

CU GOLF HISTORY & TRADITION

The game of golf migrated to the United States from Europe, and was introduced at the college level around 1850. As the sport became popular, proponents sought out the warmer climates where it could thrive year-round. And as golf popularity grew, it spread to the larger cities where there was a desire for outdoor recreation, but the financial burden of building and maintaining a golf course was rather great.

Several eastern universities were among the earliest institutions to entertain the game of golf as a "club." As this relatively new sport enticed athletes of all ages to allot their recreation time to it, cities began to select acreage specifically as sites for future golf courses. Around this time, the late 1800s, several universities were endowed with funds that permitted their own private courses. Golf fell in line with most other sports at the time, which originated as clubs at American colleges.

In 1901, a group of professors and students formed a club for golf at the University of Colorado, but were without any real local place to play until 1917, when the city of Boulder built a nine-hole course on the north side of town. This course featured "buffalo" grass, sand greens and a "pasture-pool," complete with gophers. College enthusiasts were invited to join the local "divot diggers," and so golf took off in Boulder Valley. Denver already had the Denver Country Club and Cherry Hills, so Boulder was growing up in this area.

Golf was one of the last minor sports to become a varsity program, attaining that status in 1912. CU initiated a golf team that year, and original opponents included Denver University, Colorado College and Greeley State Teachers College

(now Northern Colorado). World War I had delayed many of the college level sport programs, and the program resumed play in 1920 under Joe Mills, who had coached football the previous two seasons.

Golf at CU underwent a reorganization in 1924, with the first varsity match a challenge between two DU football players (who were caddies at Denver C.C.) and two CU football seniors, who kidded their opponents about the "sissy-game." They learned during the summer at a cost of 50 cents per round. Walt Franklin and Burke bought three clubs and six golf balls from a shop on Denver's Larimer Street to play the match, but there is no record of who actually won. But competitive golf had finally arrived on the CU campus.

Prior to World War II, team captains often served as player-coaches. But since 1948, the University of Colorado has had only two coaches, Les Fowler (1948-76) and Mark Simpson (1976-current). Fowler, an accomplished player himself, led CU into the Big Seven Conference in 1948, finishing second in the league meet as a senior player-coach. It marked the beginning of the modern era of Colorado golf.

It took the youthful Fowler just six years to bring the first championship to Boulder. In 1954, Keith Alexander shot a 216 for 54 holes, powering the Buffs to the league title. The following year, Fowler's team did it again, although the Buffs had to share the spotlight as 1955 Big Seven champions with Oklahoma.

When Oklahoma State became the eighth school to enter the conference, a dynasty of unequalled magnitude resulted. The Cowboys have proceeded to win every Big Eight tournament since 1958-with only three exceptions. In 1968 the Bison surprised the Grier Jones-led Okie Staters by shaving 35 strokes off the previous year's winning total to upset the defending



The 1953-54 Big Seven Champion Buffaloes

Front Row: Bob Webb, Keith Alexander, Jim Day, George Hoos;

Back Row: Coach Les Fowler, Dick Mulhauser, Sam Beeler, Bob Diehl, John Kettman.

University of Colorado Golf Coaches

Head Coach	Seasons	Tenure
Joe Mills	2	1920-21
Francis Keck	2	1922-23
Walter Franklin	3	1934-36
Mark Schrieber	1	1940
Leo Stasica	1	1944
Don Bell	1	1947
Les Fowler	29	1948-76
Mark Simpson	29	1977-2005
Brad Neher	1/2	2006 (interim)
Roy Edwards	4	2006-current

(prior to World War II, team captains often served as player-coaches)



Mark Simpson's first Buffalo team (1977)

champs and interrupt the Cowboys' dominant hold. (Missouri won in 1984 and Oklahoma in 1992.)

That 1968 win surprised many a CU golf follower because the Buffs had just lost their all-time best golfer to graduation-Hale Irwin. Irwin, a two-sport star who captained the football team as a senior defensive back, won the individual league title in 1966 by three strokes to pace the Buffs to a second-place finish. He was also co-champion in the rain-shortened, 36-hole tourney the following year with OSU's Jones.

But it was that final year of Irwin's which brought prominence to Colorado golf. The current pro standout won the 70th annual NCAA Championships over such future touring luminaries as Johnny Miller, Hubert Green, Jerry Heard and Rick Massengale.

Irwin continues to be an authoritative force with the PGA. He is just one of a handful of players who have won over \$8 million on the Tour. He was won over 30 major tournaments, including the U.S. Open three times (1974, 1979, 1990), between the PGA and Senior PGA tours.



The 1992-93 Buffaloes, featuring among others, future pros Jonathan Kaye and Scott Petersen and two-time Big Eight champion Bobby Kalinowski.

DID YOU KNOW?... that former CU golfer **Jonathan Kaye** owns the PGA Tour record for the most improvement from one round to the next? At the 1999 Bob Hope Classic he shot a second round 83 but came back with a 62 in the third round. The 21 stroke improvement is a PGA record.

Irwin, though, wasn't the first CU golfer to make it big on the pro tour. Dale Douglass, a 1959 graduate, also made his professional mark after college.

Douglass rarely lost an individual match throughout his collegiate career and was one of the Big Eight's top stars his senior year, finishing fifth in the league championships. As a professional, Douglass' best year was 1969 when he won both the Azalea and Kemper Opens. The two-time president of the Tournament Players Association also won the 1970 Phoenix Open. Most recently, Douglass has made it big on the PGA Seniors Tour, becoming one of its top money winners.

For several years in the Big Eight, the Colorado golf team played second fiddle to Oklahoma State as a powerful foe. After suffering poor finishes in 1973 and 1974, Mark Simpson joined with the legendary Les Fowler to lead the Buffs to a third place in '75 and second in '76. Simpson then took over the reins of the program in January, 1977, and would lead the Buffs to 11 NCAA tournament appearances and 13 first-division finishes in conference action, including a trio of runnerup efforts.

Simpson's first star recruit, Steve Jones, also has made it big on the PGA Tour, winning three tournaments in 1989 alone and the 1996 U.S. Open.



Simpson has coached seven all-Americans and 15 all-conference players.

In 1994 another Simpson recruit, Bobby Kalinowski, joined Irwin as a two-time Big Eight champion.

In 1996, one of the most powerful collegiate golf conferences was born out of the formation of the Big 12 Conference, which consisted of all members of the old Big Eight and four members of the disbanded Southwest Conference. The conference has averaged five teams in the Top 25 since its inception, with Colorado often included in that mix.

CU returned to the NCAA Championship finals in 1999 after a five-year absence in stunning fashion. In the NCAA Central Regional on the Ohio State campus, the Buffs pulled off the second largest rally in the 11-year history of the regional format. CU climbed from 18th to 10th place on the final day, and then won a playoff on the first hole against Kent State to advance to the national finals.

The Buffaloes returned as a regular member of the nation's Top 50 during the 1999-2000 season, and have climbed as high as No. 10 in the polls over the last decade. In 2001-02, the Buffs had one of their best years in tying for 14th in the NCAA Championship Finals. The 2003-04 team won the Western Intercollegiate, the first team win in four years, and set a school record for stroke average both overall (73.77) and the spring (73.71).

Colorado has appeared in the NCAA Finals 15 times and in the Championships 27 times overall; on 14 other occasions, CU has been represented by at least one individual.

Backlund NCAA Golf Medalist

Buff Ace Fires 137 For Record

For Record

SPORTS

Wednesday, June 23, 1953 39

All Smiles

Merle Backlund, the University of Colorado's golf ace, shot with four Aces (score of 137) to lead the field of 137 golfers in the NCAA golf tournament today at Colorado Springs. Backlund shot rounds of 68-68 for a 137 total to lead the field of 137 golfers in the NCAA golf tournament today at Colorado Springs. Backlund shot rounds of 68-68 for a 137 total to lead the field of 137 golfers in the NCAA golf tournament today at Colorado Springs.

Backlund, the University of Colorado's golf ace, shot with four Aces (score of 137) to lead the field of 137 golfers in the NCAA golf tournament today at Colorado Springs. Backlund shot rounds of 68-68 for a 137 total to lead the field of 137 golfers in the NCAA golf tournament today at Colorado Springs.

The first individual national title in Colorado golf history, as the late Merle Backlund was the medalist in the 1953 NCAA meet.

Tragedy hit the program in 2005, as on December 5, Simpson passed away after a valiant yearlong battle against cancer. Ironically, he would coach the Buffaloes for the exact same amount of time as Fowler, his predecessor and coach. The duo combined to coach 58 seasons for the school. The legacy the two created was one the administration looked to continue when Roy Edwards was named just the third full-time head coach in CU history.

In Edward's third season, he coached the Buffaloes to a second place finish in the Big 12—CU's first runner-up conference finish since Simpson's teams did so in 1979, 1980 and 1981.



Hale Irwin and Steve Jones came back to Boulder in 1997 and put on a clinic for the current Buffalo team.

THE BUFFS AND THE U.S. OPEN

Did you know that **Colorado**, Ohio State and Wake Forest have produced the most United States Open winners in history? The Buffaloes, Buckeyes and Demon Deacons have had their respective alums win four titles—for Colorado, **Hale Irwin** has won three (1974, 1979, 1990) and **Steve Jones** one (1996). The trophy in 1974 is pictured at right.

CU was the only school in the 1990s to boast two winners (Irwin in '90, Jones in '96), and was also the only school to produce two in the 1970s (Irwin in '74 and '79). No school has ever had three in the same decade.

In 1999, junior-to-be **Matt Call** became the first Buffalo to play in the U.S. Open while still attending CU when he advanced through the two stages of local and sectional qualifying. In 2002, senior and current CU assistant coach **Ben Portie** earned a spot in the same fashion in the Open just three weeks after playing his final collegiate round. That same year, current CU junior **Derek Tolan** qualified and played as a 16-year-old.



BUFFALO GREATS

A look at *some* of the greats in Colorado golf history, including conference champions, multiple record holders and major tournament winners, and/or those who have made their mark professionally.

At Colorado (1953-56): The first Buffalo to win Big 7 Conference medalist honors when he won with a 216 score in the 1954 meet, he helped Colorado to the team title, its first Big 7 crown in golf. Emerging as CU's No. 1 golfer as a sophomore in the spring of 1954, he was the first and remains the only soph in school history to win a conference medalist honors. By tying for 10th in 1955 and eighth in 1956 in the league meet, he became the first (and to date, still one of just five) CU players to have recorded three top 10 finishes in the conference championships. He is believed to have compiled a 25-10-2 record in dual match play, a pretty impressive figure for a No. 1 man, and led CU to the NCAA Championships in both 1954 and 1955.

KEITH ALEXANDER



At Colorado (1950-53): Colorado's first national champion in golf, as he won NCAA medalist honors in 1953 at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, when he recorded a 69-68—137 scorecard for a then-NCAA record 7-under par; it was in the day when the field was pared to the low 64 after medal play, and despite losing in the first round of match play, he became only CU's fourth national champion in its athletic history at the time (joining three track performers: Gil Cruter, Dave Bolen and Warren Bateman). The 137 was a record at the time as well, besting the old mark of 138 set by a most familiar name in 1950: Wake Forest's Arnold Palmer. In the Big 7 Championships, he finished ninth as a sophomore and third as a senior.

MERLE BACKLUND



At Colorado (1978-82): The first and to date only golfer in Colorado history to play in four NCAA Championships, as he went individually as a freshman in 1979 (also a first and only) and as a senior in 1982 and with the full Buff contingent in 1980 and 1981. He finished second in the 1979 Big 8 Championships, to date the highest finish ever by a Colorado freshman in a conference championship meet. He tied for 5th in the 1981 event and for seventh in the '82 affair, making him one of just five Buffs to have recorded three top 10 finishes in league championship play. His third place finish at the 1978 Falcon Invitational would stand as the best by a CU freshman in his first meet for 21 years. The summer after he completed his CU eligibility, he pulled off the rare sweep in winning both the Colorado State Stroke and Match Play championships. He was a third-team All-American in both 1981 and 1982.

RICK CRAMER



Professionally: He played briefly on the PGA Tour but did play several seasons on some of the other pro tours, and is currently involved in the Gateway Tour Series in the Phoenix area.

At Colorado (1956-59): Owned a career stroke average of 74.11 as a Buff, playing in an era where dual matches were the norm and tournaments were the exception. He posted three top 10 finishes in the Big Seven/Eight Championships, tying for eighth as a freshman in the '56 Big 7 meet, and taking seventh and fifth in the '58 and '59 Big 8 tests, respectively; he was the second Buff (and still one of just five) to record three top 10 finishes in conference championship play.

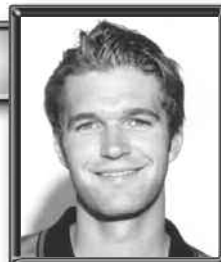
DALE DOUGLASS



Professionally: A member of the Champions Tour since he turned 50 in 1986, he has 11 victories on what was formerly known as the Senior Tour; he became just the fifth player in history to play in 500 tournaments when he reached the mark in 2003. He starred on the PGA Tour after turning pro in 1960, winning three events. He has won just under \$7.5 million on the Champions Tour and over \$9 million as a professional.

At Colorado (1994-99): He led the team in stroke average all four of his playing seasons, one of just two Buffs to do so (with Steve Jones), but they weren't in consecutive years as he redshirted after his true junior season. He led the Buffs at the 1995 NCAA Central Regional in 1995, tying for 14th, and played in one other NCAA meet (in 1999 as a senior). He played 133 rounds, and with 127 counting toward team scoring, he set the school record for percentage counted (95.5). He had a career stroke average of 74.34, and he had 11 top 10 and 22 top 20 finishes in his career. Over the course of his career, he was the top Buffalo scorer in 27 tournaments, the most in school history.

KNUT EKJORD



At Colorado (1945-76): He tied for fourth in the first Big 7 Conference championship meet Colorado ever played in, as he recorded a 147 score for 36 holes in the 1948 meet. Following his graduation, he would coach the Buffaloes on a volunteer basis for a total of 29 seasons, actually starting as a player-coach his senior year. His top players out of over 125 that played for him included Hale Irwin, Dale Douglass, John Hamer, Gary Polumbus, Larry McAtee, Bill Musselman, Tom Woodard, Mark Crabtree and the man who succeeded him as head coach, Mark Simpson. His teams won three conference titles and reached the NCAA Championships seven times, with the 1968 team posting the school's best ever national finish when it tied for eighth. He was a district manager in the insurance business, and active in Boulder politics as a city councilman and state representative and state senator. Though he never played professionally, he was one of the states top amateur golfers for four decades, including senior golf, and is a member of the state of Colorado Golf Hall of Fame. He passed away on February 8, 2003 at the age of 78 in Boulder.

LES FOWLER



At Colorado (2004-09): He finished 14th in the most rounds played (113) at Colorado, finishing 16th in career stroke average (74.45), ninth in top 5 finishes (7), sixth in top 10 finishes (12) and ninth in top 20 efforts (18). As a senior, he was the Co-Male Athlete of the Year at Colorado for all sports (with teammate Derek Tolan), he played in all 13 tournaments, with two wins, five top 5, eight top 10 and 10 top 20 finishes. He earned PING All-Region honors and was an honorable mention All-American, finishing as the No. 46 ranked player in the nation (Golfweek). He recorded a 71.98 stroke average for the season, the third best in school history (and his 71.32 average during the spring the second best, just .02 off the record). His outstanding spring was topped by his victory in CU's Stevinson Ranch Invitational, where he cruised to the win with an 8-under par 208 score. His top fall highlight was his first career collegiate win, when a 67-69-68—204 scorecard earned him medalist honors at Denver's Ron Moore Invitational at Green Valley Ranch GC in Denver. The 12-under par effort matched John Lindberg's school record for the most strokes under par that he set in the 1989 BYU Classic. He was named the *Golfweek* National Player-of-the-Week for the week ending Sept. 22 after he won the DU-Ron Moore invite, and in the process was believed to be the first player in CU history to be afforded such an honor. He turned pro following his senior year, and won the Adams Tour's Coca-Cola Wal-Mart Open (in Louisiana) in March 2010.

PATRICK GRADY



At Colorado (1961-64): He helped CU to a tie for 18th in the 1964 NCAA Championships, tying for 36th individually (73-78—151), the same year he tied for fifth in the Big Eight Championships (73-71-71—215), as he led the Buffs to a third place finish. Dual meets were more the norm for his day, and as a senior, he posted one of the best dual marks in school history, going 14-2 on the year, with a low round of 68.

JOHN HAMER



After CU: He opted not to pursue a professional career, but took the state of Colorado by storm in the amateur ranks. He owns 10 CGA state titles, including four individual championships (1969 and 1970 Stroke Play; 1992 and 1996 Senior Stroke Play). He was the state amateur of the year in 1969, is one of only three players to ever win back-to-back stroke play titles, and was inducted into the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame in 2002.

At Colorado (1964-67): The 1967 NCAA individual champion, winning by two strokes with a 2-under par 286 score, an effort that saw him post a 65 in the third round, which included a hole-in-one. The all-time CU leader in tournaments won (4), he also racked up two medalist honors in Big 8 Conference play, winning the 1966 title outright and sharing the '67 crown when he was a first-team All-American. His 72.04 stroke average as a junior still reigns as a CU single-season best, as are his eight rounds in the 60s that year, and he is one of just five players to have led the Buffs in average three or more seasons. He earned a combined six letters in football and golf; after playing quarterback as a sophomore, he became a two-time first-team all-Big Eight selection at weak side safety 1965 and 1966, making nine interceptions (in 1989, he was selected to the 25-member All-Century Football Team for CU's first 100 years of football).

HALE IRWIN



Professionally: The all-time money winner on the Champions (Senior) Tour with \$25 million, and he has over a \$6 million advantage over No. 2 Gil Morgan. He won 20 times on the PGA Tour, including three U.S. Opens (1974, 1979, 1990); had 45 Champion Tour wins through 2008, including two U.S. Senior Open crowns (1998, 2000); and 18 other professional wins including international play. His son, Steve, also played for the Buffs between 1994-97, and the two won the 2003 Father-Son Challenge. He is also very active in his own golf course design company.

At Colorado (1977-81): He set numerous school records during his CU career, in which he became the first and only player in school history to record four top 10 finishes in the conference championship meet (two thirds and two sevenths in four Big 8 title meets). A second-team All-American as a senior in 1980-81, when he had nine top 10 finishes and ten top 20 efforts, which are both still school bests. Over the course of his career, he had 19 top 10 and 26 top 20 finishes, both CU records, and was the top Buffalo scorer in 23 tournaments, tied for the second most in school history. He is the only player in Buff annals to lead the team in stroke average for four consecutive seasons, and one of just two to do it four times overall.

Professionally: He has \$6.5 million in career earnings through 2008 (he became the sports' 99th millionaire when he topped that figure). He has won eight times on the PGA Tour, none bigger than his 1996 U.S. Open title. His win in the 1997 Phoenix Open was landmark, as his 11-shot victory was accomplished by scoring the third lowest 72-hole score in PGA history at the time (a 26-under 258). He was the medalist in the 1986 Tour Qualifying School, finally making it to the big time in 1987.

STEVE JONES



At Colorado (1976-81): During his CU career, he played the second most rounds in school history when he teed it up for 18 holes 152 times. But in 1981, in his last Big 8 Conference championship meet, the three rounds he recorded there were most memorable as he ended a 14-year run by Oklahoma State golfers in claiming medalist honors with a 211 score. His 41 rounds during the 1976-77 season still stand as the most ever in a single year by a Colorado freshman. He earned honorable mention All-America honors as a senior in 1981.

TERRY KAHL



At Colorado (1991-94): He became the ninth (and to date, last) player to win back-to-back Big 7, Big 8 and/or 12 Conference medalist honors when he captured both the 1993 and 1994 Big 8 Championships. He joined Hale Irwin as the lone Buffaloes to accomplish the back-to-back feat. His 72.62 stroke average as a senior in 1993-94 was the best in CU history by a senior at the time; his 144 career rounds are tied for the third most by a Buff, with a career stroke average of 73.97. He is tied for the most top five finishes in CU history (11), ranks second in top 20 finishes with 25 and fourth in top 10 efforts with 14. A third-team All-American his junior season in 1993 and a second-team performer as a senior in '94, when he recorded a school record six top five finishes.

BOBBY KALINOWSKI



At Colorado (1990-93): He joined the Buff team after spending his freshman year at Phoenix Community College, and formed quite a CU trio with Scott Petersen and Bobby Kalinowski. As a junior in 1992, he won the PING-Arizona Intercollegiate in style, as he defeated Phil Mickelson on the first playoff hole; he was also the co-medalist at the '93 Air Force Falcon Invitational as a senior, making him one of eight players in school history to win multiple major tournaments. One of six players in school annals to record a 65 (or better) round in competition when he shot 31-34 in the 1990 Wyoming Invitational; the 31 on the front tied the second best single 9-hole score in Buff history as well. He owned a career stroke average of 74.98 with eight top 10 and 13 top 20 finishes in his Colorado career.

JONATHAN KAYE



Professionally: Now a regular on the PGA Tour, with over \$10.3 million in earnings through 2008. He finally broke through for his first Tour win in 2003 when he won the Buick Classic in Harrison, N.Y. and won the FBR Open in 2004. He played on and off on the Tour, mainly due to a rotator cuff injury, but tied for second in the 1998 Qualifying School and has been a regular since 1999; that year at the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, his 21-stroke improvement from round one to two (83-62) set the PGA Tour improvement mark.

At Colorado (1972-73): He played just one season of golf, joining the team his senior year. He led the team in stroke average with a 74.00 norm for 16 rounds, posting three top 10 finishes which included a victory in the Galveston Island Intercollegiate, where he won with a 1-over par 289 score.

After CU: He is the owner/general manager of Stevinson Ranch Golf Club (Stevinson, Calif.), and has played a key role in the tournament the Buffaloes have hosted annually since 1999 on one of California's top public courses. After graduating from CU in 1973, he played three years as a touring pro on the European, Asian and Australian tours. After his playing days, he became a real estate broker with an eye on golf, brokering several large scale golf course deals, and in the early 1990s, he set forth to build the highly acclaimed Stevinson Ranch on family owned land in central California. He is often a guest lecturer and is active in the National Golf Course Owners Association.

GEORGE KELLEY



At Colorado (1986-89): His 73.65 career stroke average is the third best in CU history (it set the record at the time), the second best for a player with 100-plus rounds; his 71.15 stroke average the fall of his junior season still ranks as the best for the fall portion of a season at Colorado, while he is tied for the most wins (4) and top five finishes (11) in a CU career (he is second in top 10 efforts with 18 and fourth in top 20 finishes with 23). He set, and still owns, the Colorado records for low score for 36, 54 and 72 holes, all set during his junior season: a pair of 66s for a 132 at the Robertson Homes Invitational set the two round mark; a final round 72 in that meet for a 204 set the 54-hole standard; and his 284 score earlier that same fall in the New Mexico Tucker Invitational established the four round best. And for his career, he was the top Buffalo scorer in 23 tournaments, tied for the second most in school history. He was a second-team All-American as a senior in 1989 after being an honorable mention choice as a sophomore.

JOHN LINDBERG



At Colorado (2002-06): He tied for the third most rounds played in Colorado history, 144, including three GCAA Match Play Championship rounds. His career stroke average of 73.54 ranked third all-time for the Buffaloes, behind only one-time teammate Kane Webber (72.90) and Scott Petersen (74.37); it was the second best figure for 100-plus rounds other than Webber. He set the school record for low single round (63), as well as the most under par (-8) for 18 holes. By holding both the low gross score and most-under-par records for a single round, he became the first player to solely own both marks since Hale Irwin did so between 1967 and 1981. For his career, he had 13 top 10 tournament finishes, including a school record six straight during the course of his senior season, and 20 top 20 finishes. He was named CU's Male Athlete of the Year for all sports at the school's annual CUSPY (CU Sports Performers of the Year) Awards for 2005-06, when he also earned honorable mention All-America honors. He was two-time PING/GCAA All-Central Region selection and was just the second CU player to earn All-Big 12 and All-Big 12 Tournament Team honors in the same season when he did so as a senior.

EDWARD McGLASSON



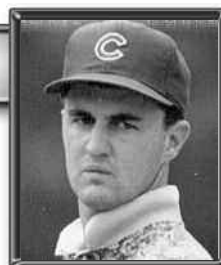
At Colorado (1967-69): As a senior in 1968, he earned first-team All-America honors, the last CU player to do so. He was the No. 1 man on the Buffalo team that posted the school's best-ever finish at the NCAA Championships, as he led the Buff to an eighth-place tie in the meet at Las Cruces, N.M. He tied for eighth individually (70-72-75-74—291), to date the third best individual finish in the NCAA's by a University of Colorado golfer. He led the team in stroke average as a senior (73.80), when he finished second in the Big 8 Championships with a 212 score, falling to Oklahoma State's Grier Jones by two shots; however, he was one of three Buffs to finish in the top four in leading Colorado to the Big 8 title, its last conference crown to date.

BILL MUSSELMAN



At Colorado (1991-93): As a senior, he earned honorable mention All-America honors, when he was a second-team All-Big 8 performer. He led the team in stroke average both as a senior (73.5) and as a junior (73.4), one of only eight players in school history to do so for multiple seasons. He set a mark for the lowest CU career stroke average for 50 or more rounds with a 73.47 for 77 rounds, a mark that stood through 2003. His senior year, he won the John Burns Intercollegiate (Honolulu) and the Fresno State Lexus Classic, and he posted eight top 5, nine top 10 and 15 top 20 finishes in his career. An honorable mention All-American his senior year (1993). Prior to transferring back to the state where he starred as a prep (at Englewood's Cherry Creek High School), he lettered twice at the University of Tulsa in 1989 and 1990.

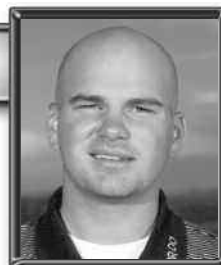
SCOTT PETERSEN



Professionally: A member of the Nationwide Tour since 2000, as well as in 1996; he played on the Canadian Tour from 1997-99. He has came up just short several times in his bid for his PGA Tour card, but has won over \$540,000 as a pro, including wins at the 1997 Infiniti Championship, the 1999 Samsung CPGA Championship and the 2000 Colorado Open.

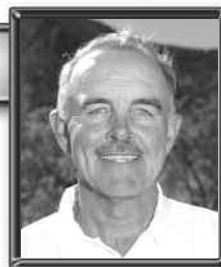
At Colorado (1997-2002): Playing as CU's No. 1 man over the course of his entire senior season, he completed his career with a 73.89 stroke average, fifth-best all-time at Colorado (at the time), with his 106 career rounds tying for the 13th most. As a senior, he led CU with a 72.46 average, the second best number in Colorado history at the time. His spring stroke average of 72.44 set a school record, and was the first Buff under 73 in the spring since Steve Jones did so in 1980. He became the fifth CU player to post a season stroke average under 73, putting him impressive company with Dale Douglass, Irwin, John Lindberg and Bobby Kalinowski. He also led the team in top 10 finishes (4), top 20 finishes (8), rounds in the 60s (5), subpar rounds (12), first round average (71.15), middle round average (72.79), final round average (73.50), and in rounds counting toward team scoring (38 of 39, or 97.4 percent). He tied for 33rd in the NCAA Championships (66-72-75-73—286), becoming the first Buff since Irwin to lead at any point of the finals after his 5-under par 66 in the first round. He won the 2002 sectional qualifier for the U.S. Open, shooting rounds of 68-67—135 and earned the right to play in the U.S. Open on the famous Bethpage Black course in Farmingdale, N.Y. (though he missed the cut). He turned professional immediately following the qualifier, and went out and won his first professional tournament (Green Mountain Open, Killington, Vt.) the following weekend, winning \$10,000 as a tune-up for the Open. After a two-year stint as CU's assistant coach, he is now the head pro at Sterling Country Club.

BEN PORTIE



At Colorado (1968-2005): Student, Athlete, Facilities Manager, Administrator, Assistant Coach, Head Coach. Simpson held all those roles over nearly four decades as a Buffalo, until cancer claimed him early at the age of 55 on December 5, 2005. He had a modest playing career at CU, earning three letters, but would make his mark as one of the top coaches in the collegiate game. On January 12, 2005, he was inducted into the Golf Coaches Association of America Hall of Fame. Simpson had replaced his own coach, the legendary Les Fowler, in January 1977, and would coach the Buffs for 29 years, the exact length Fowler had done so. He presided over 421 events as head coach, the fifth most for any sport in school history. He was most proud of the fact that 119 of the 129 players he brought into the program (92.2 percent) graduated with a degree from CU. He was the 1981 Big Eight Conference and NCAA District Five coach of the year, when CU finished second in the league and 11th in the nation. He was named the co-Big 12 Conference Coach of the Year in 2000, as his Buffaloes finished third in the league meet and were ranked in the nation's Top 25 for most of the year. He was also a finalist for induction into the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame in 2002, and in 2004, the organization recognized him for his contributions to the sport and honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award. Simpson's teams went to the NCAA's 15 times in his tenure. Under his tutelage, Colorado produced seven different All-Americans who combined for 13 accolades (Jones, Tom Woodard, Terry Kahl, Rick Cramer, John Lindberg, Bobby Kalinowski and Kane Webber), in addition to 10 all-Big Eight and four all-Big 12 golfers and 15 All-America Scholars. He was also heavily involved in collegiate golf administration, and served two-and-a-half years as GCAA president (2000-2002) and spent a decade in different positions with the organization.

MARK SIMPSON



At Colorado (2005-09): He finished third in the most rounds played (151) at Colorado, and was 13th in career stroke average (74.19). He tied for second in both the most top 10 finishes (18) and top 20 efforts (26) in school history (he was 11th with five top five performances). He has had 89.8 percent of his career rounds count toward team scoring (132 of 147; does not include four solo rounds), a figure which ranked fifth in school history. He became just the fifth CU player to have qualified to play in four NCAA Championships, joining Rick Cramer (1979-82), Bob Kalinowski (1991-94), Matt Zions (1999-2002) and Kane Webber (2000-04). As a senior, he was selected as the Male Career Athletic Achievement Award winner for all sports, and the co-Male Athlete of the Year (with teammate Patrick Grady) at the school's annual CUSPY celebration (CU Sports Performers of the Year). An honorable mention All-American by Golfweek (one of 20) and the GCAA (one of 33), he also earned PING All-Central Region honors, All-Big 12 honors and All-Big 12 Tournament Team accolades. He finished as the No. 43 ranked player in the nation by both GolfStat and Golfweek. He became the 10th player in school history to win two career tournaments, claiming both in the fall semester, and in doing so set a school record for the lowest stroke average (71.00) for the fall in CU annals. He opened up his senior year by earning co-medalist honors in San Francisco's Olympic Club Intercollegiate, and three weeks later again snared co-medalist at New Mexico's Tucker Invitational. In-between, he placed second in DU's Ron Moore Invitational, posting his career best for the most under par in a tournament (205, -11). In the spring, he had four top 20 finishes, highlighted by a tie for second in the Western Intercollegiate (213, +3). He turned pro following his senior year and promptly went out and won the San Juan Open in his third tournament as a professional, and then captured the Colorado Open.

DEREK TOLAN



At Colorado (2000-04): A third third-team All-American as a senior, when he had three wins, six top 10 finishes (11 top 20) and a conference-runner-up 71.46 average that established a new CU single-season school record (just three strokes over par for the year). His first collegiate win came in the Western Intercollegiate (206, -4); three weeks later, he won again, claiming the Purdue Invitational (206, -10); and a month after that, he won The Maxwell in a playoff to become one of just 19 golfers for the year to win three or more times. His 71.35 stroke average in the spring decimated the previous record, and for the year, he led the team in 23 (of 24) statistical categories. He played the fifth most rounds in school history (144) on his way to a 72.90 career stroke average, which bested the old mark by over half a stroke. He also ranked fourth in top five finishes (10), fourth in top 10 efforts (15), first in top 20 finishes (27) and first in 54-hole tournament scores of 220 or better (29). At the 2004 CUSPY's (CU Sports Performers of the Year Awards banquet), he was selected as the Male Career Athletic Achievement Award recipient.

KANE WEBBER



Professionally: He is competing on the European and Asian tours and in several regional professional tournaments.

At Colorado (1974-77): Nicknamed the "Human 2-Iron" for his svelte 6-foot-3 frame, believed to be the first African-American to play varsity golf at Colorado. He led the Buffs in stroke average as a junior ('75-76) with a 76.27 figure for 30 rounds. He often played his best in the Big Eight Championships, tying for fifth as junior in 1976 and was sixth as a senior a year later, when he earned an individual berth in the NCAA Championships and was awarded honorable mention All-America honors. He became the sixth player in program history to twice be named first-team all-conference, garnering the nod in 1976 and 1977 and joining Keith Alexander, Dale Douglass, Hale Irwin, Larry McAtee and Jim English as two-time recipients. He played briefly on the PGA Tour in the late 1970s. He is currently the general manager and director of golf at Foothills Golf Course in Denver, a position he held for years for the City of Denver (overseeing six courses), and has served on the board of directors for the Colorado Golf Association. Owns the low round at Denver's popular City Park Golf Course (an 11-under 61 he shot in 1988).

TOM WOODARD



GCAA HALL OF FAME

LATE CU COACH SIMPSON INDUCTED INTO COACHES HALL

NEW ORLEANS (January 12, 2005) — University of Colorado men's golf coach Mark Simpson was inducted into the Golf Coaches Association of America Hall of Fame, the first CU coach to earn the exclusive honor.

"I'm completely honored and humbled that the committee would consider my coaching career worthy of this honor," Simpson said in opening his induction speech. "I'd like to thank the person who nominated me, but I don't know who that is.

"About three months ago, I was having breakfast with a friend, and about three-fourths of the way through it he said, 'You know, Simpson, you have a great job.' I said, 'Yeah, I like it.' Then about two weeks later at lunch with another friend, he says to me, 'You really do have a dream job.'

"I got to thinking and I truly realized that I do have a dream job," Simpson said. "One, I get the special privilege to work with young 17- and 18-year olds and help mold them as people and golfers; two, I love the University of Colorado and no matter what you've heard about CU these last months, ninety-eight percent of what some perceive about us just isn't true. It is truly a special place, and I'm fortunate enough to coach at my alma mater. And three, I get to coach and teach the game of golf.

"My dream job has lasted 29 years," he continued. "There is so much to be thankful for and people to thank. God.

The University of Colorado, as (the athletic director) Eddie Crowder took a chance and named me as head coach when I was just 26 years old. All of the players who I've been blessed to coach and watch mature during my time at CU. My peers. The GCAA; I've been to Japan, Scotland, England, Ireland and all over the United States thanks to the GCAA.

Simpson closed by acknowledging that when he was a young coach, he would listen to advise of those who had been in the profession for a long time. He gave a bit of advice for younger coaches in the audience.

"If you want to be a great coach, one of the qualities you have to have is that you must relate to your players," he said. "Use relate as an acronym: the R is for respect; the E for edify, or to build up your players; the L for listen, as in truly listen to them; the A for authentic, be the real person you are; the T for time, and wisely spend the same amount of time with each of your players and in several areas; and the second E for expectations, for as a coach, it is extremely important to pass on your expectations of them.

"One of the quests we have is to prepare them for life, and the greatest thing I can hear is when they return years later and tell of the appreciation for what they learned from me, but more importantly, from their experiences at the University of Colorado."

In attendance at the event were members of Simpson's immediate family, his mother Martha, Anne Kelly, CU women's golf coach; Mark Crabtree, the head coach at Louisville who was one of Simpson's first players; and Eric Hoos, a former CU assistant and current head coach at Denver.

CU's Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations, David Plati, a long-time friend and colleague of Simpson, presented him for induction. Some highlights of his presentation:

"I've been CU's SID since 1984; five years earlier, as a freshman in the office, I was handed the men's golf beat. After being named SID, I wasn't about to give it up, in part due to my love for the game as well as for the sheer enjoyment I have had working with Coach Simpson and

the golf team for what has now been almost 26 years. I'm probably the only SID he even remembers handling his sport...

"Mark's induction is two-fold, one for his longevity as a respected coach, as well as for all the work he has done on behalf of college golf. He has truly thrived on being involved on the administrative side of things, and the game is better for his contributions.

"Mark is truly one of the good guys. Ask most everyone who has ever met him. I can say for fact that 'Stretch,' one of his nicknames, is truly one of the all-time most popular figures both at the University of Colorado as well as in Colorado golf circles, which honored him last September with the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame's Lifetime Achievement Award.

"Mark has all the qualities one seeks in a college coach, some of which include:

"Humility. Mark has never been above learning and evolving as a coach. He will tell you that when he started out, he wanted all his players to like him. After a few years, he learned they didn't want a friend; they wanted to be coached and to be mentored.

"Disciplinarian. After all, we are talking about a man who left Jonathan Kaye home from the 1993 Central Regional. To this day, he will tell you it was one of, if not the, toughest decisions he has ever had to make.

"Compassion: A freshman, Charlie Luther, hit his first collegiate drive off the then-called women's tee markers with the ball landing several feet behind the tee box. The poor kid was even holding his pose, having no idea where the ball went until he heard the thud behind him. 'Simps' comforted him with the line, 'Don't worry Charlie, even Bo Jackson lost yardage on his first college carry.'

"But he also traveled the 14 hours both to and from Australia to help comfort one of his players after his father passed away. He was on hand when that player, Kane Webber, shot a 59 a day after the funeral in a family

tournament played to honor his dad.

"Part-Time Nutritionist. Mark has purchased over 10,000 bananas for players to snack on during their rounds... something about the potassium I believe. Mark also thrives on finding the best Mexican food restaurant in a town so he can showcase his knowledge of the Spanish language, and loves the Louisiana Classics as he has turned many a young meat-and-potatoes golfer on to crawfish.

"Respect. How many U.S. Open winners openly thank their college golf coach publicly within minutes after victory? That's what Steve Jones did in 1996, as well as several more times in the days afterward.

"And Good Fortune. Mark offered the same Steve Jones, his first top recruit, a full ride back in the summer of 1977 after Jones shot a 72 after a morning 86 at one of Colorado's tougher courses, Hiwan in Evergreen. He would soon learn that a full scholarship back then was seldom ever offered and it ate up almost all of his allotted aid for the year. But it would be worth it.

"In a recent interview, Mark summed up what he thought was the best thing about the game of golf. He said, 'The greatest thing is that it teaches maturity in the sense that you can't blame anybody or anything for your failures, you can only point the finger at yourself.'"

