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Colorado's White led first stats listing

NCAA Stats at 75: Football star also served on Supreme Court

David Platti, Colorado Athletics

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Byron Raymond "Whizzer" White first made a name for himself while playing for Colorado's undefeated 1937 football team. The buzz about White started the previous season, but his statistics in 1936 were largely unconfirmed.

However, with the NCAA compiling nationwide statistics for the first time in 1937, there is no doubt that the availability of numbers to compare performances played a role in White becoming Colorado's first All-American in football.

White had taken over the Buffaloes' star role from Kayo Lam, who rushed for 906 yards in 1934 and 1,043 in 1935, numbers long presumed – but not validated – to be tops in college football. But with NCAA statistics as proof, White as a senior led the nation in rushing (1,121 yards in eight games), and in total offense (1,596 yards), all-purpose yards (1,970) and scoring (122 points) – marks that lasted until colleges went to 10- and 11-game schedules decades later.

Denver sportswriter Leonard Kahn labeled White "Whizzer" because "he seemed to whiz by people." For the record, White always felt he was "saddled with a nickname he didn't want ... or like." White also was a .400 hitter on the baseball team and a standout on Colorado's basketball squad that made the NIT in 1938.

But he was always modest about his college exploits.

"The only one I really remember," White said in 1989, "is after we beat Utah my senior year, the president of Utah's student body came to our locker room after the game with a piece of the goal post. Someone had painted on it, 'White 17, Utah 7.'"

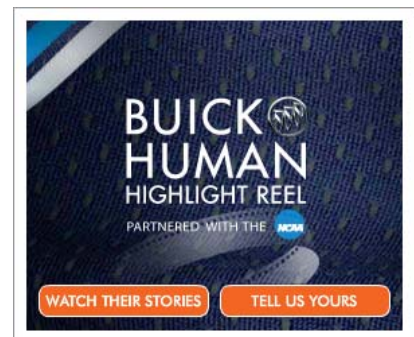
Indeed, White had scored all 17 points against the then-Frontiersmen.

The Pittsburgh Pirates, now known as the Steelers, made White the fourth pick of the 1938 football draft. He led the league in rushing with 567 yards that year and was named All-Pro. He left professional football to attend postgraduate school at Oxford University in England. After Oxford, White played one more season with Detroit and again led the league in rushing. In the offseason, he attended Yale Law School.

White was an officer during World War II, earning a Bronze Star and forming a friendship with John F. Kennedy. After the war, White returned to Yale and graduated first in his class in 1946. After a successful career as a corporation lawyer, he entered the political sphere in 1960, heading the pre-convention Kennedy movement that helped the soon-to-be president win the state of Colorado. White later served as deputy attorney general under Kennedy.

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White lead the NCAA in rushing in 1937.

On March 30, 1962, White was appointed an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court at age 44. He served for 31 years, and retired in March 1993. He is known in the college football community for being one of two dissenters in the 1984 antitrust case that deregulated football television rights.

White cherished his time as a college athlete, telling the *Rocky Mountain News* in 1994: "There is something special about operating in small groups like football teams. You're all organized and trained for a common end, and you'd better be ready to perform when it is time to. I worked in a lot of small groups, ... and of course, I spent 31 years in a very small group."

White died from complications of pneumonia in Denver at the age of 84 on April 15, 2002. Seventy-five seasons after he last roamed the gridiron for the Buffaloes, White still owns or shares 15 school records.

The NCAA Stats at 75 series will be published weekly through May and will include interesting statistical championship stories and all-time performances. This article first appeared in the Summer 2011 issue of NCAA's [Champion](#) magazine.

Video and photographs courtesy of the Colorado athletic department.

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15 MINUTES: Ex-CU star Pesavento has new path at Regis Jesuit

By COURTNEY OAKES

The Aurora Sentinel | Posted: Thursday, September 8, 2011 8:30 am

If you watched University of Colorado football in the early 2000s, you know Bobby Pesavento's name.

In just two seasons in Boulder after transferring from Fort Scott Community College in Kansas, Pesavento was the primary quarterback in 2001 for two of the Buffs' most memorable moments of the past decade — a 62-36 romp over then-No. 1 Nebraska and a 39-37 win against Texas in the Big XII championship game.

After an injury-plagued stint in the Arena Football League, Pesavento has embarked on a career in business development with Van Gilder Insurance and this season joined Mark Nolan's coaching staff at Regis Jesuit High School as a passing game coordinator. We caught up with Pesavento in the aftermath of the Raiders' opening game, a 20-16 loss to Valor Christian on Sept. 2, to talk about high school coaching, his memories from CU and the path he's taken since hanging up his cleats.

What comes to mind most when you think about your football career at CU?

"Those days were great. The memories of the things we accomplished with teammates and coaches definitely made it my favorite time playing football. We did some pretty neat things my senior year that I'll never forget. The crazy thing is that Saturday (Sept. 10) is the 10-year reunion of the Big 12 championship team. Time really flies by, but it's great to think back on. There are definitely two games I'll never forget. The Nebraska game and what we did to their defense in putting 62 points on them. The energy and excitement in Folsom Field that day was incredible. They were our rival and finally after 10 years of being so close, we were the group of guys that finally beat Nebraska. That was really special and then the weekend after that playing Texas in Dallas. That's going to be the one Big XII championship the school will ever have now, so to sit there and think I was the quarterback on the team that did that is surreal. Ten years later, it's still great to hear people say, 'I was a freshman when you were a senior and you made my college life that year.' All the things people say really makes me so proud to be a Colorado Buffalo."

Have you always wanted to be a high school football coach?

"I really thought I wanted a college coaching career, but when my playing career was over, it just wasn't a good fit for me. It's a whole other world at that level in terms of time commitment. I really just wanted to get to a place where I could find a career that could be flexible and then get

back around the game. I'd been doing stuff individually with quarterbacks in the offseason, but it wasn't really enough. I wanted to be around game planning and watching film. It was perfect timing for me at Regis and I'm really excited about it. Regis is a special place."

Are you still pretty competitive when you are on the sidelines?

"Once you choose to compete at the highest level, you're always going to have it. I didn't really know where it had been for about five years since I played, and Friday night was the first time I was on a field again and ready to compete. It was tough to lose. I came home and beat myself up about it because I hate to lose. That part of me hasn't gone anywhere yet. I was pretty fiery Friday night and even at practice. I don't want these kids to miss out on anything, and I never want to feel like I'm not giving them the best I have."

What were Friday nights during high school football season like for you growing up?

"I grew up in the world of basketball in Indiana, so football took a backseat, but Friday nights were still very exciting. At my school, we did a pasta dinner Thursday night at one of the players' houses, and Friday it was special to wear your jersey to school. Just building that friendship and camaraderie was great. I tell kids now when they ask about stuff beyond football that the five guys I really keep in touch with from high school were guys I played football with. It's a special bond that grows between guys when you are putting in all that hard work. You're not living the normal life of a kid. You have a lot of time commitments and places you are supposed to be, but you choose to make those sacrifices so you can play on Friday nights. It's special and you only get about 40 of them if you play all four years of high school."

Many college football players don't finish off their degrees as they pursue their football careers. How special was it for you to get your degree from CU?

"Playing in the Arena League was fun, and I got to spend five or six years continuing to play and be around the game that I love. But then it got to a point where I was 27, 28 and needed to move on with my life and find a career. I didn't want to be 35 and playing arena football and then thinking, 'What the heck am I going to do now?' So I walked away from the game. It was hard, but it was nice. I had three classes left to graduate, so I went back to CU in 2007 and handled that. Crazy enough, the day after I graduated, the arena team in Kansas City signed me. I thought I was done, but they brought me in for the end of the season and playoffs as a security blanket. So I hung out there for five weeks, then came back to Colorado and searched for a job. Getting my degree brought me a lot of pride. Even though I didn't do it in a regular time frame, I got it done and made mom and dad proud."

— Courtney Oakes: 303-750-7555, courtney@aurorasentinel.com

Harrison set to replace Washington at left tackle

Missed tackle fuels Raymond's fireExtra points . . .

BY ALLEN CAMERON, CALGARY HERALD SEPTEMBER 8, 2011



Edwin Harrison has missed the entire season so far with a torn pectoral muscle.

Photograph by: Christina Ryan, Calgary Herald

Edwin Harrison couldn't wipe the smile off his face as he walked off the field Wednesday at McMahon Stadium.

Nothing's official, of course, but all indications point to the 26-year-old Texan ending a long, frustrating stint on the injured list and making his 2011 Canadian Football League season debut Friday night when the Calgary Stampeders visit the Edmonton Eskimos.

Harrison, the Stamps' nominee last year as Outstanding Rookie, took the majority of reps at left tackle during Wednesday's practice, replacing struggling rookie Tony Washington, who had been flagged five times for illegal procedure in the past two games and was beaten cleanly by Edmonton's Marcus Howard on Monday, resulting in a sack and forced fumble.

"The body's feeling great, the legs are feeling good," said Harrison, who was placed on the nine-game injured list to open the season after he tore his pectoral muscle during off-season weight training. "I'm ready to run; I'm ready to hit somebody, that's probably the biggest thing.

"I've been looking forward to this day for a long time. I can't explain how excited I am; not necessarily just getting back out there and playing, but being with my teammates and feeling part of the team and being able to contribute."

The projected starting O-line — from left to right, Harrison, Steve Myddelton, Tim O'Neill, Dimitri Tsoumpas and Stanley Bryant — is pretty close to what the Stamps had hoped it would be prior to training camp. Instead, with injuries to Harrison and Tsoumpas, and some tinkering, the Stamps have had four different sets of starters in their first nine games, and this would make it five.

"It's important (to have continuity)," said Stamps coach and GM John Hufnagel. "You don't always have that luxury, but we're hoping that we do gel as an offensive line in the very near future and we can protect the quarterback better and run the football better."

Washington's struggles on Monday didn't go unnoticed by Harrison.

"It's not just Tony, but all guys who play football — in this game, you are going to be beaten. You are going to lose," said Harrison.

"The question is, how you come back from that loss. It not only defines you as a football team, but it defines you as a man. Tony will be fine. He'll come back. He's got more ability than anybody I've ever seen. And he'll be fine. And we'll be just fine." Washington was hardly the only frustrated Stampeder during Monday's loss to the Eskimos.

Defensive back Keon Raymond, for instance, has Adarius Bowman's third-quarter touchdown playing on a repeating loop in his mind. Bowman caught the ball in the flat, and Raymond had him in his grasp to keep the play to a short gain, but Bowman got away.

"That was the first touchdown I gave up this year, and I hated it. I hated it," said Raymond.

"I would rather the guy jumped over my head and made an outstanding catch, but to miss a tackle? But it happens. My biggest thing is to watch (the video) and see what I can do better next time to make the play.

"It just fuels my fire. I was ready to play after the game. I could have come back Tuesday and played another game. That's how hot I was, and I think the majority of my teammates felt the same way." CB Geoff Tisdale missed Wednesday's practice. "He bumped his knee little bit, so he took the day off," said Hufnagel. "We'll evaluate it (this) morning . . . If Tisdale can't play, look for Demetrice Morley to slide over from safety to replace him, and for Eric Fraser to start in Morley's spot . . . DB Taurean Allen also is eligible to come off the nine-game injured list this week, but it's doubtful he'll be activated for Friday's game.

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Ravens notebook: Gurode getting up to speed

By Aaron Wilson, Times Staff Writer | Posted: Thursday, September 8, 2011 12:15 am

OWINGS MILLS - Considering that the Baltimore Ravens aren't even listing center Matt Birk on the injury report following surgery on his left knee last month, it's unlikely that they'll need new center Andre Gurode to stand in for him on Sunday against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Just in case, though, the former Dallas Cowboys five-time Pro Bowl center intends to be prepared.

"If the challenge is there and the opportunity is there, if I can master the playbook, I'm going to do my best to learn the offense and be ready to play on Sunday, " Gurode said.

Birk practiced fully Wednesday and is expected to start.

And he's been helping Gurode get up to speed on the playbook.

"Matt is a guy who has taught me a lot over the years," Gurode said. "He was actually at my first Pro Bowl, and we have been talking back and forth over the practice schedule and things of that nature. He has helped me fit into the offense, and I am here to do whatever I can to help the team win."

Gurode visited the Seattle Seahawks, Detroit Lions and the New England Patriots before signing a one-year deal with Baltimore worth at least \$1.5 million with a maximum value of \$3 million. He played high school football with Ravens defensive end Cory Redding in Houston.

"The Ravens won because I thought I'd look slimmer in black," Gurode said with a laugh. "No, it's a very great, a very great organization. It's a good fit for me, and I am looking forward to doing some big things."

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Gurode was cut by the Cowboys primarily due to his \$5.5 million base salary.

"It was a salary-cap issue," Gurode said. "All respect to the Cowboys organization and Jerry Jones, I had a great time there, but I have moved on in my career. Now, I'm a Raven and I'm looking forward to enjoying it and seeing how the game is going to play out on Sunday."

GARRARD TO BALTIMORE IS UNLIKELY: The Ravens aren't expected to pursue former Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback David Garrard.

Garrard is seeking a starting job.

Ravens coach John Harbaugh was noncommittal on whether the team is interested in Garrard.

Tragedy paved path for Stamps lineman

Edmonton's Harrison, 33, is the first of his family to play in the CFL

BY WES GILBERTSON, CALGARY SUN

FIRST POSTED: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2011 10:49 PM MDT



EDMONTON - If any professional athlete has extra reason to fear

Harrison's grandfather, former Winnipeg Blue Bombers offensive lineman, died in a plane crash near Chilliwack, B.C., in 1956.

"I guarantee that getting in a plane crash is the last thing on my mind right now," Harrison said before Friday's Labour Day Replay against the Eskimos.

“Hey, if you’re worried about a tragedy or an earthquake or a flood, just surviving. You’ve gotta live life to the fullest because every day could be your last.”

On Wednesday morning, the hockey world was rocked by news that a Yaroslavl squad crashed into a riverbank in western Russia. Among the victims were Stamps’ McCrimmon, who was starting his first season as Lokomotiv’s Salei, Karlis Skrastins and Josef Vasicek.

Sixty-two people, including Jones, were killed when Trans-Canada

After a superb rookie season with the Blue Bombers in the West Division All-Star Game in Vancouver. As it turned out, that would be his last.

The talented lineman, who was supposed to eventually be head coach, was scheduled for an early departure but overslept and was absent.

Four Saskatchewan Roughriders — Gordon Sturtridge, Mel Beaudry, and

“My grandmother, the biggest thing that she could always say to me was, ‘unfortunate for my family to never get a chance to talk to or even see the great things up here. Especially for my family, all you have is your

I tend to get emotional every time I play somewhere because I know I do half of what he did.

“I go out every day knowing not only that I’m playing for my family but also for him.”

Harrison, 26, will return to the Stamps’ lineup for Friday’s rematch after a torn pectoral muscle. Although he never met his grandfather, Harrison claimed his life — have had a major impact on his personality.

“Things like this make you who you are. It shows the strength of a family defines not only you, but your entire family,” Harrison said.

STAMPS' LINEMAN FOUT!

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