall player in the Midwest (and the 11th best linebacker). Scout.com ranked him as the No. 20 player in Ohio and as the No. 16 linebacker in the nation, while Rivals.com pegged him as the 31st best player in the state and as the No. 59 linebacker in the country. He played just the one year at Trotwood-Madison, recording 80 tackles, with 12 tackles for loss including five quarterback sacks, three forced fumbles, three recoveries and eight passes broken up from the linebacker position. He attended Linden-McKinley High School in Columbus prior to relocating to Trotwood, and as a junior, he was named honorable mention All-State and first-team All-Conference, All-District and All-City at linebacker. He registered 180 tackles (148 solo), including 22 tackles for loss with nine quarterback sacks, 10 passes broken up, three forced fumbles, two recoveries and an interception. On offense, he played as many as four positions: quarterback, running back, tight end and wide receiver. He finished the season with 350 yards rushing and two touchdowns; 120 yards passing and three touchdowns; and 15 catches for 180 yards and two touchdowns. His top game as a senior came in a 31-25 victory over Edgewood in double overtime, as he had 13 tackles and a sack. His top game his junior season came in a 22-12 loss to Mifflin, when he had 18 tackles and three sacks on defense, and two touchdowns on offense (one rushing, one receiving). Under head coach Maurice Douglass, Trotwood-Madison went 8-4 in Rippy's senior season, advancing to the second round of the state playoffs; Linden McKinley was 0-10 his junior season. He also lettered three times as a prep in basketball, playing small forward and power forward, and once in track.

ACADEMICS—He is graduated with a degree in History and Ethnic Studies from Colorado in December 2012. A National Honor Society member in high school who has maintained a 3.2 grade average (he took several AP classes).

PERSONAL—He was born November 13, 1989 in Philadelphia, Pa., and has four siblings, two brothers and two sisters. He enjoys playing basketball, video games, listening to music and reading; he also knows how to play the clarinet. He names his mother (Nadene), his stepfather (David Blackwell) and his football coach his junior year (Timothy McKinley) as the most influential people in his life. Three cousins are or have played college basketball at Division I programs: Chris Wright played at Dayton (leading scorer as a senior in 2010-11) and Greg Moore played at Cincinnati; first cousin A.J. Davis played two seasons of basketball (guard) at Wyoming, and then transferred to James Madison where he will be a senior this fall. His second cousin is CU teammate Rodney Stewart, as both were members of CU's 2008 recruiting class. It was Rippy who told the coaches about his nearby relative.

Season	TACKLES													
	G	Plays	UT	AT	—	TOT	TFL	Sacks	3DS	Hurr	FR	FF	PBU	Int
2009	5	67	1	5	—	6	1- 6	1- 6	0	1	0	0	0	0
2010	6	27	1	3	—	4	0- 0	0- 0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2011	7	394	43	19	—	62	5-24	3-22	2	3	0	0	0	0
2012	9	205	24	8	—	32	1- 3	0- 0	2	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	27	693	69	35	—	104	7-33	4-28	4	4	0	1	0	0

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS—Special Team Tackles: 2,1—3 (2009); 4,2—6 (2010); 1,2—3 (2011).

85 DaVAUGHN THORNTON, TE

6-4, 230, Jr., 3L, Denver, Colo. (East)

AT COLORADO: 2012 (Jr.)—He saw action in nine games (no starts), catching seven passes for 73 yards; he caught five of those balls for 60 yards at Washington State (CU's lone win of the year). He earned six special team points (three tackles, one solo, and three knockdown blocks). He practiced at wide receiver during the spring (no catches in the major scrimmages), but returned to tight end for the start of August camp; he missed the first two games of the season as he was suspended for violating team rules.

2011 (Soph.)—He played in all 13 games, including one start (at Arizona State); he moved to wide receiver for the latter part of the season to bolster the numbers there. He caught six passes for 69 yards, but had one of the biggest receptions of the year: a 52-yard catch-and-run pass from Tyler Hansen got the Buffs out from being deep in their territory, allowing CU to keep its early momentum after taking a 7-0 lead at Utah (an eventual 17-14 win that snapped a school record 23-game road losing streak). He added two tackles, on solo, on special teams coverage duty. He was held out of the spring game after suffering a neck and shoulder injury in practice the Monday of the final week of practices. He caught six passes for 82 yards in the two scrimmages he played in prior to the injury.

2010 (Fr.-RS)—He saw action in 10 games, including two starts (versus Colorado State in Denver, the first game of his career, and at Kansas); he did not get into the Hawai'i or Kansas State contests. He caught one pass on the season, but made it count, as it covered 12 yards from Cody Hawkins for a touchdown at Kansas on a third down play near the end of the first half to give the Buffs a 35-10 lead. He had a solid spring, making seven catches for 72 yards and a touchdown in the three main scrimmages. He was the Iron Buffalo Award winner among the team's tight ends for hard work, dedication, toughness and total poundage lifted in the weight room.

2009 (Fr.)—Redshirted; practiced all fall at tight end.

HIGH SCHOOL—Rivals.com ranked him as the No. 14 player from the state of Colorado and he is the No. 2 tight end on that list. Scout.com lists him as the No. 104 tight end while ESPN rates him as the No. 117 tight end in the country. He was named All-Colorado by the *Denver Post*, second-team All-State by the *Rocky Mountain News* and All-Central Metro League as both a junior and a senior. He also earned All-Denver Prep League honors as a sophomore as East changed from the Denver Prep League to the Central Metro League prior to the 2007 season. He started at tight end for East his sophomore through senior seasons. Defensively, he saw action at defensive end, outside linebacker and safety as a freshman and sophomore, then started at defensive end as a junior and switched back to outside linebacker and started as a senior. As a senior, he caught 44 passes for 895 yards and 12 touchdowns offensively and came up with 50 tackles, including 28 solo, on the defensive side of the ball where he also had two sacks, one interception and one fumble recovery. He led the Central Metro League in receptions, receiving yards and touchdowns and also ranked in the top 15 in the state in all three categories, as well. Had eight receptions for 141 yards and a pair of touchdowns against Ranum in a 40-6 victory, five receptions for 100 yards and a touchdown against Gateway and five receptions for 57 yards and three touchdowns against Montbello his senior season. Lists his best game that year against Grandview in the state playoffs where he had seven receptions for 63 yards and a touchdown in a 48-20 loss, which followed up a four reception, 79 yard, two-touchdown performance in a 49-30 victory over Highlands Ranch in the first round of the playoffs. As a junior he caught 25 passes for 717 yards and nine touchdowns and had 39 tackles, 26 of them solo, with two sacks, one interception and one fumble recovery. He had three receptions for 180 yards and a 71 yard touchdown reception against Overland in a 51-45 victory his junior season. He was also the team's punter until classmate and fellow CU signee Zach Grossnickle joined the squad and in that time he had a punt over 40 yards. After Grossnickle returned, he became the team's long snapper on punts and kicks, a position he held through his senior season. A four-year letterman under coach Ron Woolfork (the former Buff linebacker, 1990-93), East was 7-4 his senior year and 8-3 his junior season, advancing to the second round of the state playoffs both years. Also an accomplished basketball player, he earned four letters and was member of back-to-back state champion teams. As a senior, he ranked second in the Denver Prep League with an average of 17.5 points per game (16th in the state) and also averaged nine rebounds per game. He averaged 16 points and 10 rebounds per game as a junior helping East to a 24-4 record while winning the title and 10 points and seven rebounds per game as a sophomore on the hardwood.

ACADEMICS—He is majoring in English at Colorado. He made the Honor Roll as a senior in high school.

PERSONAL—He was born October 14, 1990 in Denver. His hobbies include playing video games and spending time with friends. He is an accomplished chef and has aspirations of being a culinary arts chef (he says the best entrées he prepares are enchiladas and burritos). His father, David Thornton, played linebacker at Oklahoma State. Oldest brother, Dazzmond, currently plays basketball for James Madison University after beginning his career at Texas Tech. Another brother, Demetrius, is currently playing basketball at Cochise Community College in Arizona

Season	RECEIVING					High Games		
	G	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long	Rec	Yds
2010	10	1	12	12.0	1	12t	1	12
2011	13	6	69	11.5	0	52	2	54
2012	9	7	73	10.4	0	26	5	60
Totals	32	14	154	11.0	1	52	5	60

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS—Special Team Tackles: 1,1—2 (2011); 1,2—3 (2012).