



Famed CU coach Eddie Crowder dies

By Neill Woelk

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Eddie Crowder, the man who took Colorado's football program to national prominence as a coach and set the stage for one of the school's most successful eras as its athletic director, died Tuesday of complications from leukemia.

He was 77.

Crowder leaves an unmatched legacy at CU. No other man has had more of an influence on Colorado's athletic department, with that influence spanning more than four decades.

As the football coach for 11 years, Crowder led CU to a No. 3 finish in the nation in 1971, five bowl games and a 67-49-2 record, including CU's first 10-win season in 1971.

As CU's athletic director for 20 years, he took Colorado into the era of big-time college athletics. He also recovered from what he would later call his "biggest mistake" — the hiring of Chuck Fairbanks as the Buffs' football coach — to set the stage for what would become a golden era of CU athletics.

"Eddie Crowder held Colorado athletics together," said former Big Eight commissioner Chuck Neinas. "Let's be candid — Colorado has never had the resources of an Oklahoma or Nebraska.

"But in large part, they've been able to compete with those schools on a fairly regular basis because of the efforts of a guy like Eddie."

Crowder's influence is still being felt at CU. Two of his final hires were football coach Bill McCartney and women's basketball coach Ceal Barry, both of whom led the Buffs to unprecedented national prominence.

McCartney won CU's first national football title in 1990.

Barry won 426 games and five conference tourney titles while leading the Buffs to 12 NCAA Tournament berths.

"Eddie Crowder was a legend in the field of intercollegiate athletics nationally and a cherished member of the CU-Boulder community for five decades," said CU chancellor Bud Peterson, who played for Kansas State against the Buffs in Crowder's last game as CU's head coach in 1973. "Both prior to and after my arrival as Chancellor, he helped me greatly in understanding the Colorado sports landscape."

Crowder retired as athletic director in 1984, but he continued to keep a close watch over the program. McCartney and Bill Marolt — the man who replaced Crowder as athletic director — called upon him as a confidant on many occasions, and current CU coach Dan Hawkins recently said it was an "amazing privilege" to have Crowder as an advisor and mentor.

An All-American quarterback at Oklahoma under legendary OU coach Bud Wilkinson, Crowder worked for Army coach Red Blaik upon graduation and then returned to OU to work for Wilkinson.

He then took his first — and only — head coaching job, at Colorado in 1963. One year later, Crowder also assumed duties as CU's athletic director, replacing the retired Harry Carlson.

Crowder built a winner in Boulder. He began by recruiting local stars such as Hale and Phil Irwin and Dick and Bobby Anderson (all from Boulder High), and soon expanded his recruiting base across the nation.

By 1965, he had a winning team. CU enjoyed eight consecutive winning seasons under Crowder, a stretch that included the nation's No. 3 ranking in 1971 and five bowl berths at a time when the number of bowl games was in single digits.

"What Eddie did was amazing," said Bobby Anderson, who became an All-American under Crowder. "In building those first two years, he knew how to keep games close. He maximized every opportunity to win and he minimized the chances to lose.

"The only thing I regret for him is that he left coaching way too soon. He was a genius on the field."

After a disappointing 5-6 finish in 1973, Crowder stepped down as football coach but remained as athletic director. His next two hires, Bill Mallory and Chuck Fairbanks, resulted in a downturn for CU football.

The Fairbanks era was particularly damaging. It resulted in NCAA probation and a financial crisis that forced Crowder to cut seven sports in 1980.

"It was a tremendous disappointment," Crowder said in a 1983 interview with the Camera. "To have to reduce the number of sports at our university was a terrible setback. Then there was the NCAA investigation ... it was just a cloud that hung over our heads and didn't seem to want to go away."

But Crowder had one more rebuilding effort in his quiver. He hired McCartney, a move that was met with a collective yawn at the time but one that proved to be one of the most important hires in CU history.

That move, plus some financial belt tightening that helped put the department back in the black, allowed him to retire in 1984, safe with the knowledge that CU was on its way to success.

He handed the reins over to Marolt — a former CU ski coach who had worked for Crowder — and Marolt then helped usher CU into one of the most successful eras in school history.

Crowder owned Eddie's Mexican Café in the 1980s, a popular restaurant in Boulder. After leaving CU, he served for a time as the sales and marketing director for The International, Colorado's first regular stop on the PGA Tour, and was also engaged in a variety of other business ventures.

He is survived by his wife, the former Kate Alexander, whom he married on Oct. 4, 1989; two children, son Mike and daughter Carol Jean; two stepchildren, David Roman and Rebecca Roman; and three grandchildren, Stephanie D'Angelo, Julia D'Angelo and Trevor James.

In lieu of flowers, the family has established an Eddie Crowder Football Scholarship Fund.



Creedon: Coach Ed's loyalty to CU never wavered

By Dan Creedon For the Camera
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A Merle Haggard classic, "Okie from Muskogee," blared through my I-Pod a good deal of Wednesday as I attempted to deal with the passing of a friend of more than four decades.

Coach Ed.

Edwin Burba Crowder. Your friend, too. A giant in Bud Wilkinson's Oklahoma football machine in the 1950s.

But none more loyal to the University of Colorado, the city of Boulder and the state of Colorado.

He built the University of Colorado athletic program as we know it today. Saved the program, many folks will tell you, as he picked up the ashes remaining from the Sonny Grandelius era and returned CU to football prominence.

Not just on Folsom Field and the football cathedrals across the nation.

Crowder had to put the CU program on firm financial caissons. Even before he accepted Dean Harry Carlson's invitation to become the Buff football coach in January, 1963, Crowder ventured into the state to assure himself the financial support would be here. Just one of the many pieces of advice from his mentor, Wilkinson.

If Carlson had been calling the shots after Dal Ward was fired as CU coach following the 1958 season, the then-28-year-old Crowder would have been the youngest head coach in the nation. A regent-appointed committee went for Grandelius, all of 29.

By then Crowder had backed out of the running, warned by Wilkinson to gain just a tad more experience after one year at Army under the legendary Earl Blaik and three seasons on Bud's OU staff.

Crowder understood the potential here. No team gave Wilkinson's Sooners more fits than Ward's Buffs.

Eddie, a senior quarterback recognized as a magician with his ball-handling and faking, played in one of the epic OU-CU struggles at Folsom, a 21-21 tie in 1952.

A year earlier Crowder had pegged four touchdown passes against CU in Oklahoma.

Crowder's football pedigree? Unmatched. The third Sooner great to become a head coach at an early age after playing for Wilkinson. He followed Jack Mitchell (Kansas) and Darrell Royal (Texas) into the big

time.

Many thought Crowder, highly intelligent, motivated, a dynamite recruiter and a marvelous speaker with his Wilkinson-like command of the English language, would someday return to Norman.

But Coach Ed's intense loyalty to CU never wavered.

After taking over for the retiring Carlson as athletic director in 1965, Crowder built the major fund-raising groups needed -- the Buff and Flatiron clubs -- and went about improving the athletic facilities.

The first and most lasting project involved removing the track from Folsom, lowering the playing surface and pushing the playing field into the closed end at the south. You have been on top of the action now for 40 years.

Every fan enjoys favorite moments from the Crowder years. Not all of mine resulted in wins.

I enjoyed the gamesmanship of his very first game when a veteran-laden Southern Cal, fresh off a Rose Bowl, had to slug through high grass on a rainy field for a 14-0 win. Then the Trojans' lead bus outside Balch Gymnasium stalled. Not a happy afternoon for USC coach John McKay.

Crowder had CU on the plus side by 1965. In a game I still feel changed Big Eight football history, Nebraska erased a 19-6 CU lead built by an option quarterback in the Crowder mold, Danny Kelly, and stunned CU 21-19 with two fourth-quarter scores.

Had CU held on, the Buffs would have finished 8-2 and played in the Sugar Bowl. A CU run to greatness might have followed.

Except for the 1968 finale, Crowder's teams owned Air Force in the state's top rivalry. And Crowder didn't hold down the score, crushing a Sugar Bowl-bound Falcon squad, 49-19 in 1970. The next year, the Buffs won 53-17 in Boulder, 24 hours after the CU frosh routed AFA's first-year troops, 69-7. The end of the series was near. Falcons' coach Ben Martin had enough.

After the '71 game, Crowder explained he had to go the distance with tailback Charles Davis because he had no other healthy running backs. You were fudging there, Coach Ed.

A real shortage of running backs led to the Crowder game many CUers remember first -- a 30-7 upset of Indiana's Rose Bowl veterans in 1969. Without an experienced tailback after losing Game 2 at Penn State, Crowder in a highly secret move switched quarterback Bobby Anderson to the spot in the days ahead of the Hoosiers' visit. On a snowy, muddy afternoon, Anderson even warmed up at quarterback.

Then, on CU's first possession, he began running roughshod over the stunned Hoosiers.

A stroke of genius. Anderson joined OU's Steve Owens as a consensus All-American running back at season's end.

Crowder's ability to deal with the game's power brokers set up a blockbuster windup to '69. CU played Vince Gibson's best K-State team here in the regular-season finale, the winner earning a Liberty Bowl spot vs. Alabama.

Colorado won a wild 45-32 game over KSU, then stunned Bear Bryant's Crimson Tide 47-33 in

Memphis. "8-3 and Liberty" became the theme.

Who can forget a 41-13 shelling of Penn State in 1970 to end the Nittany Lions' three-year plus winning streak and land Boulder High grad Phil Irwin (a CU linebacker) on the Sports Illustrated cover? Or road wins over LSU, Ohio State and Houston on the way to a No. 3 finish nationally in 1971? Or a 20-14 ambush of Oklahoma in '72 that deprived Chuck Fairbanks of a national championship?

Crowder gave up coaching after a 5-6 season in 1973. A huge mistake. He had two of his best recruiting classes returning.

I told Coach Ed of my feelings. He admitted he consulted Ohio State's Woody Hayes. Hayes, like many top coaches, had to fight through a down period once in his career. His advice, Crowder said: Lock yourself in your office until everybody thinks you are crazy.

Crowder followed a more sane approach and stepped aside.

For one of the few times I knew Coach Ed, I disagreed with his eventual choice, Miami of Ohio's Bill Mallory, the hot new guy on the block in the Mid-America Conference. I favored Kent State's Don James, a former Crowder aide who had won sooner in the MAC and would become a huge winner at Washington.

Early on I preferred "Coach Ed" to "Chief," the insiders' moniker for Crowder. To Eddie, I quickly became "Coach Dan" for my second-guessing.

Crowder always surrounded himself with talented assistants. The '73 staff included among others future NFL head coaches Jim Mora and Les Steckel, NFL general-manager Steve Ortmayer and longtime NFL defensive coordinator Steve Sidwell.

He also made other terrific hires throughout his department. That includes such stalwarts as track coach Don Meyers, baseball coach Irv Brown and ski coach Bill Marolt.

On the administration side, he brought in men such as Jon Burianek and David Plati.

Eddie finally nailed the coaching-search gig in 1982 when he picked Bill McCartney off the Michigan staff. McCartney had what Crowder called pedigree. He played for Dan Devine at Missouri and coached for Bo Schembechler at Michigan.

Bring up Devine, and you are reminded Crowder coached in the Big Eight's greatest years against a lineup that included Bob Devaney at Nebraska, Chuck Fairbanks at OU, Johnny Majors at Iowa State, Pepper Rodgers at Kansas, Vince Gibson at Kansas State and Devine. Enough said.

Every fall, long-time CU booster John Dikeou hosts a lunch at the Ship's Tavern in the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver for about a dozen CU followers now classified as senior citizens. Everyone picks the CU record for the year and puts up a dollar. Crowder in charge. Meticulous records kept. To be reviewed at a postseason lunch, at which Coach Ed rules.

This year's gathering has been twice postponed, first for a conflict the Democratic Convention provided, and then a second time in hopes Crowder might be feeling well enough to attend next Tuesday.

It will never be the same without Crowder's input and wit.

Now is the time for me to say, "Good-bye Coach Ed."

Long-time Camera sports editor Dan Creedon covered Eddie Crowder from the time he was hired until he retired.



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Woelk: Crowder's only agenda was to make CU better

By Neill Woelk

Thursday, September 11, 2008

The calls and e-mails started early Wednesday morning.

They haven't stopped.

They've come from former players and coaches. From administrators, students and business acquaintances.

But most of all from friends. Lots and lots of friends.

Obviously, those groups overlap. People who had a connection with Eddie Crowder -- in any arena of life -- also considered him a companion, a confidant, a friend.

More than anything, that has been the common theme since news of Crowder's death began circulating Wednesday. Friends wanting to express the special relationship they had with the man who loved being called "Coach."

Not that Eddie didn't make some folks mad. Stick around as a football coach at any institution for 11 years, and you'll get some people's dander up.

Serve as an athletic director for 20 years at any school, and you're bound to make some decisions that get crossways with at least a few people.

But the one thing that was always consistent with Crowder, the one thing that could never be disputed, was this:

It was never about Eddie. It was always about what he believed to be best for the University of Colorado. You could argue with his decisions, question his judgment -- but you could never, ever question his intentions.

Eddie only wanted what was best for CU. From the day he took over as CU's football coach in 1963 to the day he died, Crowder had one goal in mind above all others: to make the University of Colorado an institution of which the state could be proud.

He accomplished that goal.

Throughout the ups and downs of his tenure, Crowder never stopped looking to the future.

When he hired an unknown assistant from Michigan as CU's football coach in 1982, he knew it was a hire that could end up making or breaking a department that had already been wracked by financial woes and NCAA investigations.

Thus, when the Bill McCartney era started slowly, Crowder never second-guessed his young new coach.

"Not only did he give me a start, he was really, really patient," McCartney said. "Those were tough years. Never once did he show frustration or express disappointment. He was always positive, always upbeat, always believed in us, and I appreciated that.

"Coach always treated me with respect and dignity."

McCartney never forgot.

"Years later, when things turned around, I always remembered Eddie Crowder," McCartney said. "I remembered how he treated me, how he stood beside me. Those were invaluable times."

Today, coaches and athletic directors come and go. Sometimes they find greener pastures, sometimes they are forced out. Seldom are they in it for the long haul.

It means men like Crowder are becoming more and more of a rarity. Men who take a job and make it their life's work are rapidly becoming a thing of the past.

Certainly, Crowder had other opportunities. He could have ended up as athletic director at Oklahoma -- the other school that he loved dearly.

(That, by the way, is an example of Crowder's appeal. Few people could be so admired by two such combative constituencies. Crowder is a member of the OU Hall of Fame, the CU Hall of Fame and the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame.)

He also could have corralled another coaching job. When he stepped down as CU's coach after a disappointing 1973 season, he still would have been considered one of the hot commodities in the coaching world. There would have been a line waiting to hire him.

But Eddie had made a commitment to CU and he never wavered from that devotion. He stepped away as football coach -- a job he truly loved -- and remained as athletic director because he believed that was a role in which he could most help Colorado succeed.

Today, 45 years after he first stepped on campus, his influence still reverberates. His legacy is firm.

But while that legacy is entrenched on the playing fields at CU, it is by no means limited to the Buffs. It is spread throughout a school, a community and a state.

That's a good measure of a good man.



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Hawk enjoyed Crowder's support

Former A.D., coach was mentor for Buffs' current boss

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
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When University of Colorado officials went looking for a new football coach in December 2005, Eddie Crowder was a big proponent of hiring Dan Hawkins away from Boise State.

Crowder, a former CU football coach himself and later an athletic director, said Hawkins was the man for the job for one reason -- lifetime batting average.

It was an adage Crowder clung to without fail throughout his life. He believed the most accurate way to predict future performance in a given job or scenario was to look at a person's performance -- or batting average -- in similar jobs or situations in the past.

Crowder did his best to support Hawkins and the Colorado football program until Tuesday, the day he died at 77.

Hawkins visited Crowder in his hospital room in Lafayette on Tuesday afternoon knowing it would be the final time he would see a man he called a mentor. They talked briefly and Crowder gave Hawkins one final verbal pat on the back.

"Basically the last thing he said to me was, 'You're the right guy,'" Hawkins said. "That just means a lot."

Hawkins said before coming to Colorado he didn't really have the sort of mentor in the coaching profession that many of his peers do. Crowder for example, had legendary Oklahoma coach Bud Wilkinson. Former CU coach Bill McCartney came to Boulder from Michigan where he learned from Bo Schembechler.

That all changed for Hawkins when he took control at CU. Both Crowder and McCartney immediately became men on whom he leaned. Crowder often stopped by to see Hawkins and ask about the program.

Hawkins said Crowder had a knack for knowing when he was needed.

"Probably his most unique gift was coming around when he knew I needed him but didn't ask him," Hawkins said.

Hawkins said Crowder's influence and advice was particularly appreciated during his first season in Boulder, when the team struggled to a 2-10 record.

Hawkins said he heard from Crowder that season often through just about every means of

communication in modern life. Crowder emailed, left voicemail, left hand-written messages at his office and came to practice to show his support simply by standing on the sideline.

"He was just such a really good, giving guy," Hawkins said. "I think everyone who knows him, he just sort of melted into their lives with very little intrusion and just sort of helped out wherever he needed. He was just one of the great, gentle, kind winds that blow through your life. I just was really touched by the guy. I'll miss him a lot.

"He's one of those guys, you know, there is a lot of people there when it's good. He's there when it's bad."

Hawkins was just one of many players and coaches with the current team who were touched by Crowder at some point in some fashion.

Starting quarterback Cody Hawkins said he would often talk to Crowder when he would see him around his father. Cody Hawkins said one memory of Crowder that will always stick with him came on the day his father was hired at CU in December 2005.

It was basically the first recruiting pitch he received from anyone associated with the school.

Cody Hawkins said he found himself in an elevator with Crowder who was asking him about where he would be playing college football. Crowder had heard Cody Hawkins had been very successful as a high school quarterback in Boise, Idaho.

"He said you can go anywhere in the nation you want to go," Cody Hawkins recalled Crowder saying. "As long as it's Colorado."

Several months later Dan Hawkins and his assistant coaches were surprised when Cody Hawkins' national letter of intent came spinning out of the fax machine in the football offices.

Dan Hawkins, who has been a big proponent of adding new traditions around the Colorado program and celebrating its past, said he believes the school will find a way to honor Crowder.

It is unclear what that might be at this point. The football field the team plays on is already named for former coach Fred Folsom. The administrative hub of the department and home to the football team is called the Dal Ward Center in memory of another legendary coach.

Defensive tackle George Hypolite said he first met Crowder during his true freshman season in 2005 when former coach Gary Barnett introduced them. As he stood in the entry to the Dal Ward Center Wednesday looking around, Hypolite referred to Crowder as "the architect of all this."

"Even in the short time I spent with him he taught me a lot about being focused and taking care of your business," Hypolite said. "I think the University of Colorado has lost a great ambassador."



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Crowder put CU on the map

Former coach remembered for turning around program

By Neill Woelk

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Plaudits and praise for former Colorado football coach and athletic director Eddie Crowder poured in on Wednesday.

Crowder, the coach who led the Buffs to national prominence as a coach and later set the stage for one of CU's most successful eras as the athletic director, died Tuesday night.

"If you were around Eddie a lot, you heard him use the term 'thoroughbred,'" recalled former Buff All-American Bobby Anderson. "That was one of his favorite comments about a guy who worked hard, had great character and ability, and was disciplined.

"I'll tell you this: there was no greater thoroughbred than Eddie Crowder."

An All-American quarterback at Oklahoma under legendary coach Bud Wilkinson, Crowder led the Sooners for two seasons and played with 1952 Heisman Trophy winner Billy Vessels.

When Vessels accepted the Heisman, according to the New York Times, he said the award should have gone to Crowder.

After working as an assistant under Earl Blaik at Army and under Wilkinson at Oklahoma, Crowder took the job as CU's head coach in January 1963.

His first contract, a four-year deal, paid him \$15,000 a year.

"Eddie rebuilt a program against some long odds," said Jack Mills, a fellow OU grad who joined Crowder in Boulder in 1965 as an administrator. "What he did given the resources he had available was amazing."

Said former Buff Phil Irwin, who played at Boulder High and then for Crowder: "He brought the Buffs from out of nowhere. He always hung in there and was a positive influence right up to the very end."

Crowder coached against some of the game's legends. The list includes Alabama's Bear Bryant, Ohio State's Woody Hayes, Penn State's Joe Paterno, Houston's Bill Yeoman, Missouri's Dan Devine and Nebraska's Bob Devaney. Crowder owned at least one win over each of those coaches.

"He was a football tactical genius," former assistant Steve Ortmayer told theCamera several years ago. Ortmayer went on to become a member of two Super Bowl-winning staffs with the Oakland Raiders and later the San Diego Chargers' general manager. "He was not just a good coach, but a great coach -- one

of the great coaches in our lifetime."

Crowder was also a master recruiter. He coached nine All-Americans at CU, 33 All-Big Eight selections, five academic All-Americans and 37 NFL draft choices. That list included such stars as Dave Logan, John Stearns, Cliff Branch, Cullen Bryant and Herb Orvis.

In all, Crowder recruited and coached seven first-round NFL picks.

"Outside of my household, he's the single-biggest reason I went to CU," said former Buff wide receiver Dave Logan. "It ultimately came down to the fact that I believed in him. He brought the absolute best out of me as a college football player, without question."

Crowder believed that building a great staff was a key to winning, and he had outstanding assistants. Among the coaches who received their early tutelage under Crowder were Don James, Jim Mora, Jerry Claiborne, Augie Tamariello and Ortmayer. All went on to successful careers, either in the NFL or in the college ranks.

"Eddie was a great football coach," Mora said. "I learned a lot from him. Great work ethic, very knowledgeable, and a good guy for a young assistant coach to learn from. We had a heck of a staff there, and we all learned from Eddie. I treasure my days in Boulder."

One man who also received his opportunity to coach in college was Irv Brown, who served as a football assistant for Crowder and later as the school's head baseball coach.

"I'm forever grateful that he gave me a chance to coach in college," Brown said. "He was so good for the university. One of the best things that ever happened to the school is when he rebuilt the program and they finished third (in the nation) behind Nebraska and Oklahoma. It brought a new respect to the school that had not been there before."

Later in his life, Crowder established a strong relationship with the church, a belief he was not afraid to share.

Ken Vardell, who played at Colorado before Crowder's arrival, established a friendship with Crowder when Vardell returned to Boulder after a 30-year career in the FBI.

"He shared with me his spirituality, something that had and continues to have a huge, huge impact on my life," Vardell said. "He was not bashful about sharing those things. He was a disciplined, principled person who loved and practiced his faith."

"Football coach and athletic director were just two small facets of the man's life and his being."

But those were the things Crowder became famous for in his four-plus decades in Boulder.

"Eddie was admired nationally as a player, coach, confidant and most importantly, as a leader," said Steve Hatchell, a former CU sports information and manager who later became the executive director of the Orange Bowl and the first commissioner of the Big 12. "Colorado football became *Colorado Football* because of him."



Eddie Crowder cared about far more than athletics

By Neill Woelk

Thursday, September 11, 2008

While praise for Eddie Crowder's coaching acumen and administrative skills are plenty, there is a side to Crowder that much of the public never saw.

The former Colorado head coach and athletic director didn't just care about athletics and the peripherals that world encompasses.

Crowder, it's evident, cared about people from all walks of life.

Take Bob Webster, for instance.

Colorado fans won't know that name because Bob Webster never played a down of football at CU. He was never connected with the athletic department, other than indirectly through his work for the CU Program Council, when he negotiated for the use of Folsom Field for concerts at the campus venue.

"I got to know Eddie very well through those years," Webster said Wednesday. "So when I graduated, I went to Eddie and said, 'You know some business people around town. Would you introduce me to them'?"

But Crowder didn't simply grant the request.

Instead, he asked Webster what he wanted to do in life. When Webster said he wasn't sure, Crowder responded, "That's not good enough."

Crowder then told Webster they were to meet for lunch every week for 10 consecutive weeks. Webster agreed to the meetings.

"We talked about goals, about career paths, about strengths and weaknesses and about character," Webster recalled. "Eddie helped me through that entire process."

When they were finished with the sessions, Crowder told Webster he should think about becoming a stockbroker. For a young man who had never taken a single business class, it seemed to be rather strange advice.

But Webster followed Crowder's suggestion.

Today, he owns a successful brokerage firm, First Allied Securities, in Boulder.

"Without question, that was a turning point in my life," Webster. "He started me on the path of self-evaluation. He made me take a closer look at myself. He made me think.

"Not only did it start my career, but it kept me in Boulder where I started a family and built a business for myself."

Why did Crowder take the time?

"My guess is that his motivation was always being a man who took great pride and good will from helping young people achieve," Webster said. "Whether it was sports or business -- you name it -- he had a heart that he wanted to give to young people.

"From that point on, every time I saw him, I made it a point to shake his hand and thank him for investing in me."



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Friends, colleagues remember CU legend Eddie Crowder

Gentle field general led CU's march to respectability

By B.G. Brooks

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

One of George Hypolite's final encounters with Eddie Crowder occurred at a local YMCA, where Hypolite was amazed as much by the hour as Crowder's work ethic.

"You think, 'He's working out at 7 o'clock in the morning. Wow, this guy's going to live forever,' " the University of Colorado senior defensive tackle recalled Wednesday. "Unfortunately, God had other plans."

Fortunately for Hypolite and countless others, they knew him before those plans came to pass.

Crowder, the architect of CU football's national prominence in the late 1960s and early 1970s, died late Tuesday at Exemplar Health Center in Lafayette of complications from leukemia. He was 77.

Crowder, who had survived a bout earlier this decade with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, is survived by his wife, Kate; son, Mike; daughter, Carol Jean; two stepchildren, David Roman and Rebecca Roman; and three grandchildren, Stephanie D'Angelo, Julia D'Angelo and Trevor James.

Kate Crowder called her husband "a blessing . . . to all of us. The pain of my loss is overcome with the joy of having had 20 fabulous years with a man who adored me and whom I adored even more."

A memorial service is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday in the east side club rooms of Folsom Field. It is open to the public and parking will be free around the stadium.

"We have lost a tremendous leader, coach, mentor and friend," CU athletic director Mike Bohn said. "His indelible imprint on CU will always be a cornerstone of the athletic program."

Chancellor Bud Peterson, a former Kansas State receiver who played against the Buffaloes in Crowder's final game as coach, called him "a legend in the field of intercollegiate athletics nationally and a cherished member of the CU-Boulder community for five decades.

"Both prior to and after my arrival as chancellor, he helped me greatly in understanding the Colorado sports landscape. I will miss his sage advice, his enthusiasm and his love of all things CU, as will our entire community."

Hypolite was introduced to Crowder by former CU coach Gary Barnett.

"When you're a freshman, you know nothing about (CU) football and the history," Hypolite said. "Then you find out (Crowder) is kind of the architect of all this and go, 'Wow.'"

"It was really sad hearing the news. He was a great man. Even in the short time I knew him, he talked a lot about being focused and taking care of business. . . . (CU) has lost a great ambassador."

21 years of service

Crowder worked at CU for 21 years as either football coach, athletic director or both. He celebrated his 77th birthday Aug. 26 and was semiretired and living in Boulder since leaving CU in 1984. His business ventures included owning a popular restaurant in Boulder, Eddie's Mexican Cafe, in the 1980s; working briefly as the sales and marketing director of The International; and international marketing with QuixStar/Amway.

But for most of CU's coaches, past and present, the man many former staffers lovingly called "chief" was a mentor who was never more than a phone call away.

Current Buffaloes coach Dan Hawkins called Crowder "a great mentor . . . he was very genuine. He was great about coming around when you asked him, and he was great about coming around when I didn't ask him - but really needed him.

"He was there a lot in 2006 (when Hawkins debuted with a 2-10 season). You get a lot of calls when you win, not many when you lose. . . . I'll miss his gentle manner, the way he gracefully slid in and out of my daily existence. (He) is truly one of the most special people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing."

Crowder was a head coach at only one school. And on Jan. 2, 1963, that school, Colorado, took what was viewed by some as a gamble by hiring a 31-year-old as its 17th coach at a time the program was reeling under NCAA penalties handed down the previous year.

But Crowder, who signed a four-year contract that initially paid him \$15,000 annually, had a resume that was difficult to overlook. He had coached under Red Blaik at Army in 1955 before returning to his alma mater, Oklahoma, to work under its legendary coach, Bud Wilkinson, for seven seasons.

To Crowder, Wilkinson was the enduring blueprint for all college coaches, and he often spoke of the impact Wilkinson had on his life in and out of football.

After taking a two-year break from his schooling to serve in the Army Corps of Engineers and play quarterback in 1953 on the Fort Hood (Texas) team and coach the 1954 team's backfield, Crowder received a geology degree from Oklahoma in 1955.

CU was familiar with Crowder, and vice versa. In 1951, when the Sooners rolled over the Buffaloes 55-14, Crowder - at the time a renowned junior option quarterback on his way to becoming an All-American - showed his versatility by passing for 189 yards and four touchdowns, three in the first quarter. It was CU's only conference loss that season.

Crowder enrolled at Oklahoma in 1949 and was a reserve quarterback on Wilkinson's 1950 national championship team. But Crowder's time was coming. Under his direction, Oklahoma finished 8-2 in 1951 and 8-1-1 in 1952. He was an All-Big Seven Conference selection and an All-American as a senior.

Slow start, then success

Crowder, born in Arkansas City, Ark., but reared in Muskogee, Okla., had an undeniable soft spot for Oklahoma, but in Boulder, it seldom showed. In his 11 seasons as Buffs coach, his teams beat the Sooners four times, including 20-14 in 1972, when Oklahoma was ranked No. 2.

His first two CU teams finished 2-8, but the next nine went 63-33-2, won three bowl games and became regular members in the national polls. Crowder worked as coach and athletic director from 1965 to 1973, and when he left coaching in 1974 to devote all his time to the athletic director's job - he held the position until 1984 - his CU coaching record (67-49-2) was second in victories only to Fred Folsom's 77 in 15 seasons.

CU's banner season under Crowder was 1971, when the Buffs recorded the school's first 10-win season and, at the time, its highest national ranking (No. 3). After beating Houston in the Bluebonnet Bowl, CU finished 10-2.

Crowder's coaching tenure produced nine All-Americans, 33 All-Big Eight Conference selections, 37 NFL draft choices, five academic All-Americans and numerous players who participated in postseason all-star games.

During his tenure as athletic director, CU expanded Folsom Field three times and built the Coors Events/Conference Center. But Crowder's legacy is more about people than venues.

He hired three of the most successful coaches in CU history - Bill McCartney (football), Ceal Barry (basketball) and the late Mark Simpson (golf). McCartney, who directed CU's run to the 1990 co-national championship and retired in 1994 with a school-best 153 wins, was appreciative of the opportunity Crowder gave him.

"I was an assistant coach that nobody ever heard of," McCartney said. "Eddie Crowder saw in me something and gave me a chance. When things didn't work out right away (McCartney's first three teams went 7-25-2), (he) stuck with me."

In 1990, Crowder was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame and four years ago, into CU's Athletic Hall of Fame.

In 2007, the Football Writers Association of America awarded him its annual Citation of Honor. The list of previous honorees includes Frank Broyles (Arkansas), Bear Bryant (Alabama), Duffy Daugherty (Michigan State), Dan Devine (Missouri), Bob Devaney (Nebraska) and Darrell Royal (Texas).

Crowder fit seamlessly and naturally on the college game's list of coaching legends, but befitting his manner, he accepted the award with grace and humility.

"This is a surprise," he said at the time. "No one has ever said that I was a man without words, so let me just say that I appreciate this honor very much."

No more, though, than college football and a community appreciated him. In fact, it isn't even close.

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Eddie Crowder's inquisitiveness led him beyond the obvious

By B.G. Brooks

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Despite a life spent in sports, Eddie Crowder was as much an observer of life as athletics, which, in the grand scheme, is where every eye should travel.

Years ago, watching UCLA basketball in the midst of John Wooden's heyday, Crowder noticed the Bruins coach occasionally slip his left hand into his pants pocket. Wooden's right hand, of course, usually clutched a rolled-up sheet of paper - a roster, game-day notes to himself, perhaps something else - which most college basketball aficionados immediately saw.

But Crowder's inquisitiveness took him beyond the obvious. Wondering about Wooden's left hand, Crowder's research yielded the story of Wooden and his small wooden pocket cross, which Wooden would clutch when his team wasn't playing particularly well.

Asked by a reporter if it had become a religious ritual during games, Wooden said no, that no matter the circumstances - in the midst of a game, in Los Angeles or at home - holding the cross reminded him of the priorities in his life.

"If it was good enough for John Wooden, how could it not be good enough for Eddie Crowder?" Crowder asked before launching into what became one of the true delights of his later years - the detailed fashioning of small wooden crosses in his home workshop.

How many he turned out, how many people he touched before his death late Tuesday are questions that will now go unanswered. But let's just say he was as prolific and passionate in that endeavor as he was about most other things in his life.

Through the years, I interviewed Crowder a dozen times or more in researching various stories, most about college football and the majority of those about University of Colorado football.

He was willing, wise, approachable, quotable and humble - rare qualities nowadays that would make any sportswriter put Crowder among his "fave fives."

I got better acquainted with him, though, at the Boulder YMCA, where our paths frequently crossed before 8 a.m.

Our "warm-ups" usually consisted of 15 minutes of football talk, which invariably would lead to an apology to his wife, Kate, for throwing her - or both of them - off schedule.

One morning, Eddie retold the story of the pocket crosses and offered to make me one. Within a couple of weeks, it was delivered, wrapped neatly in cloth, at the "Y."

I kept it for a year or more before giving it last spring to my son, when he announced he and his wife were expecting their first child.

After telling him of the cross's new whereabouts, Crowder, of course, said not to worry, a replacement was already in the works.

In mid-April, he called with word that it was finished and he would meet me at the CU spring football game. I never saw him, instead receiving another telephone call and a most unnecessary apology.

Before he found me, Crowder had a chance first meeting with incoming freshman running back Darrell Scott, who was attending the spring game.

Predictably, Crowder engaged Scott in a conversation and offered him the wooden cross, which Scott now carries in his wallet.

"He said, 'Here, keep this . . . keep your head on a swivel when you come down here and make the right decisions,' " Scott recalled Wednesday. "I'm going to keep that cross. It's bad I didn't get to know him personally, but I've heard a million things about him."

When Crowder told me my cross wound up going to CU's top 2008 recruit, I teased him - "It's good to know where I stand" - and we shared a laugh.

In two weeks, another cross was delicately crafted and delivered. Never a doubt it wouldn't be. God rest you, Eddie.

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What others are saying about Crowder

By Staff Reports

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Bud Peterson, Kansas State receiver (1972-74); CU Chancellor (2005-present)

"Eddie Crowder was a legend in the field of intercollegiate athletics nationally and a cherished member of the CU-Boulder community for five decades. I had the privilege of playing on the 1973 Kansas State team that played against CU in Eddie's last game as head coach of the Buffs. Both prior to and after my arrival as Chancellor, he helped me greatly in understanding the Colorado sports landscape. I will miss his sage advice, his enthusiasm and his love of all things CU, as will our entire community."

Dan Hawkins, football coach (2006-present)

"Coach Crowder has been a real blessing in my life. In such a short time he became a great mentor to me. Coach was a giver of his time, his wisdom, insight, and love. He had such a fondness for CU and Colorado Football, particularly all of his former players. I will miss gentle manner and the way he gracefully slid in and out of my daily existence. Eddie Crowder is truly one of the most special people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. We will all miss him daily, but he will be there with us each time we run out behind Ralphie onto Folsom Field."

Irv Brown, baseball coach (1971-78)

"I'm forever grateful that he gave me a chance to coach in college. He was so good for the university. He came at the worst time after the NCAA trouble in the early 1960s and did a marvelous job. One of the best things that ever happened to the school is when he rebuilt the program and they finished third behind Nebraska and Oklahoma (in 1971). At the time it was our highest finish ever and brought a new respect to school that had not been there before."

Bill McCartney, football coach (1982-94)

"I was an assistant coach that nobody ever heard of. Eddie Crowder saw something in me and gave me a chance. When things didn't work out right away, he stuck with me. I'll always have a debt of gratitude and a special place in my heart for him."

Rick Neuheisel, football coach (1994-98)

"I am sorry to hear about Coach Crowder. He was a tremendous influence on me and will always have a special place in my heart. Eddie and I spent a lot of time talking about football, coaching, friendship and life. His wisdom was unmistakable. His zest for life, his love for Kate, and that great smile will always be fond memories. Most important to me, however, was his willingness to remain my friend when it

wasn't popular.

"I hope you are comfortable now Coach and I pray you are with loved ones. Be assured I will never forget your kindness and I hope you enjoy roaming the sidelines of heaven. I know from experience you will call one heck of a game!"

Gary Barnett, football coach (1999-2005)

"All of us in the Colorado football family are saddened by the loss of one of our respected members in Eddie Crowder. Coach Crowder's love and passion for the game and for the university never ended nor will it now. His effect on the university and many of us can only be understood by those he touched. CU will be a different place without him. My family's sympathy and respect to Kate and his loved ones."

Mike Bohn, athletic director (2005-present)

"We have lost a tremendous leader, coach, mentor and friend. His indelible imprint on CU will always be a cornerstone of the athletic program."

Barry Switzer, Oklahoma football coach (1973-1988)

"I have heard many of the former Oklahoma players talk about how much Eddie was like his coach here, Bud Wilkinson. His strengths were his intelligence and his personality. And of course he was a man of very strong character. When you spent time with Eddie, regardless of how many times you had been with him, you always left feeling more impressed than you were before. He was just a cut above, a winner. I was a young head coach when we competed and Eddie always had a competitive program. We turned that competitive relationship into a meaningful friendship. I will certainly miss him."

Claude Arnold, Oklahoma quarterback & Crowder teammate (1949-51)

"Everybody liked Eddie. He was a great player and a great leader, and all of the players from that era, Billy Vessels, Buck McPhail and all the rest, thought so much of Eddie. He just had such a dynamic personality and was so much fun to be around. I can't say enough good things about him. He and his wife, Kate, stayed at our house any time they came back here and we were very close. He was a great player, a great personality, a fine coach and a very good man." (Arnold was the QB of OU's 1950 national champion team when Crowder was a sophomore.)

Jay O'Neal, Oklahoma player (1954-56) & close friend and business associate

"Eddie was four years ahead of me and it was a great thrill to go to Norman in those days and watch the great Sooners play. I played quarterback in high school and Eddie was your idol at that time. He was that great fader, the great runner of that offense. I never thought he would come back and coach us, but he did and it was a thrill. I learned so much from him, not just football, but about life and how to treat people. He was the best man in my wedding. We were lifelong friends. He was a great guy and he had such a great view of life."

Keith Jackson, ABC broadcaster (1954-2006)

"College football has lost one of the great ones. I had a lot of fun with Eddie, whether it was talking football or life. And he knew both well."

“Eddie got a lot done with a very even temper. He always gave me the feeling that if you don’t go out and give your best, you’re selling out. If the kids didn’t go out and play their hardest, they would have offended him. That was the way he controlled his team. He wasn’t a shouter, a yeller or a screamer. He simply had those expectations.

“The year Colorado beat Oklahoma when the Sooners were ranked second (1972) is a memorable day to me for several reasons. One, it was a fantastic piece of coaching by the entire Colorado staff. The kids bought into everything and the result was victory over a great team that I believe had a long winning streak. It was also made memorable in my life and my daughter’s life because she was with me that weekend and was considering taking a look at going to CU. On the day before the game, Ralphie came out for her Friday exercise, and I’m down on the field recording some stuff for the next day. I can hear my daughter screaming from somewhere in the stadium, ‘Dad, dad! Look out, look out!’ Ralphie was aimed right at me and I did a vertical jump about five or six feet in the air into the back of some truck and she ran right by me. If I’m not mistaken (he’s not), Eddie allowed the Ralphie program to start up and it’s been a signature event in college football ever since.

“I used to sit there and loved to smell Eddie’s pipe. I gave it (tobacco) up around then, but I used to love to smell it. I’d bring him a special mix from Kansas City. One afternoon, we went to up a mountain golf course, played early and had a very long lunch where we talked philosophy. It was my first chance to really sit down and talk with him, and I came away with a great respect for him not only as a coach, but as a man. From then on out, I always enjoyed watching his teams play.”

Candy (Casotti) Nesheim, daughter of Fred “Count” Casotti

“Eddie Crowder was my father’s most dear, loyal and trusted friend. Dad’s nickname for Eddie was ‘Chief’ out of respect for his ability to manage people and football players. Dad once told me Eddie was the most intelligent person he had ever been around and he truly loved him like a brother. As for me, Eddie was like a second father while he was coach and AD, and dad was his “right hand man.” I and my family have wonderful memories of Eddie and I know that he and dad are reliving old times and will be cheering on the Buffs forever. Together!!”

Ron Scott, nose tackle (1965-68)

“Eddie had very strong connections with many, many individuals. Well before development offices had large staffs, Eddie realized the importance of engaging key community leaders in the program. He was a fundraiser extraordinaire and single-handedly created the foundation for fundraising today. As a matter of fact he was the first to develop the Buff Club office. Eddie sought the counsel of two key individuals from the very beginning, Jack Vickers and Bob Six, and with their help they engaged a strong nucleus of both alums and friends to help build CU Athletics. The Coach tried as best he could engage them during and after games, often hosting a postgame party. These relationships continue today for CU with many of the same individuals and/or family members of these individuals.

“As a member of the first recruiting class for Eddie, a player for three seasons and played in his first bowl game (‘67 Bluebonnet) and then as his fundraiser from 1982 until his retirement, and most of all continued friend, I speak for many as we will miss the ‘Ol’ coach.’ We all respected his love for his alma mater, OU, but he truly became a Buff! God bless his soul.”

Bobby Anderson, quarterback/tailback (1966-69)

“I first became aware of the name Eddie Crowder in 1963 from my parents when they informed me that

he was named the new head football coach of the Colorado Buffaloes. I was a 15-year old ninth-grader and brother Dick was a junior at Boulder High School. Dad informed me that Eddie had been a great quarterback for the Oklahoma Sooners, had played against Colorado's Tom Brookshier, Don Branby and Zack Jordan, was a teammate of Heisman Trophy winner Billy Vessels and seemed to be cut out of the same mold as Eddie's Hall of Fame coach Bud Wilkinson. When Eddie spoke he was precise in his choice of words and very thoughtful and intelligent with his comments just like the Bud Wilkinson we had seen on TV.

"I wanted this man to be special, to be a great coach, because since the age of 5, I was going to be a Colorado Buffalo. I wore Frank Bernardi's number 18 on my grade school jersey, Dick wore 27, for Carroll Hardy. My image of a football coach was Dallas Ward with my heroes John Wooten, Frank Clarke, Boyd Dowler, Bob Stransky, Eddie Dove and John Bayuk. Then came coach Sonny Grandelius with a new group of great Buffs, Joe Romig, Gale Weidner, Teddy Woods, Chuck McBride, Ken Blair and Jerry Hillebrand. The '61 team won the Big Eight championship and earned an Orange Bowl invitation but was followed by NCAA violations. Too many scholarship players were declared ineligible for Colorado Football to have any respectability for the next three years. The football program was decimated as if hit by a 'Pallavicini' avalanche at Arapahoe Ski Basin.

"This young new coach had to embark on a reconstruction job to restore trust in Colorado football. He needed to develop a network of financial support from Colorado's business elite. Eddie did that. He brought with him dedicated coaches who recruited relentlessly. Mentored by Earl "Red" Blaik at Army and Bud Wilkinson, Eddie was a supreme strategist. He became everything and more that I wanted that new Colorado coach to be.

"I first met Coach Crowder in person when he visited our living room to recruit my brother Dick. I hung on every word. He was complimentary, kind, thoughtful, persuasive and intelligent. I was silently hoping that in two years he would be back to visit me. As he left that evening he said he would be doing that. I add to those honorable traits of his, sincerity and honesty. I was lucky. He came back, and more importantly for me, he stayed loyal to his commitment when I got a little confused in the whole recruiting process.

"It was the third of Coach Crowder's seasons that he had the Buffs back on a winning track with a 6-2-2 record in '65 and 7-3 in '66, two teams that each beat Oklahoma. A bowl bid was offered in '66 but was turned down.

"In the 60's freshmen weren't eligible to play. We had four years to play three and our first year of eligibility was as sophomores. I really got to know Eddie Crowder in the fall of '67. His instruction on the field enhanced my abilities and rapidly built confidence. I had great respect for his football knowledge as he taught us the strategies of play calling, reading defenses, and anticipating what would take place before the ball was snapped. These were special meetings in Eddie's office with coach and quarterbacks. With about 13 possessions in a game Coach would have us complete 13 successful touchdown drives on a card marked as a football field. Coach would give us down and yardage situations, present opponents defenses, and develop our confidence in mentally responding to each possible situation. Bernie McCall, the Buffs QB in 1966, told me that Eddie would inform you in the meetings what an opposing defense would do on Saturday and that's exactly what would happen. Bernie was right. From the end of '66 into '67 the Buffs had a nine-game winning streak with wins over Oklahoma, Missouri twice, Kansas, Oregon, and Nebraska. After the win over Nebraska in Lincoln we were third in the nation, finished the season 9-2 and beat Miami in our bowl game.

"Eddie's statements and philosophies became characteristic of the way the Buffs played. Meaningful to me was that they were so very applicable to life after football: 'poise is the product of preparation,' 'pay

attention to detail,' 'take care of the little things and the big things will take care of themselves.' Positive mental preparation and mental toughness were attributes instilled in us and Eddie's intensity, intelligence and competitiveness were our example.

"Eddie's teams enjoyed more excellent seasons. An 8-3 record in '69 with a win over Bear Bryant and Alabama in the Liberty Bowl. A 10-2 season in '71, ranked third in the country. With his last win over Oklahoma in '72 the Buffs were 8-4. Eddie Crowder's teams beat a lot of Hall of Fame coaches and mentored Don James and Jerry Clairborne before they went on to their own Hall of Fame careers. Eddie's teams beat Bob Devaney, Barry Switzer, Dan Devine, Joe Paterno, Charlie McClendon, Woody Hayes and Grant Teaff among others. Eddie Crowder stepped down as head football coach after 11 seasons and followed with more service to the University of Colorado as athletic director. His great hire was that of Bill McCartney who led the Buffs to a national championship in 1990.

"Eddie Crowder is a loving Christian man. He prayed for his football teams before and after their games. He held his family, players, and close relationships in his heart. His kindness and friendship will be missed. I love Eddie Crowder like a father and a brother. Eddie will have a relationship with God for eternity ... many of the blessings, and victories I have enjoyed in life are because of Eddie Crowder. There is a part of the foundation of my belief system, self esteem, confidence and faith that come from the example and mentorship of Eddie Crowder. I will always cherish our relationship."

Dave Logan, wide receiver (1972-75)

"Outside of my household, Eddie was the single biggest reason I went to the University of Colorado. He was an outstanding coach and brought the best out of me as a football player. I played my best football for him. He was always genuine, a good man."

Steve Hatchell, equipment manager/sports information (1967-1976)

"It's a particularly sad time me with the passing of Eddie Crowder. I had the good fortune to be with him for 10 years while I was a student and then as an employee. And then when I worked at the Big 8 Conference he was a boss because he was one of the eight athletic directors I responded to. But to me he was my mentor, my coach, my friend, my example and forever a sounding board and wonderful thinker. I was with Eddie for every football game during that 10 year period.

"He gave me so much responsibility as head manager on the football team that I have used those skills forever. He never looked at an issue as whether something could be done or not, but would always begin by saying 'Hatch, here's how we'll do this.' Having been in college athletics for over 30 years I know Eddie's value on so many platforms that each needs to be reviewed and admired.

"People to this day know of my closeness to Eddie and ask me about him. Because of Eddie I got to know Bud Wilkinson who came to spring practices to be with his protégé. I was taught the value and heart and thinking of recruiting Prentice Gautt to be the first black player in Oklahoma history. And then brought Prentice on our staff when we started the Big 12 Conference. Billy Vessels was on my Board of Directors when I was Executive Director of the Orange Bowl and to hear his stories of Oklahoma football through his eyes and that of the entire Oklahoma football team under Wilkinson is to truly understand what is the concept of Oklahoma, state-wise, football-wise and how they interlink. Eddie was a leader of that 'concept' and an architect for its future successes.

"Eddie was admired nationally as player, coach, confidant, and most importantly as a leader. Colorado football became COLORADO FOOTBALL because of him. He was an All-American football player,

and as a coach had national rankings, All-American football players, and beat Bob Devaney, Joe Paterno, Bear Bryant, Chuck Fairbanks, Bill Yeoman, and many other coaches who are Hall of Fame coaches. His class and standing allowed Colorado to get into bowl games in the 1960s when there were only seven available bowl games. Eddie's legacy spans decades and the National Football Foundation was created by powerful men not the least of whom was Red Blaik, legendary coach at Army. On the statue to his memory is the list of assistant coaches who contributed to that legacy, and it's a who's who of great coaches, Tom Landry, Vince Lombardi, Eddie Crowder.

Because he was so admired by people of real intellect and those who had accomplished things in life it was always special to be considered one of "Eddie's guys." Charlie Brannon, former Secretary of Agriculture under President Harry Truman told me after meeting Eddie for lunch that "he is one of the best thinkers, most interesting people" he had ever met and talked about Eddie until he passed away. Brannon thought I was most fortunate to have such a great friend as Eddie Crowder.

So many people, the University of Colorado, State of Colorado, and the game of football are better off because of Eddie Crowder. I'm so delighted, and fortunate, that I had the strength to tell him I loved him when he attended our dinner in New York two years ago. For a lifetime of influence that spans over 40 years it was the best I could do. But I have always been and will always be proud to call him my friend, and one of "Eddie's guys."

Jack Mills, sports attorney/player agent & friend

"I have known Eddie for about 50 years, since he came to the University of Oklahoma to join Bud Wilkinson's coaching staff. I assisted him in recruiting football players for OU, until my graduation from law school in 1963. He then gave me my first job after spending two years in the U.S. Army, in August 1965, as assistant athletic director at CU. I only stayed at that job for one year, but Eddie remained a good friend and mentor for the rest of his life. I often think that taking that job and moving to Boulder actually determined what I have done for all of my working life, so it is hard to overestimate the impact and influence that Eddie had on my life and the lives of my family members. Many of my friends who played football at OU say that Eddie is the coach that cared the most about them and did the most for them. I will truly miss Eddie's friendship."

Jon Burianek, ticket manager/associate athletic director (1968-2006)

"It's with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to the man fondly known as Coach. He was the one who took a chance on me 40 years ago as I began my 38 years as a Colorado Buffalo. Not only was Coach a role model, encourager, and the Chief, but he was also one who I have had the privilege to call my friend and mentor. Coach had a profound impact on my life both professionally as well as personally guiding me through tough times, celebrating during the special times and always challenging me to be better. Nancy and I as well as our children, Jason and Elsa, have been blessed to have both Kate and Eddie in our lives. Our hearts go out to Kate and the rest of the Crowder family. We are saddened by the death of a beloved man and a true Buffalo. We will forever cherish the impact he has had on our lives."

Kevin Fenton, assistant ticket manager & ticket manager (1975-1990)

"As I have been reflecting since last evening about Coach Ed, a lot of thoughts come to mind, but probably the most important is how many people like myself there are. Eddie had a hand in starting my career, but also giving opportunities to many others, providing the framework for lifelong success and allowing his people to see the challenges and take them on. There are many others who worked closer to Coach Ed, worked with him longer, but the impact was the same. He had one of the brightest minds I've

known and I don't think any of us will ever know how many people he touched. I think about all of the young men that played for him and what a profound influence he must have had on them. I think about the coaches he had under him and the ultimate success many of them had. I think about The Count (Fred Casotti) and JB (Jon Burianek) and what our department was like in those days—small, simple, direct, efficient ... and a family.

In the years I worked under Eddie at CU, times were tough, but as a department we hung together. I remember with a smile, the game day breakfasts (6:30 a.m. at the Aristocrat or the Golden Buff) when Coach would meet the ticket and business staff to start the day. He took the time to spend with us, quite often giving us insight on what to watch for that day on the field. It was not an easy time, after all, we were all wearing blue!

Recently, Caroline and I would run into Eddie at the Y working out. He would greet us with his smile and the inquisitive twinkle in his eye that I will always remember.

Coach Ed was a proven leader, one mentor that I will never forget and will never forget the contribution he made to our lives."

Jo Jo Christensen, Crowder administrative assistant (1980-84)

"Eddie was easily one of the nicest bosses I ever had. He was always grateful for any work I did for him, and he would say 'thank you' every day."

Outside of my household, Eddie was the single biggest reason I went to the University of Colorado. He was an outstanding coach and brought the best out of me as a football player. I played my best football for him. He was always genuine, a good man."

Larry Zimmer, KOA-Radio: The Voice of the Buffaloes (1971-present)

"I am saddened by the passing of Eddie Crowder. When I came to Colorado to be the play-by-play announcer of the Buffaloes 37 years ago, from my first meeting with Eddie, we became friends. He embraced me and took me into his confidence. I was immediately impressed by his innovative approach to football. Based on the wishbone, his triple-option offense was brilliant. He made football fun. Eddie loved his 'gadget' plays and burned opponents with the 'swinging gate.' But Eddie was more than a football coach. He could have been a professor in the English department or the History department. I enjoyed our long conversations about history and life. I enjoyed his keen sense of humor and was inspired by his commitment to God. Even after his days of a coach and administrator were over, he was active in business—owning a restaurant and being a distributor of cleaning products. He never lost his love and loyalty to the university. Eddie and I worked together often in more recent years in his role with Jack Vickers in staging the International Golf Tournament. Over the years we remained great friends and on many occasions I sought his counsel.

I am so happy that Eddie and Kate found each other. The love for they had for each other was quite evident. Kate helped him in dealing with the untimely death of his son and with the health problems he had experienced over the past few months. I'll miss him."

Mike Moran, sports information director (1968-79)

"Eddie opened up my life to things I never would have thought possible when he hired me with Fred Casotti in 1968. They told me it was a sort of trial basis deal, and they'd see how I did after a few

months. I paid my own way from Omaha for my interview, had fifteen minutes with Eddie, and thought I had bombed out. As I was leaving to drive back home, they called me and said they would try me out. I think he and Fred had a big laugh over that whole thing, but it changed my life.

"Eddie was an amazing combination of intellect and coaching skill, and he cobbled together some of the best staffs in college football with young guys and veterans who established their own great careers, like Jim Mora, Chet Franklin, Jerry Claiborne, Steve Ortmayer and a lot of others. He liked coaches who could think, and who would, on occasion, challenge him. He could recruit, and he built a sound program at the same time that Oklahoma and Nebraska were as good as they would ever be."

"I went to his home one night in 1978 after I had an offer from the United States Olympic Committee to join them. I had been at CU for a decade, and Eddie had hired Chuck Fairbanks. I told Eddie that I would probably stay, because Fairbanks was going to be great, and I wanted to be part of all that. Eddie poured me a stiff drink, and we sat down to chat. He told me he thought it was a good time to move on and that change was good. I took the USOC offer, and later realized Eddie had helped me miss the Titanic at the dock. I owe him big-time for that one."

Tim Simmons, sports information director (1979-81)

"My most vivid thought about Eddie is that he was always on the move. Eddie was a doer and was always thinking about trying to make things better."

David Plati, sports information director (1984-present)

"I was the last hire Eddie approved of in the summer of 1984 before he stepped down as athletic director. He could have easily delayed the appointment until a new AD took over, but worked with Fred Casotti to name me as SID when I was a wide-eyed 24-year old who, in retrospect, didn't really know all what he was getting into. There is no doubt I owe my long career at CU due to the chance that Eddie and Fred took on me. Growing up a CU fan in the late 1960s and 1970s, I was often in awe of Eddie; it's a privilege to meet your sports heroes much less work with them. We eventually became good friends and there was nothing better than sitting down and talking about the stories of CU football in the 1960s and 1970s. To call Eddie a CU "icon" would be most accurate in my estimation and everyone in the CU athletic community will miss him."

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eddie crowder 1931-2008

CU's legendary mentor dies at 77

By Natalie Meisler
The Denver Post

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Coach Eddie Crowder, with his second Colorado team in 1964, built the Buffs into a national power after inheriting a decimated program. (Denver Post file photo)

BOULDER — Eddie Crowder, the original Okie from Muskogee who guided the University of Colorado football program to the national stage and spent nearly half a century at the school as a coach, athletic director and friend, was mourned Wednesday by the extended CU family.

"The last thing he said to me was, "You're the right guy (for Colorado)," said Buffs coach Dan Hawkins,

who visited Crowder hours before he died late Tuesday at age 77 from complications of leukemia. "That means a lot."

Crowder channeled the lessons he absorbed from his Oklahoma coach and mentor, Bud Wilkinson, for whom he played quarterback, to Hawkins and scores of CU players and coaches for the past 45 years.

"It was so awesome sitting down with Coach

Eddie Crowder

[View slide show of former CU coach and AD Eddie Crowder, who died Tuesday evening](#)

Crowder and he'd say: 'Bud would have done this. Bud would have done that,' " Hawkins said.

Added former CU coach Bill McCartney, whom Crowder hired in 1982: "Eddie was a really bright guy. What he learned at Oklahoma as a player and coach served as a springboard for him. Wilkinson is the last guy who won 47 straight games, and that is who Eddie patterned himself after. Eddie would say: 'You tell them how to do it, and tell them a thousand more times. That's how men learn.' "

Crowder compiled a record of 67-49-2 in 11 seasons as CU coach, starting in 1963. He also served as athletic director from 1965-1984. His best team was the 1971 squad that won games at LSU and at Ohio State on the way to going 10-2 and finished No. 3 in the nation behind Big Eight powers Nebraska and Oklahoma.

Wide receiver Cliff Branch provided some of the most electrifying plays in school history for that team. He recalled Wednesday how Crowder

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convinced him to come to Boulder from Houston.

"He opened his heart to me," Branch said. "He said this is a great university, we don't have racial problems. Guys can date whoever they want. He was a straight shooter. Coming from Texas and the segregated South, that was an influential statement."

Young, smart and motivated

Crowder was 31 when he was hired as head coach in 1963 for \$15,000 and asked to revive a moribund program.

Like Hawkins, Crowder started his CU career with a two-win season. By the time he stepped down, he had taken the program to national prominence, produced some 50 NFL draft picks and mentored a score of pro and college coaches, most notably Jim Mora and Don James.

He beat the legends: Alabama's Bear Bryant, Penn State's Joe Paterno, Nebraska's Bob Devaney, LSU's Charles McClendon and Missouri's Dan Devine, among others.

"He didn't beat all the teams all the time. But he beat all of the great ones at one time or another," said Bobby Anderson, a 1969 CU All-America tailback.

Coming off a loss at Penn State in 1969, Crowder moved quarterback Anderson, a local high school legend in his own right, to tailback, where the starter went down with an injury. The next Saturday, against Indiana, Anderson lined up at quarterback in warm-ups, then shifted to tailback.

"It was all about team back then," Anderson recalled Wednesday. "You didn't cherish one position."

Huge upset in the Bayou

In 1971, at No. 6 LSU, a sophomore-dominated group stunned the home team.

"That win was one of the two greatest in my life, including baseball," said John Stearns, a former Buffs all-Big Eight safety. "We didn't know how good we were. It was the most electric locker room I've ever been in. Eddie didn't even talk. There were 80 guys yelling and screaming."

Then there was the 20-14 shocker over No. 2 Oklahoma in 1972, in what was then a rare nationally televised game.

"You usually held off the big speech until later in the week, but that Tuesday, Eddie spoke to the team and one player could not control himself," Stearns said. "He just stood up, yelling and screaming. Eddie got you mentally ready to play."

CU's ascent later in Crowder's coaching career had much to do with recruiting African-American talent to Boulder at a time when the SEC and former Southwest Conference were still shunning the black athlete.

"It didn't take long to turn it around, because he did one of the best recruiting jobs in Texas and Louisiana," former football assistant Irv Brown said.

Mac makes up for Chuck

As AD, Crowder had arguably the greatest make-up call ever, after a disastrous choice of Chuck Fairbanks, to his selection of McCartney, who led the Buffs to a 1990 national championship. During the Fairbanks era in which that coach overspent his budget, Crowder had to ax baseball, wrestling, swimming and gymnastics.

His best hires were the relative unknowns he chose. He interviewed McCartney, then the Michigan

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defensive coordinator, on the recommendation of Bo Schembechler. He picked Ceal Barry, one of two remaining CU staffers from the Crowder era, from Cincinnati as women's basketball coach.

After retiring as athletic director, Crowder had a number of business ventures, was marketing director for The International golf tournament and helped bring the Final Four to Denver in 1990. He never stopped coming to CU events or supporting the university.

He is survived by his wife of 19 years, the former Kate Alexander, along with two children, two stepchildren and three grandchildren.

"What a blessing he was to all of us," said his widow. "The pain of my loss is overcome with joy of having had 20 fabulous years with a man who adored me and whom I adored even more."

Denver Post staff writer Tom Kensler contributed to this article.

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Crowder memorial

The memorial service for Eddie Crowder will be 2 p. m. Saturday in the east side club rooms of Folsom Field. It is open to the public.

What they're saying

Reaction to the death of Eddie Crowder:

"He really took me in. There were times when I called him and we'd get together. There were times when he would just come by. He always had a keen sense of when I needed a little support. . . . He was one of those great, kind, gentle winds that blow

through your life." - Dan Hawkins, who did not know Crowder before becoming CU's football coach

"He's one of those guys that, when he walked into a room, everyone looks. I saw Coach Crowder about a year ago at a YMCA opening. You think, 'He's working out at 7 o'clock in the morning, the guy is going to live forever.' Unfortunately, God had other plans." - George Hypolite, CU defensive tackle

"He told us about a story about being in little league football. They were doing a tackling drill. There was one kid who was bigger than everybody else and was running over all the tacklers. It was Coach Crowder's turn and the coach said, 'All you've got to do is stick your face in his sternum and wrap your arms around him and lift.' Coach Crowder told us, 'That's what I did, and I put the kid on his back.'"

- Ryan Walters, CU safety

"(Crowder) quit coaching too soon. He was a great coach, but he was also the athletic director, and he decided he couldn't do two jobs. He was a great administrator, but that's not where his heart was." - Jack Mills, sports agent, longtime friend

"Eddie and I became great friends after both of us got out of coaching. . . . I've always thought that if anybody could carry himself anywhere near what Coach (Bud) Wilkinson was, it was Eddie Crowder." - Barry Switzer, former Oklahoma coach

"One of my favorites that we always talked about was J.C. Watts. We talked a lot about life and football." - CU assistant coach Darian Hagan, former Buffs option QB

"I'm indebted to him being patient and believing in me when there was little evidence of a turnaround." - Bill McCartney, CU football coach from 1982-94 who started out 7-25-1 before turning the program around

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"He had intellectual capacity and wide-ranging talents beyond football." - Chuck Neinas, longtime friend and former Big Eight commissioner

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woody paige

Crowder taught Buffs well

By Woody Paige
The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 09/11/2008 12:21:56 AM MDT

Old quarterbacks never say die. They just pass on.

This morning — with a full head of hair and a full head of steam, with a mind full of knowledge and a heart full of kindness — Eddie Crowder, a young man again, is fading back on a 100-yard field of green and throwing a 50-yard spiral into a sky of blue. The passer is saying to the wide receiver: "Good catch, kid." Angels applaud.

In December of 1969, in Memphis, Tenn., Crowder agreed to meet with the 23-year-old nervous, hopeless sportswriter, who blurted: "Uh, coach, what can you tell me about Colorado football?"

"Everything," Crowder calmly replied.

In June of 1974, in Denver, just after the sportswriter moved to Colorado and had made no friends, but scores of enemies, he received a telephone call from Crowder.

"What would you like to know about Colorado football now?" Crowder said.

In December of 2007, the elderly, hopeless sportswriter called Crowder to ask him about the

bowl matches of '69 and '07 between Colorado and Alabama.

"You still trying to learn about Colorado football?" Crowder said. "I thought I taught you everything."

Eddie Crowder did.

As Colorado coach, he taught brothers Bobby and Dick Anderson, who became outstanding pro football players. He taught John Stearns, who became a major-league baseball player. He taught Hale Irwin, who became one of the best professional golfers. He taught 300 players who became businessmen and good men.

He taught a thing or two to Alabama's Bear Bryant, Nebraska's Bob Devaney, Ohio State's Woody Hayes, Penn State's Joe Paterno, Oklahoma's Chuck Fairbanks, LSU's Charlie McClendon, Missouri's Dan Devine, Iowa State's Johnny Majors. He beat them all.

As CU athletic director, Crowder taught Bill McCartney, a young Michigan assistant he named Colorado head coach. McCartney guided the Buffs to a co-national championship in 1990.

And, finally, he taught Dan Hawkins, a coach he helped to select in 2006. On the day he passed on, the ill Crowder clasped the hands of the visiting Hawkins and said: "You're the man, Dan. You're the man." He was leaving the solid future of the CU football program in Hawkins' hands.

The Buffs are 2-0. In 1971, Crowder's Buffs were undefeated through five games — after upset nonconference victories in Baton Rouge and Columbus against top 10-ranked LSU and Ohio State. CU lost to Oklahoma and Nebraska, but finished the season 10-2. And for the only time in NCAA history before or since, three schools from the same conference ended up in the national polls No.

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1 (Nebraska), No. 2 (Oklahoma) and No. 3 (Colorado).

Eddie would beat Oklahoma and Nebraska in his coaching career, which began in 1963 when he was only 31 and wound up in 1973, when, as athletic director, he decided, for the Buffs' betterment, to replace himself with a new coach.

As Colorado's coach and athletic director over a 21-year period, he taught the Buffaloes how to win big in football.

But, first, he was a pupil — as the quarterback on the state championship team in Oklahoma, then as a member of the University of Oklahoma's first national championship team and as an All-America quarterback with a Heisman Trophy-winning running back.

Just like Don Haskins, the famed UTEP basketball coach who died Sunday, Crowder gave scholarships, and significant roles on his team, to African-Americans when it wasn't so popular. The Buffs beat all-white Alabama in the Liberty Bowl in

Submit Your Question



The Denver Post's
Woody Paige



Post sports columnist Woody Paige fields your questions. Look for Woody's Mailbag every Thursday.

With difficult economic times in the NCAA — and at CU, which was in deep financial straits — in 1980, and after his disastrous hiring of Fairbanks as the Buffs' coach, Crowder was under severe pressure to resign as AD. He vowed not to depart until he turned around the program. By 1984, he had hired McCartney and made the Colorado athletic program solvent again. Crowder gracefully retired, but not really.

He continued to teach people. Crowder became one of the most successful international marketers for Amway and had hundreds of distributors, interestingly, in Mexico. He appeared anywhere he was needed, and his strength carried him through his health problems.

Eddie was a great quarterback, a great coach, a great athletic director and a great friend. All of us will miss his bald head and his broad smile and his Buffalo spirit.

Ralphie began his charge onto the field ahead of the players and Crowder in 1967.

What Crowder said to the sportswriter in 1969 was: "We have a special academic university in the most spectacular spot in the country, and we have a good football team. That's everything you need to know."

Eddie Crowder, the old quarterback, has passed on . . . passed on so much to so many as a teacher of everything Colorado football.

Woody Paige: 303-954-1095 or wpaige@denverpost.com

1969. Crowder's last recruited quarterback was an African-American.

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Longmont, Colorado
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2008

TIMES-CALL

Publish Date: 9/11/2008

CU loses a legend

Former football coach, AD Eddie Crowder dies at 77

*By Patrick Ridgell
Longmont Times-Call*

BOULDER — Colorado football has lost an icon.

Eddie Crowder, CU's football coach during one of its most challenging eras and also the school's athletic director for 20 years, died shortly before 10 p.m. Tuesday of complications from leukemia. He was 77.

Crowder died with family by his side at Exemplar Health Center in Lafayette, where he checked in Monday with respiratory problems.

"What a blessing he was to all of us," said Kate, his wife of nearly 20 years. "The pain of my loss is overcome with the joy of having had 20 fabulous years with a man who adored me and whom I adored even more."

Crowder went 67-49-2 from 1963 to 1973 at CU. He's second among CU coaches in games (118), third in wins (67) and third in conference wins (39). He defeated 10 coaches who are in the National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame. He guided CU to five bowls, and to its No. 3 ranking in the final 1971 poll.

As athletic director from 1965 to 1984, he directed three expansions to Folsom Field and coordinated the construction of the Events/Conference Center. He hired football coach Bill McCartney, women's basketball coach Ceal Barry and golf coach Mark Simpson, among others.

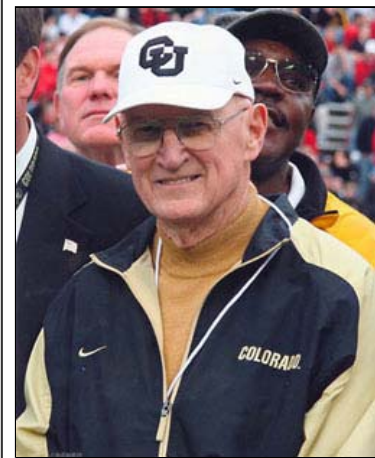
Crowder attended Oklahoma and played quarterback for the Sooners. He was All-American and All-Big Seven Conference as a senior in 1952.

He was drafted by the New York Giants in 1953. He declined the offer due to a nerve problem in his throwing arm.

Crowder remained active with the CU athletic department following his retirement.

Defensive tackle George Hypolite said Wednesday he saw Crowder working out at a YMCA last year at 7 a.m. Hypolite said he remembered thinking Crowder was going to live forever.

"Unfortunately, God had other plans," Hypolite said. "He was a great man. In the short time I've been here, he taught me a lot about being focused and taking care of your business and things like that. It's really sad. I think the University of Colorado has lost a great ambassador."



Eddie Crowder, who coached the CU football team to a 67-49-2 record and five bowl games from 1963 to 1973, died Tuesday night in Lafayette. He was 77. **File photo courtesy of University of Colorado**

Eddie Crowder coaching record

University of Colorado

ConferenceAll Games

WLTP.LWT

1963

2506th280

1964

1607th280

1965

4213rd622

1966

5202nd730

1967

During the summer of 2007, Crowder met with running back coach Darian Hagan, CU's quarterback when it won Big Eight titles from 1989 to 1991.

"He told me that I could be good in this profession," Hagan said. "I took that to heart." That wasn't the only thing Hagan took to heart in that talk.

Crowder talked to Hagan about recruiting, about how he'd position prospects so they could place their eyes on nothing but him. Hagan said he used those techniques last year when he recruited Darrell Scott.

Crowder also was innovative.

During the 1971 season, Crowder used a gadget play called the "swinging gate." The quarterback stood over the ball while the rest of the team waited on the side. Suddenly the quarterback picked it up and pitched it to Cliff Branch, who ran past a startled defense to score.

Later that season, Crowder told a select few he'd use the play again.

Everyone expected the opposing defense to be ready the second time. But the second time, Branch took the pitch and threw a touchdown pass to an uncovered receiver.

What also set Crowder apart was the grasp he had on what it took to win at CU. He assumed a monster task in 1963, when NCAA sanctions in 1961 decimated the program, leaving it short on talent and on two years probation. As Crowder said, 40 players had been paid, denying the team of its best athletes.

Crowder patiently rebuilt. He fielded a winner in his third season, going 6-2-2. CU finished ranked in four of his final seven, including No. 3 in 1971, when the Buffs went 10-2 and lost only to Nebraska and Oklahoma.

In an interview with the Times-Call in August, 2006, Crowder talked about the job he took on.

"If you take Lincoln (Neb.), Norman (Okla.), Lawrence (Kan.), Ames (Iowa), communities like that, there is a different sort of atmosphere or flavor in that they do not tend to have the reins of social, political and economic variances," Crowder said. "There's much a much greater mixed crop of folks that make up the (Boulder) community. It invites diversion.

"In Norman and Lincoln, there is an obsession with college football. In Boulder, there's no obsession, there's more of a keen interest. The reasons that has an influential affect, in my opinion, is, one, if a youngster is recruited to one of those communities, everybody he bumps into there is eager to talk local football. Here, people are just not that conscious of it, it's not the focus.

"In those communities, because of the atmosphere, the team is held in such esteem, they know they'll be living a high-priority life. That's less true here."

Current CU coach Dan Hawkins, hired in December 2005 to replace Gary Barnett following an era that included allegations of improper recruiting, said Crowder quickly became a mentor. Hawkins had Crowder address the players in August 2006. He addressed Hawkins a lot that year, while the Buffs stumbled to 2-10.

"He was great about coming around when I asked him," Hawkins said Wednesday. "And probably his most unique gift was coming around when he

5202nd920

1968

3404th460

1969

5203rd830

1970

3404th650

1971

5203rd1020

1972

4303rd840

1973

2506th560

Totals

39371--67492

CU athletic directors

Harry Carlson 1927-1964

Eddie Crowder 1965-1984

Bill Marolt 1984-1996

Dick Tharp 1996-2004

Mike Bohn 2005-present

CU games coached

1. Bill McCartney 152

2. Eddie Crowder 118

3. Dallas Ward 110

4. Fred Folsom 102

5. Myron Witham 96

knew I needed him, but didn't ask him.

"He'd never force his opinions or his thoughts or anything on you. But he was always very good about sharing whatever knowledge he had and letting you sift through it."

CU on Wednesday issued "testimonials" from past coaches, players, staffers, colleagues and others. Among them were a few words from former CU coach Rick Neuheisel.

"Eddie and I spent a lot of time talking about football, coaching, friendship and life," wrote Neuheisel, now in his first season as UCLA's coach. "His wisdom was unmistakable. His zest for life, his love for Kate, and that great smile will always be fond memories. Most important to me, however, was his willingness to remain my friend when it wasn't popular."

A memorial service is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in Folsom Field's east side club rooms. It's open to the public, and parking around the stadium will be free.

Crowder is survived by his wife, the former Kate Alexander, whom he married on Oct. 4, 1989; two children, son Mike and daughter Carol Jean; two stepchildren, David Roman and Rebecca Roman, and three grandchildren, Stephanie D'Angelo, Julia D'Angelo and Trevor James. His parents, two brothers and another son, Robert, preceded him in death.

CU coaching wins

1. Bill McCartney 93
2. Fred Folsom 77
3. Eddie Crowder 67
4. Dallas Ward 64
5. Myron Witham 63

CU conference wins

1. Bill McCartney 58
2. Myron Witham 50
3. Eddie Crowder 39
4. Fred Folsom 37
5. Gary Barnett 34