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## Brookshier always brought the entertainment

Dusty Saunders reports on the airwaves

By Dusty Saunders  
*The Denver Post*

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Tom Brookshier, who died Friday, starred for CU and the Eagles before shining as an NFL broadcaster for CBS. Pat Summerall, his CBS partner, once told *The New York Times* their "conversation" was "like two guys in a saloon." (Denver Post file photo)

Anyone who spent time with Tom Brookshier has a story to tell.

He was that kind of a guy.

Mine goes back nearly 25 years when the football star and broadcaster, who died Friday night, was in Denver for a fundraising event for the University of Colorado, his alma mater.

Brookshier arrived a day early so he could spend an evening at Brendle's, a colorful restaurant and bar in LoDo on Market Street.

The elegant establishment (closed several years ago) was named after the late Bill Brendle, a legendary CBS Sports publicist and a close friend of Brookshier's.

We went there for what Brookshier said would be "a quiet, quick dinner" — quick, as in five hours later. And seldom quiet.

Brookshier entertained other dinner guests and the restaurant staff with humorous stories about broadcasting, football and Brendle, who died in 1982.

Obviously, a night to remember.

And the management of Brendle's remembered it two days later. No one paid the bill.

I called Brookshier at his Philadelphia office, offering to split the tab.

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Brookshier would have none of that, insisting it had been "his party," noting he had simply forgot to sign his expense credit card.

Brookshier sent a check to Brendle's, which included a hefty tip.

Football fans don't have to be reminded about Brookshier's great career as a star defensive back at CU and as an all-pro with the Philadelphia Eagles, and his short stint as an assistant coach at the Air Force Academy.

Because of Brookshier's football knowledge and personality, a move to broadcasting, first in Philadelphia and then at CBS, was seamless.

In the 1970s, Brookshier and Pat Summerall were the network's leading NFL announcers, working three Super Bowls.

The duo had a few detractors — and a lot of fans. Noted author Wilfrid Sheed summed up the fan base: "This pair has actually been known to approach the foothills of adult conversation. Brookshier is a natural wag who doesn't have to strain and Summerall sounds like a real friend and not a hasty arrangement."

Summerall once told The New York Times: "With Brookie it was more of a conversation, like two guys in a saloon."

And saloons were an important part of their lives away from the booth. They loved to party.

Once, after the telecast of a New York Giants home game, Brookshier and Summerall rented a carriage en route to a hotel party and decided to bring the horse to the event. They were stopped while attempting to sneak the animal into a freight elevator at the rear of the hotel.

Summerall eventually paid a price for after-hour adventures.

In his biography, "Summerall: On and Off the Field," he recalls that years after they left the CBS booth, Brookshier was the strong, lead person during a family intervention when "I was drinking myself to death."

Summerall wrote: "Brookie saved my life . . . literally."

Brookshier, a cancer victim, lived in suburban Philadelphia. He was 78.

## Around the dials.

The predictable pre-Super Bowl hype has started. The NFL Network is leading the way with more than 60 hours of coverage this week and 8 1/2 hours on Sunday. The network will even cover the Miami arrival of the teams. Wonder if we will get to see Peyton Manning's hotel room?

- Denver talk radio veterans Irv Brown and Joe Williams begin another weekly TV series, "Weekend Wrapup," at 7 tonight on KWHD-Channel 53.

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- Fox Sports, looking to increase its Saturday ratings for Major League Baseball games, is planning to move two games from the afternoon to evening. Both would feature the New York Yankees.

## Quotable.

"I've been with CBS Sports for 18 years. But if you take out the lunches, it's seven years." — the late Bill Brendle

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## Obama likes Kellogg's view

President Barack Obama in a future basketball broadcasting booth? Obama "warned" CBS analyst Clark



Clark Kellogg, left, and President Barack Obama chat at the Duke-Georgetown game Saturday. (Mitchell Layton, Getty Images)

Kellogg on Saturday that "after retirement I'm coming after your job. I'm not sure if it will be in three or eight years, but you must plan accordingly."

Obama also gave Kellogg a pep talk, noting the former Ohio State star is "the best color man in college basketball."

Obama and Vice President Joe Biden were interviewed on press row during Saturday's Georgetown-Duke game.

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