

***2006 COLORADO FOOTBALL***



***INDIVIDUAL PLAYER NOTES***

*(as of November 20 a.m.)*

**EIGHT QUICK QUESTIONS**

We polled the veterans last spring on eight quick questions; here's what they told us:

Student-Athlete	What is your cell phone ring tone?	Players in a foursome (1, 2 or 3)	Favorite TV show growing up	Favorite snack	Song you like nobody knows about	What was your first concert?	Who would you like to be for a day?	Iraq: Get out or finish the mission?
Justin Adams	Ballin' On a Budget	Kyle Frey Dion Rabouin Michael Askew	Cosby Show	Oatmeal Cookies	<i>Day Off</i> - Canton Jones	Boyz II Men	George Bush's Advisor	Complete Mission
Paul Backowski	Sweet Home Alabama	Tiger Woods Phil Mickelson Jesus	Full House	Twix	<i>Jungle Love</i> - Steve Miller		President	Complete Mission
Alvin Barnett	It's Goin' Down Yung Joc		The PJ's	Fruit	<i>In The Sky</i> - T.I.	Nelly	Myself	Get Out
Alonzo Barrett	In The Club	Brother Chris Rock Mike Epps	Good Times	Fried Okra	Sweet Home Alabama	Outkast	Jay-Z	Get Out
Jake Behrens	Standard		Fresh Prince of Bellaire	Chips & Salsa		311	President	Complete Mission
J.J. Billingsley	Claremont Lounge	Pringles Man Tiger Woods Dr. Pepper		Fruit Snacks		Bone Thugs	My Daughter	
Walter Boye-Doe			Different Strokes	Fruit Snacks				Get Out
Dominique Brooks	What You Know About That	Michael Jordan J-Lo Lil' Wayne	Family Matters	Sour Skittles	<i>This Love</i> - Maroon 5	Vanilla Ice	Kobe Bryant	Get Out
R.J. Brown	Ashes - Pepper	John Morris Kainea Higgins Jeremy Kort	Simpson's	Reese's	<i>Mr. Sun Cho Lee</i> - Pure Heat	Pepper	President	Complete Mission
Benjamin Burney	Swing Low Sweet Chariot	Brother Megan Good Spike Lee	Thundercats	Fruit Rollups	<i>Come Away With Me</i> - Norah Jones	Earth, Wind, & Fire	God	Get Out
Marcus Burton	Bell Ring	Michael Jordan Ray Lewis Lawrence Taylor	WWE	Oranges	<i>Love</i> - Musiq	Musiq & Soul Child	Coach Hawk	Get Out
Maurice Cantrell	Poppin' My Collar	Michael Jordan Ray Lewis MLK, Jr.	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Chocolate		Krunktoberfest	Malcolm X	Complete Mission
Hugh Charles	Vibrate	Colt Michael Jordan Tiger Woods	Family Matters	Cheese-Its	<i>Turn Off the Lights</i> - Teddy Pendagrath	David Allen Co.	Omar Epps	Get Out
James Cox	Stay Fly	Anna Kournikova Hugh Hefner Jesus	Fresh Prince	Cookies	<i>Don't Take the Girl</i> - Tim McGraw	Slightly Stupid	Kobe Bryant	Get Out
Cody Crawford	My Hood	Michael Jordan Lawrence Taylor Troy Polamalu	Sports Center	Donuts			Bill Gates	Complete Mission
Paul Creighton	Regular Ring	Michael Jordan John Elway George Bush	Saved by the Bell	Twinkies	<i>Sail Away</i> - STYX	Foo Fighters	Bill Gates	Complete Mission
Mason Crosby	God Bless America	Tiger Woods Charles Barkley Michael Jordan	Seinfeld	Gushers	<i>Where Is Your Heart</i> - Kelly Clarkson	Ninja Turtles Live	Tiger Woods	Complete Mission
Chad Cusworth	Highway to Hell	J-Tip Paul Creighton Joe Klopfenstein	Dinosaurs	Ice Cream Shakes	<i>I Can't Dance</i> - Phil Collins	Metallica	No One	Complete Mission
Brain Daniels	Ring, Ring	Bill Romanowski George Bush Dick Buttkus	Roadrunner	Queso	<i>Stairway to Heaven</i> - Led Zepplin	Eagles	Bill Gates	Complete Mission
Patrick Devenny	King Without a Crown	Tiger Woods Phil Mickelson Vince Vaughn	Ninja Turtles	In-N-Out		Dave Matthews	Ben Harper	
Tyson DeVree	What Came with the Phone	Tiger Woods Phil Mickelson John Daly	American Gladiator	Ice Cream	<i>Margaretville</i> - Jimmy Buffet	Brooks & Dunn	Roger Clemens	Complete Mission
Matt DiLallo	Quote from Tommy Boy	Jim Carrey My Dad Mike Wilkinson	Power Rangers	Teddy Grahams	<i>Just to be Closer to You</i> - Lionel Richie	Aerosmith	The Pope	Get Out
Jordan Dizon	People Get Ready	Tiger Woods Phil. Mickelson Davis Love III	Fresh Prince of Bellaire	Pizza			Tiger Woods	Complete Mission
Kevin Eberhart	Loud		Myth Busters	Pudding		Goo Goo Dolls		Complete Mission

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Student-Athlete	What is your cell phone ring tone?	Players in a foursome (1, 2 or 3)	Favorite TV show growing up	Favorite snack	Song you like nobody knows about	What was your first concert?	Who would you like to be for a day?	Iraq: Get out or finish the mission?
<b>Byron Ellis</b>	DJ Play a Love Song	Matt Frank David	Family Matters	Macaroni & Cheese	<i>Without You</i> - Mary J. Blige		Usher	Get Out
<b>Mark Fenton</b>	Office Ring	Mike Epps Dr. Dre Martin Lawrence	Martin	Lunch	<i>Boulevard of Broken Dreams</i> - Green Day	Snoop Dogg	President	Get Out
<b>Reggie Foster</b>	Dre Day	Halle Berry Lisa Raye Beyonce	Martin	PB&J	<i>Waiting for the Moment</i> - Bootsy Collins	Earth, Wind & Fire	Snoop Dogg	
<b>Isaac Garden</b>	Vibrate	Aaron Garder Mom My Dad	Wayan's Brothers	Taco Bell	<i>Since You've Been Gone</i> - Kelly Clarkson	Warped Tour	King of Morocco	Complete Mission
<b>Riar Geer</b>	Re-Align	Tiger Woods Phil Mickelson Dad	South Park	Cookies	The Temptations	Static-X & American Headcharge	Bill Gates	Complete Mission
<b>Dan Goettsch</b>	Hockey Hair	Tiger Woods Phil Mickelson Michael Jordan	Double Dare	Cereal	<i>Soul Survivor</i> - Young Jazzy	George Strait	Walker: Texas Ranger	Get Out
<b>Tom Grubin</b>	Slow Motion	Tiger Woods Arnold Palmer Bob Barker	Seinfeld	Snickers	<i>In the Summertime</i> - Mungo Jerry	Pat Green	Bill Gates	Complete Mission
<b>Lionel Harris</b>	Lean Wit It, Rock Wit It	Michael Jordan Bernard Dominique Wilkins	Martin	Cookies	<i>Don't Take the Girl</i>		Trump	Complete Mission
<b>Edwin Harrison</b>	Normal Ring	Jeff Edward Puff Daddy	Martin	Everything	<i>Use Me</i> - Bill Withers	Cash Money & Rough Riders	Russell Simmons	Get Out
<b>Jeremy Hauck</b>	Just What I Needed	Jon Arbezniak Matt Bronan Carmen Electra	Simpson's	Pizza	<i>Hot Blooded</i> - Foreigner	Jimmy Buffet	Jimmy Buffet	Get Out
<b>Devin Head</b>	I Did My Time	Jimmy Buffet Toby Keith Tom Head	Simpson's	Snack Pack Pudding	<i>Standing Outside the Fire</i> - Garth Brooks	Journey/ Foreigner	John Belushi	Complete Mission
<b>Mell Holliday</b>	Come Get This Money	Stacey Dash Halle Berry Christina Milan	Family Matters	Strawberry Shortcake	<i>Kiss</i> - Prince	Never Have	Bill Gates	Get Out
<b>Nick Holz</b>	Basic One	Fred Couples Cal Ripken Jr. Bill Walsh	Saved By The Bell	Parmesan Goldfish	<i>Private Eyes</i> - Hall and Oates	Pat Green	Air Force Pilot	Complete Mission
<b>George Hypolite</b>	Go Crazy	Alicia Keys Eva Mendez Naomi Campbell	Ninja Turtles	Candy	<i>Complicated</i> - Avril LaVigne	M.C. Hammer	President	Get Out
<b>Bernard Jackson</b>						50 Cent		
<b>Samson Jagoras</b>	Stay Fly		Punky Brewster		Cemetery Gates	MxPx		Complete Mission
<b>Brad Jones</b>	The Humpty Dance	Hoops Lisa Ray Beyonce	Family Matters	Cup-A-Noodles		Earth, Wind & Fire	Aqua Man	
<b>Marcus Jones</b>	Big Poppa	Donald Trump Bill Gates Ed McMahon	Martin	Ice Cream		Never Been	Governor of Colorado	Get Out
<b>Reggie Joseph</b>	Lil' Wayne		Martin, Fresh Prince	Ice Cream	<i>Waiting in Vain</i> - Bob Marley	M.C. Hammer	Deion Sanders	Get Out
<b>Mike Kachmer</b>	Sevendust	Adam Sandler Dane Cook Butters	Wonder Years	Orange Chicken	<i>Cum on Feel the Noize</i> - Quiet Riot	Sum 41	Tony Jaa from Ong Bak	What Mission?
<b>Taj Kaynor</b>	Fireman	Eva Mendez DMX Eva Longoria	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Taquitos	<i>So Hard to Say Goodbye</i> - Boys II Men	LL Cool J	Will Smith	Complete Mission
<b>Alexander Ligon</b>	Laguna Beach Theme	Mike Jackson Mike Tyson George Bush	All My Children	Pizza	<i>Like a Virgin</i> - Madonna	50 Cent	Oprah	Get Out
<b>Maurice Lucas</b>	Normal	Jaczeq Diddy Britney Spears	Dragon-Ball Z	Twinkies	Scat Man			Get Out
<b>Blake Mackey</b>	Players Ball - Outkast	Beyonce Janet Jackson Tyra Banks	Wayan's Brothers	Kit Kat	<i>Don't Tell My Heart</i> - Billy Ray Cyrus	Summer Jam		Complete Mission
<b>Bryce MacMartin</b>	Regular	Steve Young Bill Clinton Barry Bonds	Simpson's	Queso	<i>Weather Report</i> - Birland	Beastie Boys	Mason Crosby	Get Out
<b>Chase McBride</b>	It's usually on vibrate	John Elway Reggie Miller Jesus	Friends, SportsCenter	Chips		DMX	Jesus, Carmelo Anthony	Complete Mission

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Student-Athlete	What is your cell phone ring tone?	Players in a foursome (1, 2 or 3)	Favorite TV show growing up	Favorite snack	Song you like nobody knows about	What was your first concert?	Who would you like to be for a day?	Iraq: Get out or finish the mission?
<b>Gardner McKay</b>	Spit Yo Game	Halle Berry Alicia Keys Beyonce	Jamie Foxx	Honey Buns	<i>Song Cry</i>	Never Been		Get Out
<b>Kevin Moyd</b>	Oh Yes by Juelz Santana	Jeff Jeremy Bloom Tiki Barber	Martin		<i>Perfect - Simple Plan</i>	Never Been	Myself	Get Out
<b>Brandon Nicolas</b>	Jack Johnson	Michael Jordan Tiger Woods Phil Mickelson	Guts	Smoothies	<i>Welcome to Jamrock - Damian Marley</i>	The next one	Tiger Woods	Complete Mission
<b>Tyler Polumbus</b>	Kenny Chesney	George Bush Jesus John Elway	Dennis: the Menace	Chocolate Cake		Jimmy Buffet	Michael Jordan	Complete Mission
<b>Stephone Robinson</b>	Everyday I'm Hustlin' - Rick Ross	Steve Smith Selma Hayek Jesus	Seinfeld	Fruit Snacks	<i>Feel Good Inc. - Gorillaz</i>	Boys II Men	T.I.	Get Out
<b>Daniel Sanders</b>	So Fresh, So Clean - Outkast	Hulk Hogan Brett Favre Mike Piazza	Charles in Charge	Queso	<i>Waiting in Vain - Bob Marley</i>	Weird Al Yankovic	A Billionaire	Get Out
<b>Joseph Sanders</b>	Poppin' My Collar	Tiger Woods Michael Jordan Vijay Singh	Fresh Prince	Gummy Worms	<i>Kung Fu Fighting - Foo Fighters</i>	Biggie Smalls Puff Daddy Busta Rhymes	Jay-Z	Get Out
<b>Devin Shanahan</b>	Monday Night Football	John Elway George Bush Michael Jordan	Simpson's	Peanut Butter	<i>Dream Big - Ryan Shupe</i>	Tim McGraw	President	Complete Mission
<b>Charlie Sherman</b>	Sexual Healing	Pamela Anderson Carmen Electra Jenna Jameson	America's Funniest Videos	Ice Cream	Classic Rock	Aerosmith	Famous Rock Star	Complete Mission
<b>Lorenzo Sims</b>	Regular	Tiger Woods Jesus	Family Matters	Starburst			Michael Jordan	Get Out
<b>Jeff Smart</b>	Georgia	Ryan Peters Charles Barkley Michael Jordan	Simpson's	Rice Krispie Treats			George W. Bush	Complete Mission
<b>Dusty Sprague</b>	On vibrate	FDR Ed McCaffrey Grandfather	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Wheat Thins & Cream Cheese	<i>Foggy Day in London Town - Michael Buhle</i>	Sawyer Brown	A Person in a Third World Country	Get Out
<b>Bryan Stengel</b>	Freak On A Leash	Chris Farley Vince Vaughn Jessica Alba	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Gushers	<i>Tangerine - Led Zeppelin</i>	Metallica	Laird Hamilton	Get Out
<b>Jack Tipton</b>	Standard	Tiger Woods Phil Mickelson John Daly	Married With Children	Anything	<i>Wish You Were Here - Pink Floyd</i>	Metallica	Bill Gates	Get Out
<b>Ryan Walters</b>		Michael Jordan Tiger Woods Jesus	Fresh Prince			D'Angelo	Tiger Woods	Get Out
<b>Terry Washington</b>	Money on My Mind	God Jesus Jay-Z	Martin	Cheetos	<i>Thousand Miles - Venessa Carlton</i>	Hotboys & Nelly	President	Complete Mission
<b>Thaddaeus Washington</b>	Regular		None	Any candy	<i>When I See Jesus</i>		Myself	Get Out
<b>Vance Washington</b>	What You Know - T.I.	Michael Jordan Tiger Woods Gary Barnett	Trans- formers	Anything		Mike Franks	T.O.	Complete Mission
<b>Terrence Wheatley</b>	Welcome to Jamrock	Tiger Woods Phil Mickelson Vijay Singh	Batman	Fruit Snacks	<i>The Panama Cat - Acoustic Achemy</i>	Never Been	President	Get Out
<b>Patrick Williams</b>	Lean Wit It Rock Wit It	Alicia Keys Beyonce Mya	Simpson's	Chips	<i>Mother Be Good to Your Daughters</i>	Alicia Keys	Will Smith	Complete Mission
<b>Terry Wilson</b>	Feliz Navidad	Jesus Kobe Bryant Beyonce	Family Matters	Starburst (Tropical)	<i>Wake Me Up When September Ends - Green Day</i>	Bone Thugs and Harmony	Shaq	Get Out
<b>Abraham Wright</b>	Usually on vibrate	Charles Stanley Joel Osteen Jesus	Fresh Prince	Anything	Tim McGraw	Can't remember	Myself	No Comment
<b>Jarrell Yates</b>	Rodeo by Juvenile	Simpson's	Chips	<i>American Idiot - Green Day</i>		R.Kelly	Hugh Hefner	Complete Mission

**PRESEASON HONORS**

The list of honors accumulated by the Buffaloes in both the preseason magazines as well as from national award committees:

**PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA**

**PK MASON CROSBY** (first-team: *Athlon, ATS Consultants, CBS SportsLine.com, collegefootballnews.com, Lindy's Big 12 Football, Football.com, Football News, Nationalchamps.net, Phil Steele's College Football, Playboy, Rivals.com, The Sporting News, Sports Illustrated, Street & Smith's*)  
**OG BRIAN DANIELS** (second-team: *collegefootballnews.com, Phil Steele's College Football*)  
**C MARK FENTON** (first-team: *Street & Smith's*; second-team: *Nationalchamps.net*; third-team: *Football.com*)  
**PR STEPHONE ROBINSON** (honorable mention: *Nationalchamps.net*)  
**ILB THADDAEUS WASHINGTON** (third-team: *Football.com, Nationalchamps.net*)  
**FWAA Preseason Checklist (293 players):** FS J.J. Billingsley, TB Hugh Charles, PK Mason Crosby, OG Brian Daniels, C Mark Fenton, ILB Thaddaeus Washington, DE Abraham Wright

**ALL-BIG 12 CONFERENCE**

**FS J.J. BILLINGSLEY** (first-team: *Athlon, collegefootballnews.com, Lindy's Big 12 Football, USA Today Sports Weekly*; second-team: *Huskers Illustrated, The Sporting News*)  
**TB HUGH CHARLES** (second-team: *The Sporting News*; fourth-team: *Phil Steele's College Football*)  
**PK MASON CROSBY** (first-team: *Athlon, ATS Consultants, Big 12 Summer Media Poll, CBS SportsLine.com, collegefootballnews.com, Huskers Illustrated, Lindy's Big 12 Football, Phil Steele's College Football, The Sporting News, Street & Smith's, USA Today Sports Weekly*)  
**OG BRIAN DANIELS** (first-team: *Phil Steele's College Football*; second-team: *Huskers Illustrated, The Sporting News*; third-team: *Athlon*)  
**ILB JORDON DIZON** (first-team: *Street & Smith's*; second-team: *Athlon*; third-team: *Phil Steele's College Football*)  
**C MARK FENTON** (first-team: *Athlon, ATS Consultants, Big 12 Summer Media Poll, CBS SportsLine.com, collegefootballnews.com, Huskers Illustrated, Lindy's Big 12 Football, Phil Steele's College Football, The Sporting News, Street & Smith's, USA Today Sports Weekly*)  
**OT EDWIN HARRISON** (fourth-team: *Phil Steele's College Football*)  
**KR STEPHONE ROBINSON** (first-team: *CBS SportsLine.com*; second-team: *Athlon, Huskers Illustrated, The Sporting News*)  
**CB LORENZO SIMS** (third-team: *Phil Steele's College Football*)  
**ILB THADDAEUS WASHINGTON** (first-team: *Athlon, ATS Consultants, Big 12 Summer Media Poll, CBS SportsLine.com, collegefootballnews.com, Huskers Illustrated, Lindy's Big 12 Football, The Sporting News, USA Today Sports Weekly*; second-team: *Phil Steele's College Football*)  
**KR TERRENCE WHEATLEY** (first-team: *Phil Steele's College Football*)

**NATIONAL TOP 63 PLAYER RATINGS**

**Center:** Mark Fenton (No. 5, *Lindy's Big 12 Football*; No. 6, *Phil Steele's College Football, The Sporting News*)  
**Cornerback:** Lorenzo Sims (No. 31, *Phil Steele's College Football*)  
**Inside Linebacker:** Thaddaeus Washington (No. 5, *Lindy's Big 12 Football*; No. 13, *Phil Steele's College Football*; No. 15, *The Sporting News*)  
**Offensive Guard:** Brian Daniels (No. 4, *Phil Steele's College Football*; No. 17, *The Sporting News*)  
**Offensive Tackle:** Edwin Harrison (No. 48, *Phil Steele's College Football*)  
**Outside Linebacker:** Jordan Dizon (No. 23, *Phil Steele's College Football*; note: Dizon plays ILB and has never played OLB)  
**Placekicker:** Mason Crosby (No. 1, *Lindy's Big 12 Football, Phil Steele's College Football, The Sporting News*)  
**Return Specialist:** Stephone Robinson (No. 9, *The Sporting News*)  
**Running Back:** Hugh Charles (No. 63, *Phil Steele's College Football*)  
**Safety:** J.J. Billingsley (No. 9 Free, *The Sporting News*; No. 16, *Lindy's Big 12 Football*; No. 35, *Phil Steele's College Football*)

**PLAYERS FOR NATIONAL AWARDS**

**Dick Butkus Award** (top linebacker): ILB Jordan Dizon, ILB Thaddaeus Washington (two of 65 on official watch list)  
**Lou Groza Award** (top placekicker): PK Mason Crosby (2005 runner-up; one of 30 on official watch list)  
**Heisman Trophy:** TB Hugh Charles (No. 74 candidate by *collegefootballnews.com*)  
**Ted Hendricks Award** (top defensive end): DE Abraham Wright (one of 42 on official watch list)  
**Rotary Lombardi Award** (top down lineman within 5 yards of ball): C Mark Fenton, ILB Thaddaeus Washington (two of 101 on official watch list)  
**Bronko Nagurski Trophy** (top defensive player): ILB Thaddaeus Washington (one of 56 on official watch list)  
**Dave Rimington Award** (top center): C Mark Fenton (one of 40 on official watch list)  
**Outland Trophy** (top interior lineman): OG Brian Daniels, C Mark Fenton (two of 54 on official watch list)  
**Doak Walker Award:** TB Hugh Charles (one of 50 on official watch list)

**NATIONAL UNIT RATINGS**

**Defensive Backs:** No. 7 (*Lindy's Big 12 Football*), No. 15 (*Phil Steele's College Football*)  
**Linebackers:** No. 15 (*Phil Steele's College Football*)  
**Special Teams:** No. 4 (*Phil Steele's College Football*)

**PRESEASON TEAM RANKINGS**

Publication	National	Big 12 North	Publication	National	Big 12 North	Publication	National	Big 12 North
Collegefootballnews.com	No. 26	...	CBS SportsLine.com CFB	No. 48	4th	Football News	.....	3rd
ATS Consultants	No. 32	t-1st	USA Today (coaches)	No. 51	...	Gold Sheet Football Annual	.....	3rd
Nationalchamps.net	No. 37	...	Lindy's Big 12 Football	No. 57	4th	USA Today Sports Weekly	.....	3rd
Sports Illustrated	No. 37	3rd	The Sporting News	No. 68	5th	Athlon Sports	.....	5th
Scripps Howard	No. 39	...	DC Texas Football	.....	1st	Huskers Illustrated	.....	5th
Football.com	No. 40	...	Surefire Scouting	.....	2nd	Street & Smith's	.....	5th
Phil Steele's College Football	No. 46	2nd	Big 12 Summer Media Poll	.....	3rd			

**PRESEASON MAGAZINE NOTES**

*The Sporting News* had a hit and a miss in its preseason magazine. First, it must have inadvertently left **PK Mason Crosby** off its list of Best Clutch Players For A Game Winning Kick (Mason's 12-of-13 in the fourth quarter and 10-of-10 with 8½ minutes or less remaining). However, it did rate Colorado as having the only "A+" for a coaching hire in **Dan Hawkins**: "The former Boise State coach is a proven motivator and winner—a guy whose entertaining style puts fannies in the seats and has recruits standing in line to play for him." TSN also selected **ILB Thaddaeus Washington** as the Big 12's hardest-hitting linebacker, and again cited the Buffaloes for playing the toughest schedule (and the fourth toughest in the nation).

*Street & Smith's*, however, did rate Crosby as being the best under pressure in the conference, and tabbed Washington's sidekick, **ILB Jordan Dizon**, as the league's hardest hitter and **TB Hugh Charles** as the Big 12's best athlete (he's a long jumper in track in addition to his football skills).

*Lindy's Big 12 Football* tabbed CU's secondary as the seventh-best unit in the nation, its special teams as the tops in the Big 12 and listed Crosby No. 10 on its list of 2007 NFL Draft Day talent. The magazine also selected its all-Big 12 team of the last two decades (1986-2005), with CU players nailing down five first-team selections (**WR Michael Westbrook**, **OG Joe Garten**, **DE Alfred Williams**, **CB Deon Figures**, **P Barry Helton**) and seven second-team choices (**TB Rashaan Salaam**, **TE Daniel Graham**, **C Jay Leeuwenburg**, **OG Chris Naeole**, **PK Mason Crosby**, **ILB Matt Russell**, **CB Chris Hudson**); in all, the Buffs had 12 of the 52 players selected, easily the most on the team, followed by Oklahoma (9), Nebraska (8), Texas (7), Baylor (3), Kansas State (3) and Oklahoma State (3) with the other five schools all with one. "The Catch" (CU's 27-26 win at Michigan in 1994) was selected as the most unforgettable moment.

Meanwhile, over on *collegefootballnews.com*, it ranked **Dan Hawkins** as the No. 17 coach nationally on a list of head coaches "you'd want to hire to run your program for the next few years." It stated, "Lots of schools wanted a piece of the Hawk the last couple of years, and the Buffs are thrilled to have caged him. It was only a matter of time before Hawkins out grew Boise, where he took the house Dirk Koetter started building and actually added a few impressive extensions. He's an energetic, no-nonsense type disciplinarian, whose teams are always well-prepared and sound in the fundamentals. Hawkins is well-respected and well-liked by the players and the community, and has an unusually voracious appetite for success." Number one on the list was Pete Carroll.

**FIVE QUESTIONS**

Assorted questions with popular Buffaloes:

**BERNARD JACKSON**

**Tell us about your family--** "I love hanging out with my brother, my mom and my son. I also spend a lot of time with my nephews Jason and Matt who are like brothers to me."

**What do you like most about playing QB? --** "Taking the blame for losing." **Really? --** "Yes, I like being accountable."

**If you were on the NCAA Rules Committee, which rule would you add or change?--** "I would do away with the new timing rules. It's ruining the game."

**What sport would you want to play other than football? --** "Golf. But I don't play."

**If you've got a weekend completely free from football, what would you do? --** "Hang out with my son, Jayden."

**MASON CROSBY**

**What is your favorite stadium to play in other than Folsom Field? --** "I like A&M's (Kyle Field), just because it's so big and the fans are really loud and intense."

**If you were running for President, who would be your running mate? --** "Nick Holz."

**What is your favorite home cooked meal? --** "My mom makes a delicious enchilada casserole."

**How many text messages do you send/receive a day? --** "A lot! I get in trouble a lot with my dad when he sees my bill. I probably send and receive about 150 a day mostly with my friends. I text my mom sometimes but she's pretty slow to respond."

**What is your favorite article of clothing? --** "I have a CU hat that I've been wearing for three years now. It's pretty worn out but I wear it all the time."

**CHA'PELLE BROWN**

**Who is your favorite NFL player? --** "LaDanian Tomlinson."

**Would you rather play in 90-degree heat or 20 degrees and snow? --** "Oh, the heat for sure."

**What is your favorite home cooked meal? --** "Baked chicken."

**What is your favorite sport to watch other than football? --** "Basketball. I loved watching M.J. growing up."

**Monday is your day off from practice. If you're not in class what are you doing? --** "I'm either watching film or in study hall."

**DUSTY SPRAGUE**

**Would you rather make a living in the PGA or the NFL? --** "I love golf, but definitely the NFL."

**If you could have any pet what would it be? --** "I have a dog, that's good enough for me."

**What is your favorite restaurant? --** "Outback Steakhouse."

**A good movie you've seen recently? --** "I don't really watch movies during the season, but the last good one I saw was Talladega Nights."

**If you could play another position what would it be? --** "Running back."

**J.J. BILLINGSLEY**

**If you could visit anywhere, where would you go? --** "I would go to Africa, because I think it different than how the media portrays it and I want to see it for myself."

**Is there an NFL player you model your game after? --** "I live Troy Polamalu (Pittsburgh) and Ed Reed (Baltimore). I just like to model my personal game after all of the game's top safeties."

**What's your favorite sport to watch other than football? --** "College basketball. I love March Madness."

**What is your favorite thing to do on a day off? --** "I like to sleep, chill and just relax."

**Why do you wear number 5? --** "That's just the number they gave me when I came in as a freshman, and I wanted to switch to No. 22 for my sophomore year, but I wound up establishing myself as No. 5."

# INDIVIDUAL PLAYER NOTES

*(A combination of human interest and some light statistical notes on select CU players)*

## 1 STEPHONE ROBINSON, WR/RET

- ➔ Robinson provides excellent speed and elusiveness to the offense and the return game. He started his CU career at cornerback before making the transition to offense in 2005. He is currently the back up returner behind Chase McBride.
- ➔ He does not get the credit he deserves as a punt return man—his average appears low, but Robinson has made a habit of fielding kicks in traffic, often netting 0 or 1 yard on the “return.” However, in the field position battle, those efforts have often prevented the Buffs from starting drives 10 to 15 yards further back had the kicks been allowed to bounce instead of his fielding them on the run. It’s led to a new special teams point category: Field Position Saves.

## 2 HUGH CHARLES, TB

- ➔ He is pound-for-pound the strongest player on the team. Though he is only 5-8, 190 lbs., he can bench 415 lbs. and squat 605 lbs. He also possesses blinding speed with a 4.34 40 time.
- ➔ Also a member of the indoor and outdoor track teams, in his limited time on both, he has posted the second best figures in the long jump both indoors and outdoors at CU. Only Kingsley Adams (mid-1970s) recorded better jumps.
- ➔ He earned his solo pilot’s license in a Cessna 172 as a sophomore in high school and Fox Sports did a feature on him last fall as he took a reporter and cameraman up flying with him (our BuffVision department has footage). He also enjoys skiing, fishing and wakeboarding in his spare time.
- ➔ He is good friends with teammate DE Walter Boye-Doe. The two went to Keller High School together in Texas before Charles decided to join him at CU.
- ➔ He gained 119 yards on 17 carries for an impressive 7.0 average against Texas Tech. He had a 74-yard touchdown negated when he barely stepped out of bounds at the 39-yard line. The 35-yard scamper came on his first touch after he fumbled the ball in Texas Tech territory.
- ➔ Charles was hard on himself after fumbling late in the game against Georgia: “We made mistakes, and I take the blame for the last fumble. That last fumble changed the game.”
- ➔ He finally broke out against Arizona State with 109 rushing yards on 20 carries. Said Charles: “The past few weeks we’ve had a rotation going and that helps keep me fresh. But when you get in a good rhythm, good things happen. Every good team has their on workhorse back, and that’s what I strive to be for this team.”
- ➔ He played sparingly against Colorado State, rushing just two times for 10 yards. Said Hawkins: “We were trying to get him in there and we need to continue to push the envelope with him to get him where he was last year.”

## 4 PATRICK WILLIAMS, WR

- ➔ Williams possesses a rare combination of speed and athletic ability, giving the Buffs a legitimate deep threat to stretch opposing defenses. Injuries sabotaged his true freshman season. He spent much of the fall with both hands in casts after a pair of freak circumstances led to broken bones in each. One hand was injured after becoming tangled in a defender's face mask. Last season, Williams remained relatively healthy and caught at least one pass in all 13 games, but the growing pains of his first full season in major college football were obvious. The high school quarterback of an option offense was learning the ropes at wide receiver in the Big 12 Conference on the fly.
- ➔ Williams broke out against Iowa State with the first touchdown of his career, a 39-yard score in the third quarter.
- ➔ He was CU’s primary target in the passing game against Colorado State, making five of the eight catches for Colorado for 37 yards.
- ➔ On the first offensive play for the Buffs against Montana State, Williams hauled in a 42-yard reception from James Cox. It was the largest gain on the first play of the season in school history.

## **5 J.J. BILLINGSLEY, SS**

- ➔ Billingsley has been a leader and a mainstay in the secondary since his freshman season.
- ➔ Billingsley had arthroscopic surgery on his knee as he tore his meniscus in the Tuesday practice following the Missouri game; he jokes that he has “old man knees.”
- ➔ He was able to return against Iowa State, racking up nine tackles. He played without his injury and was in on every snap but he was noticeably hobbling afterward.
- ➔ He was one of two players (Wheatley) to play in every defensive snap against Colorado State.
- ➔ He played a team-high 70 plays against Montana State, making eight tackles.
- ➔ A fifth-year senior, he has overcome ankle and knee injuries early in his career, as well as some academic struggles, to make it to his senior year.
- ➔ S Michael Lewis (1998-2001), with 336 career tackles, owns the most stops in school history by a defensive back; Billingsley entered his senior season with 255, thus needed just 82 to take over the top spot.
- ➔ He’s a crowd favorite thanks to his initials — at Folsom Field home games, fans say “J.—J.” out loud along with the public address announcer (Alan Cass). Cass made the “alphabet kids” popular in the late 80s: O.C. Oliver and yes, J.J. Flannigan. J.J. stands for Jon, Jr.
- ➔ Against Arizona State, he made a leaping interception near the goal line of Sun Devil quarterback Rudy Carpenter at the end of the first half. With a sure Arizona State touchdown if the ball got past him, he leaped up into the air, snagged the ball and landed on his back. The play preserved an 11-point halftime deficit.

## **6 GARDNER MCKAY, CB**

- ➔ Although he has a small frame (5’11, 160 pounds), coaches have raved about his deft coverage skills. He has bulked up this fall in order to be a factor in defending the running game.
- ➔ He finally found his way onto the field against Texas Tech, playing in 18 snaps from scrimmage.
- ➔ An injured ankle has sidelined McKay for much of the season and has prevented him from cracking the lineup. He is listed as second on the depth chart at right cornerback, but starter Terrence Wheatley has played all but one defensive snap this season.
- ➔ Found his way to CU thanks to being a high school teammate of Darian Hagan Jr., the son of the CU running backs coach Darian Hagan.

## **7 BERNARD JACKSON, QB**

- ➔ He had the best game of his short career against Texas Tech, accounting for three scores (two passing and one rushing), while not turning the ball over. Said Jackson after the win: “It means a lot. It took me four years to get where I’m at now, for someone to recognize my hard work and my dedication. I respect the coaching staff and the players and I give credit to everybody but myself.”
- ➔ He had his most efficient game of his career against Iowa State, accounting for three TDs (two passing, one rushing). Not only was he able to run the offense effectively, but he even called some of his own plays. Said Jackson: “There were some plays that I was trying to call for myself, not to be selfish or anything, but just to have some extra fun.”
- ➔ Was spelled at times by senior James Cox in the first half against Kansas in passing situations (until Cox broke his thumb). The Buffs struggled again in the passing game, as Jackson completed 9-of-21 passes for 132 yards.
- ➔ He was again a running threat against Oklahoma, but struggled mightily against a stout Sooners defense which stacked the box and blitzed, daring Jackson to pass. He completed just 3-of-14 passes for 39 yards, but helped move the chains with his feet, rushing for 54 yards on 10 carries.
- ➔ Despite throwing an interception in triple-overtime against Baylor, his coaches insist he has done a great job of throwing the ball away this season instead of trying to force throws. He said his last throw against Baylor was a “bad throw” and that he would have been able to connect with TE Tyson DeVree for a winning score if he had thrown it a moment earlier.
- ➔ The day after CU’s heartbreaking loss at Georgia, Hawkins said none of his teams have improved at the rate at which this team has, and he attributes the progress to Jackson emerging as a playmaker and a team leader since being installed as the starter three weeks ago. Said Hawkins: “He did some nice things. He is kind of starting to get to that next level where you’re not just out there functioning.”
- ➔ Although disappointed with the outcome against Georgia, Jackson is brimming with confidence. He said the way they were able to move the ball on the road against the Bulldogs has convinced the team it can play with any opponent.

- ➔ Jackson struggled against Arizona State, but continued to make strides offensively. Said Hawkins: “I like Bernard in there and I like what he’s doing. We’ve got a true freshman—he’s a true freshman. Bernard can control it. He’s got legs and he made more plays this week than he did last week.”
- ➔ He assumed the starting position against Colorado State. He impressed coaches with his grasp of the playbook and willingness to get better. Said offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich the day after the CSU game: “He is committing himself to improvement and that’s what you want to see. “He was in here [Sunday] morning before half of the coaches.”
- ➔ Making a surprise start at quarterback, the first of his collegiate career, Jackson marched the Buffs on a nine-play, 65-yard drive, capped by a three-yard touchdown run on the game’s first series.
- ➔ During his career at CU, he has bounced around from quarterback to wide receiver to running back and now back to quarterback. He was never moved in the spring; always in-season so he never really got acclimated.

## ***9 BLAKE MACKEY, WR***

- ➔ Last season he was expected to be a huge part of the buff’s offense before tearing his ACL in fall camp and missing the entire season. He is 100 percent healthy, but has been unable to contribute much this season.
- ➔ Against Colorado State, he saw his first action since the 2004 Houston Bowl.
- ➔ Hawkins: “He’s been a little up and down and I’ve been talking to him. He has flashes of brilliance and other moments of hesitancy.”

## ***10 TERRY WASHINGTON, CB***

- ➔ He is one of the fastest players on the team with great instincts and sure-tackling ability. He was singled out by Hawkins in front of the team during fall camp because he broke his hand during the Buffs’ second scrimmage of the fall and continued playing through the pain without telling trainers. He is playing with a cast on his hand.
- ➔ Has made five consecutive starts and six overall, in each case playing every defensive snap from scrimmage.
- ➔ He made his first career start against Georgia, playing in 29 snaps from scrimmage and recording three solo tackles.

## ***13 JOE SANDERS, OLB***

- ➔ Sanders is a key reserve in a linebacker corps which is once again one of the strengths of the Buffalo defense.
- ➔ His biggest play to date was against Washington State in 2004 in his first defensive action ever when former linebacker Brian Iwuh went down with a high ankle sprain. In the middle of the fourth quarter with CU clinging to a 10-6 lead, he picked off an Alex Brink pass and returned the interception for a 51-yard touchdown. He finished the game with a solid three tackles, including one for loss. He was nominated for ESPN’s Game Changing Performance Award.
- ➔ Former CU basketball center and current Indiana Pacer David Harrison helped persuade Sanders to become a Buff. Harrison, who also hails from Nashville and attended a nearby high school, has known Sanders since 1998.

## ***14 MATT DiLALLO, P***

- ➔ He’s only a redshirt freshman, so he should turn into a solid punter. He was tutored by one of the best last season in John Torp, who finished as the runner-up for the Ray Guy Award.
- ➔ Only two players have ever led the Buffs in punting as a freshman (Stan Koleski in 1973, Andy Mitchell in 1994); he can make some history and set himself up for a solid future.
- ➔ DiLallo is also a left-footed kicker, just like his predecessor Torp.
- ➔ As the only punter for the Buffs against Colorado State, he booted a 73-yard punt in the second quarter, the longest ever by a freshman (true or redshirt) and tied for the 12th longest in school history.
- ➔ He was one of three punters to punt against Montana State—along with Mason Crosby and Isaac Garden. He had two punts for a 40.5-yard average with one inside-the-20.

## 15 RYAN WALTERS, FS

- ➔ He has had to battle injuries so far this season. He was the starter until injuring his hamstring in fall camp and missing a number of practices. After yielding a start to Ben Burney for the home opener, he regained his position before injuring his neck against Missouri.
- ➔ Nearly saved the day for the Buffs against Kansas. With the Jayhawks up 20-9 and driving inside the Colorado 10-yard line to seal the win, Walters caught a Todd Reesing [Kansas QB] fumble at the 5-yard line and returned it 95 yards for a touchdown, bringing the Buffs to within five points of Kansas.
- ➔ He had his first two interceptions of his career against Texas Tech, both of them coming on third down in CU territory. Said Hawkins: “There’s a reason he’s starting. He’s a very heady kid and a good player, and it’s nice to have him back there. He ads some savvy to what we’re doing, and he’s a smart guy and a playmaker.”
- ➔ Played in all but one defensive snap against Georgia.
- ➔ He made his first collegiate start against Colorado State.
- ➔ He started to develop as an excellent young player last season as a redshirt freshman. During the spring of 2005, he was the recipient of the Dick Anderson Award for the most improved player on defense. He saw action in 12 games, including the Champ Sports Bowl.
- ➔ He was recruited as a quarterback before switching to safety. His father, marc, played quarterback for CU between 1986-89, remarkably coming back at one point from a career-threatening knee injury; he owns a school record as he established the best single game passing rating (any amount of attempts) when he recorded a 353.3 at Kansas State in 1989.

## 16 MASON CROSBY, PK

- ➔ Hawkins on Crosby: “He is so lethal, it seems like we rarely try a field goal under 50 yards in practice. Most of his kicks are still climbing when they reach the uprights.”
- ➔ Widely regarded as the nation’s best placekicker, Crosby was named a team captain before the start of the season. Crosby has gained a considerable amount of national attention from *Sports Illustrated*, *The Sporting News* and *The New York Times* among others over the summer. He welcomes the publicity—not for him, but for the school.
- ➔ Head coach Dan Hawkins has repeatedly insisted that he would let Crosby attempt a 70-yard field goal for the college record (the record is 67 yards). He often makes kicks from 75 yards out during practice.
- ➔ Made four field goals against Iowa State, becoming the first Buffalo with 300 career points. He finished the day with 305, and it was nearly 308, but he just missed a 65-yarder in the second half.
- ➔ Mobbed by fans after his four-field goal performance against Iowa State (and barely missing a 65-yarder), school officials tried to get him to the locker room. His mother, Karen, interjected politely and said, “Please let him stay out here. This is why he came back [opting not to forgo his senior year and jump to the NFL].”
- ➔ Hit three first half field goals (37, 26, 32) against Kansas, accounting for all of CU’s offensive points.
- ➔ Missed a 56-yarder against Oklahoma, but connected on a 39-yard field goal in the fourth quarter to preserve Colorado’s scoring streak with the only points of the game for the Buffs.
- ➔ After a forgettable game against Baylor, Crosby bounced back and hit all three of his field goal attempts from 56, 26 and 53 yards out against Texas Tech. His 56-yarder is the second-longest field goal in the NCAA this season. It was also his third career game in which he hit two field goals of 50 yards or longer. For his efforts, he was named a Lou Groza Award Star of the Week.
- ➔ Crosby missed a 36-yard field goal against Baylor, a kick that is usually automatic for the kicker. Crosby said it was the worst-hit ball of his career. Said Hawkins: “The ball he missed today was probably the first bad ball he hit. In practice or in a game...ever.”
- ➔ Matching up against Georgia’s Brandon Coutu, another highly regarded kicker, Crosby bested his counterpart, connecting on 2-of-3 field goals (the one miss was blocked). Coutu missed his only attempt from 53 yards out.
- ➔ His 61-yard field goal against Colorado State in the third quarter, wiped out by a late timeout allowed to CSU, would have been a school record. After the timeout, he tried again and missed wide left.
- ➔ Crosby became the all-time leading scorer among kickers at Colorado with his 24-yard field goal in the first quarter against Montana State. He missed a chance at breaking his school record 60-yard field goal late in the game when he missed a 63-yard attempt that would have cut the lead to six points and led to an on-side kick.
- ➔ Last season, Crosby and former punter John Torp had a special ritual after Crosby boots which he considers big field goal. Crosby would run over to the sideline after the kick to have Torp quickly shine his shoe with a towel. The duo first did it after Crosby’s 55-yard bomb against CSU in 2004. “Deserving” kicks had to be over 50 yards. The tradition has not been continued this season, as it was a Torp/Crosby thing.
- ➔ Against CSU in 2005, he nailed all three of his field goals (32, 48, 47). His second boot tied the game at 21-21 with 2:32 remaining in the game. His final kick from 47 yards out came with four seconds left on the clock and won the game for the Buffs. His memorable performance came on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

## CROSBY CONTINUED

- ➔ Against Kansas State last season, he came out a hero as well. After the Buffs recovered a fumble at the KSU 26-yard line with 55 seconds left, quarterback Joel Klatt took a knee twice for a loss of seven yards to take time off the clock. Coaches didn't even think twice about taking the lost yardage to make the field goal a 50-yarder. Crosby easily made the kick with six seconds remaining.
- ➔ In 2004, he was one of 20 semifinalists for the Lou Groza Award. One of the best kickers in the nation, he earned first-team all-Big 12 honors by both the *Associated Press* and conference coaches, and racked up several All-American honors.
- ➔ In what may have been the best performance by a CU kicker ever, Crosby was perfect on all four of his field goal attempts against Iowa State in 2004 en route to launching kicks of 28, 60, 54 and 33 yards, respectively. His 60-yard shot in the second quarter was the longest field goal in CU history, as he broke the old school record of 58 set by Jerry Hamilton in 1981.
- ➔ In 2003, he set a CU record for most points scored by a freshman with 52 (the old record of 48 was shared by two players).
- ➔ He became the first true freshman to earn placekicking duties at CU since Eric Hannah did in 1987, and also was the first to kick in a season opener since Tom Field in 1979. No other true freshmen have kicked placements in the last 50 years at Colorado.
- ➔ In high school, he booted the third-longest field goal in Texas state history, tying the record with a 59-yarder his senior year.
- ➔ He spent several years growing up in Fort Collins, and managed to come to a few CU games when he was younger.
- ➔ It is in his ritual to often go to the driving range a few days before each game and pound out 40-60 golf balls.

## 17 ALVIN BARNETT, WR

- ➔ Barnett is a solid receiver with good quickness. Last season, after transferring from NE Oklahoma A&M, Barnett struggled to adapt to the fast pace of Division 1 football. But he has shown coaches that he can be a very effective receiver in the Big 12.
- ➔ Caught his first touchdown of the season and first as a Buff against Iowa State. On the fourth play of the game, he broke free from his defender and Jackson found him crossing from left to right for a 26-yard score.

## 22 LORENZO SIMS JR., CB

- ➔ He is a strong cover man and CU's most physical cornerback. He has played safety at times for the Buffs but will mostly man the left cornerback spot for the year.
- ➔ He is known as "Spiderman" for how well he covers receivers. In high school, his mom bought him a "Spiderman" t-shirt and he wears it underneath his pads for every game.
- ➔ Did not play against Oklahoma or Kansas, partly due to disciplinary reasons and partly due to the play of cornerback Terry Washington.
- ➔ One of three players (Brad Jones and Billingsley) to play in every defensive snap against Georgia. He played in every defensive snap against Arizona State along with fellow cornerback Terrence Wheatley.
- ➔ In 2004, he shot out of the gates and become one of CU's top all-around players. He was very consistent on defense, and earned all-Big 12 second-team accolades from the league coaches for his efforts, as well as *Associated Press* honorable mention notice. He was also one of 10 Victory Club honorees for CU, for he recorded a winning performance in at least eight games this season.
- ➔ His cousin (Ricky Manning) was a defensive back at UCLA, while another (DeShawn Stevenson) plays guard for the Washington Wizards; second cousin (Bruce Bowen) is a forward for the San Antonio Spurs.

## 25 LIONEL HARRIS, SS

- ➔ Had a monster game against Kansas, making seven tackles, three third down stops and an interception.
- ➔ Tied his career high with 11 tackles against Oklahoma.
- ➔ He made a second consecutive start against Texas Tech, playing in every defensive snap along with fellow safety Ryan Walters and cornerbacks Terrence Wheatley and Cha'pelle Brown. He had eight tackles in the game, all solo stops.
- ➔ He made his first career start for injured S J.J. Billingsley against Baylor, and posted a career-high 11 tackles.
- ➔ He was an accomplished bull rider from seventh to 10th grade, as he earned one win and a runner-up finish in organized competitions.

## ***26 TERRENCE WHEATLEY, CB***

- ➔ Finally back at 100 percent after overcoming three different wrist surgeries, Wheatley is the secondary's best athlete—his 4.29 40 time to prove it. He missed all of the 2005 season, but fortunately he had a redshirt year available so he did not lose a year of eligibility.
- ➔ Wheatley has played all but one defensive snap for the Buffs this season.
- ➔ He now leads the Big 12 Conference in interceptions with five.
- ➔ Against Texas in 2004, he scored CU's only touchdown of the day. On UT's second drive of the game, Young threw a pass that was picked off by Wheatley, who promptly streaked down the sideline with his first career theft for a 37-yard touchdown. For his big-play efforts, he was named CU's Defensive Player of the Week.
- ➔ He still holds the Plano East High School record in the 100 meters (10.3 seconds), as well as the school marks in the triple jump and long jump. His father (Randolph) ran track at Arizona State.

## ***27 BYRON ELLIS, TB***

- ➔ He plays with a different style than Hugh Charles, as he runs with more of a bruising style and likes to shoot the ball up the middle. He should see plenty of action this fall as coaches will use him to give the offense a different dimension than Charles.
- ➔ He scored his first career touchdown (in 134<sup>th</sup> career touch) against Baylor.
- ➔ He is majoring in integrative physiology at CU and would like to go to medical school after he graduates. He told the Los Angeles Times during his senior year of high school: "I want to be the tops in life in everything I do. I compete with the nerds; I compete on the football field."

## ***29 CHA'PELLE BROWN, CB/PR***

- ➔ He is a true freshman who has already seen extensive playing time as the primary nickel corner. He has a small fame, as he stands 5-7 and 165 pounds, but he is a gifted playmaker. He came up with several interceptions and big plays in fall camp to earn the trust of his coaches. He is third on the depth chart at left cornerback and will be the backup punt returner behind Stephone Robinson.
- ➔ He played in every defensive snap against Texas Tech recording five tackles and a broken up pass.
- ➔ He led the team with 10 total tackles against Missouri and added an acrobatic interception. It marked the first time since 2004 that a freshman led the team in tackles in a game (then-freshman LB Jordon Dizon tied for the team lead twice that year and led the team with 13 against Washington State).
- ➔ He played in 35 snaps against Colorado State, the second-most of any cornerback on the team (Wheatley was in on all 59 plays).
- ➔ Played in 19 snaps against Montana State in his first collegiate action, making three tackles.

## ***30 PAUL CREIGHTON, TE***

- ➔ He has battled a hip injury this fall making it difficult to crack the tight end rotation.
- ➔ In 2005, Creighton was a combo fullback/tight end. He saw most of his playing time on special teams and in the Buffs' power short-yardage formation. Playing behind two players who were drafted into the NFL (Joe Klopfenstein and Quinn Sypniewski) he saw little action at tight end.

## ***32 MAURICE CANTRELL, FB***

- ➔ Worked his way into the starting fullback role after playing at linebacker up until fall camp throughout his career. He moved to the position about half way through 2006 fall camp out of necessity, and showed immediate flashes that he could very well work out at his new spot.

## ***33 WALTER BOYE-DOE, DE***

❑ *Last name is pronounced "boy-doe."*

- ➔ He experienced a scary moment during the second fall scrimmage. He went up to deflect a pass at the line of scrimmage when he was undercut by an offensive lineman and landed on his head. He was transported to the hospital directly from the field where fears of a neck injury were put to rest. His injury turned out to be more concussion-related and he has since resumed normal practices.
- ➔ Had perhaps his best game of the season against Kansas, racking up seven tackles, forcing a fumble and registering a QB hurry and chase down.
- ➔ With fellow defensive end Abraham Wright often double teamed on the other side, Boye-Doe found a way to wreak some havoc in the backfield against Texas Tech. He caused a fumble and got up high to knock down two passes at the line of scrimmage.
- ➔ He came to CU as a linebacker before switching positions after the 2004 season.
- ➔ He is good friends with teammate RB Hugh Charles. The two attended Keller High School in Texas together before Boye-Doe preceded Charles to CU.
- ➔ He was born in Koforidua, Ghana (Africa), but moved to the Dallas area when he was four as his father took a job in the states. His parents are also Ghana natives.
- ➔ His older brother, Howard played linebacker at Wisconsin and completed his career last fall (2005).

## ***37 MELL HOLLIDAY, TB***

- ➔ He has a bruising style of running that has impressed his coaches.
- ➔ Had his first 100-yard performance at the D-1 level, rushing for 126 yards on 18 carries. His last 100-yard game in college came in 2005. Playing for Wayne (Neb.) State, he rushed for 139 yards on 17 carries against Waldorf College.
- ➔ Holliday rushed for his first career touchdown against Baylor, a 52-yard scamper in the first quarter that put the Buffs up 7-0.
- ➔ He was a workhorse against Texas Tech, carrying the ball 15 times for 55 yards. Coaches trust him with the ball to pick up tough yards.
- ➔ He was CU's go-to running back against Montana State. Rushing for 51 yards on 12 carries, he has already become a fan favorite because he is so hard to bring down.
- ➔ He was absent over the summer for off-season workouts while working as a welder in Nebraska to earn money for his children. He has spent the last three summers working for the welding-supply company in Omaha, Neb., his hometown. To keep in shape, he worked out at a local YMCA. Dan Hawkins has nicknamed Holliday 'The Welder.' "I'm a blue-collar guy. I love 'The Welder.'"
- ➔ Holliday has overcome an unforeseen transfer issue that rendered him ineligible last fall after he had begun to impress in preseason camp. He had transferred from Nebraska but had not played for them in 2004. Undaunted, he stayed on pace in spring practice and showed well for the new coaching staff.

## ***38 CHASE MCBRIDE, WR/RET***

- ➔ Took over the starting punt return duties starting with the game at Kansas.
- ➔ He garnered 11 all-state awards in high school, starring at Colorado's Broomfield High School (four times in football and basketball and three times in baseball). After hurting his foot, CU and Colorado State backed off recruiting him so he went to Wyoming. He transferred after his freshman season.
- ➔ He says if he was a few inches taller he may be playing D-1 basketball right now. The ultra-quick athlete is listed at 5-8, but he has an excellent 3-point shot and the toughness of a running back in the lane.

## ***39 KEVIN EBERHART, PK***

- ➔ Although he backs up Mason Crosby at placekicker, he could start for just about any Division-I school. He has good range, although it may not seem that way thanks to fans being spoiled by Crosby. In 2003, he actually saw game action before Crosby did in his career, handling the opening kickoff duties against Colorado State in the opener. Crosby's first duty came on a P.A.T.
- ➔ He was named the PAT/Field Goal starting kicker at Florida State in 2005, but missed both of his field goals tries, including his first career field goal attempt of 22 yards. Crosby has been the team's primary kicker ever since.

## **40 BRAD JONES, OLB**

- ➔ A highly-touted sophomore, Jones takes the reins from former linebacker Brian Iwuh at the Sam linebacker spot. Last season he played in all 13 games. Iwuh (half) joked last season he was glad he was a senior because Jones kept getting better and better as his backup.
- ➔ As an excellent pass defender because of his size (6-4, 225 lbs.), he matches up well against tight ends. Because of this he plays in a lot more snaps than Jordon Dizon and Thaddaeus Washington.
- ➔ Made a leaping, one-handed interception against Kansas.
- ➔ He played in every defensive snap against Georgia.

## **42 BENJAMIN BURNEY, FS**

- ➔ He started against Montana State and Baylor, replacing injured Ryan Walters in the latter.
- ➔ His father, Jacob, has been the defensive line coach for the Denver Broncos since 2002.

## **43 SAMSON JAGORAS, FB**

- ➔ He transferred from Western New Mexico, switching positions from linebacker to fullback and sitting out a year due to NCAA transfer rules. He is a favorite of coaches because of his tenacity and love for the game.

## **44 JORDON DIZON, ILB**

- ❑ *Last name is pronounced "die-zonn."*
- ➔ This is Dizon's third year as a starter for the Buffs at linebacker.
- ➔ A Butkus award candidate, Dizon was surprised when told about his name being on the watch list. He responded with a modest, but not under-confident 'Why? There are a lot of players out there like me; I'm just a hard worker. To become finalists (along with fellow candidate Thaddaeus Washington) would be an incredible thing for both of us, and especially for Coach Cabral.'
- ➔ Though his play was overshadowed by teammate Thaddaeus Washington, Dizon had a monster game against Oklahoma. He was in on 15 tackles, including three for a loss. He also had two third down stops, a fumble recovery and a QB hurry and chase down.
- ➔ He made 16 tackles against Texas Tech, the highest tackle total of any Buff in a game this season; it was also the fifth time in seven games he has eclipsed a double-digit tackle total. He also recovered a fumble on Texas Tech's second series.
- ➔ After another huge game against Arizona State (12 tackles, two third down stops and a forced fumble at the goal line), Dizon remained upbeat despite the loss: "After we come out from a loss, Coach Hawkins and his words are so contagious. He comes out and picks us up. My heart is full of love for him and for this game. It doesn't feel like I lost tonight. I want to come out and prepare for the next game. It's like what [Hawkins] said, 'you learn the most from when you lose.' Every game we are getting better."
- ➔ Dizon had a career day against Colorado State, combining for 15 tackles, two sacks and three third down stops.
- ➔ He was all over the field against Montana state, making eight tackles, a half sack, three third down stops and a pass broken up. He was so exhausted after the game that he had to be treated with IVs in the tunnel entering the locker room.
- ➔ He started the 2005 as the starting Will (inside) linebacker. After playing at 205 pounds his freshman year, he has bulked up to a more linebacker-like 225.
- ➔ In 2004, he was the starter at the "Will" inside linebacker spot, as he became the first true freshman ILB to start a season opener in CU history against Colorado State. He was also just the sixth true freshman to start an opener in school lore and the first since 1991.
- ➔ He took the college football world by storm, as he broke the CU single season record for tackles by a freshman in the Kansas State game. J.J. Billingsley held the previous best with 67 in 2002.
- ➔ Dizon finished the regular season third for the Buffs in tackles with 82 (51 solo); he is the first CU freshman ever to finish higher than seventh on the team in tackles.

## DIZON CONTINUED

- ➔ For his astounding play, he was named the Big 12 Defensive Newcomer and Defensive Freshman of the Year by the league coaches and *Associated Press*, while he was also an honorable mention all-conference selection by both groups. To add even more praise, *The Sporting News* tabbed him a second-team Freshman All-American and first-team Freshman All-Big 12 performer. Dizon also was given CU's Lee Willard Award at the season-ending banquet for being the team's most outstanding freshman.
- ➔ He was recruited as an "athlete," as the coaches figured to try him at a number of positions. He started his freshman camp at safety, but after five practices the coaches moved him to inside linebacker to see him in that role. It didn't take long for him to make an impression at linebacker, as he zoomed up the depth chart in practically unprecedented speed, ascending all the way to the top after just six practices.
- ➔ Recruited by Brian Cabral out of Hawaii – a state that the 18th-year assistant has found many talents in. You can often see Dizon trudging to classes through slush and snow and 20-degree weather in flip-flops.
- ➔ He certainly knows how to wrap an opponent up, as he perfected the art chasing wild boars on hunting trips when he was younger. His mother, an undercover narcotics police officer in Hawaii, never allowed him to use a gun. Instead he tracked the animals with help from dogs, pinned them to the ground and killed them with a knife. But according to Dizon, he is not into that anymore. "Those days are over," he joked. "My knees are too bad for that. My eyesight is going. I'm getting too old for that kind of stuff."
- ➔ He has spent the last eight months immersing himself in a new game: golf. He played for the first time in January and shot well over 100. He played more and more and just before fall camp started he shot a 79. "I played almost every single day. It was amazing. I went broke by the end of the summer, but I did what I had to do. It's just the greatest game. If golf and football are on TV, I'm watching golf. I love golf."

## 46 DAN GOETTSCH, TE

- ➔ A devoted walk-on, Goettsch is a solid contributor for the Buffs.
- ➔ He has his pilot's license and has designs of being a charter pilot after graduation (maybe this time next year he will be flying the Buffs to road games!).
- ➔ He made his first career start against Colorado State but did not record a catch.
- ➔ Caught a 46-yard pass from quarterback James Cox in the first quarter against Montana State, but the play was nullified by a holding call at the line of scrimmage.

## 47 ALONZO BARRETT, DE

- ➔ He missed the Baylor game to lingering effects of a concussion he suffered in practice the previous week, but returned to see action for 18 snaps against Texas Tech.
- ➔ His older brother, Jamal, was an offensive tackle at Texas A&M; the two lined up against each other in the when the teams met at Folsom Field in 2005.
- ➔ He has been a CU fan since his youth, with one of his favorite players being Heisman Trophy winner Rashaan Salaam. It was natural, for his aunt (father's sister) is married to Salaam's uncle (father's brother).

## 48 CODY CRAWFORD, WR

- ➔ He sees plenty of action on offense and on the punt block team. He blocked one punt in the spring game, one in the Buffs' first fall scrimmage and nearly got his hands on one in the second fall scrimmage.
- ➔ Coaches love his work ethic. He was singled out by Dan Hawkins because he fractured a rib early in camp and played through it so he could earn playing time and a chance to travel with the team. Often he would make a great catch and fall to the ground or get hit and come to the sideline grimacing and barely being able to breathe because of his rib injury. But then when he was up it would be like nothing was wrong and he would go out and make plays.
- ➔ Has been the Buffs' most consistent receiver in the past two games (Oklahoma and Kansas). He had a 22-yard reception against the Sooners (one of only three catches by CU) and had two more grabs for 14 yards against the Jayhawks.
- ➔ He made his first career start against Georgia.

## 49 THADDAEUS WASHINGTON, ILB

- ➔ A Butkus Award candidate for the second straight season, Washington is one of the elite linebackers in the conference and in the nation. He emerged last season as a team leader and it has carried over exponentially this season. He is a quiet and soft-spoken person off the field, but is a fiery motivator in the locker room and on the gridiron.
- ➔ He was the winner of the ninth-annual Buffalo Heart Award, voted on by the fans and presented to him in the stands at the 50-yard line after the game.
- ➔ He had another solid game against Kansas, making 10 tackles and breaking up a pass which led to an interception by teammate Lionel Harris.
- ➔ Finally facing a balanced offense, Washington had his way against an Oklahoma offense. Playing every snap of the game, he was in on 19 tackles (12 solo) and recorded four third/fourth down stops. He also broke up a pass that he admits he should have caught and taken the distance for a touchdown.
- ➔ He has seen limited action in the last three games because Missouri, Baylor and Texas Tech have a pass-happy spread offenses in which CU uses a nickel back to counter. He did see more playing time against Tech, coming up with an interception in the fourth quarter.
- ➔ He has greatly improved his pass coverage skills, but he is still taken out in nickel situations because of the unique athleticism that fellow linebackers Jordon Dizon and Brad Jones possess.
- ➔ He hails from the same high school (John Ehret in Marrero, La.) that produced former CU quarterback Kordell Stewart. His cousin, Marlon Favorite, is a sophomore defensive tackle at Louisiana State.
- ➔ He worked this past summer with Mason Crosby as an intern in CU's marketing and promotions office. Many season ticket holders got phone calls with his voice on the other end asking them to renew their tickets.
- ➔ Also has taken up the game of golf and absolutely loves it. Like most of us, he has problems getting on the green in two. Or three. Or four.

## 51 ALEX LIGON, DE

- ➔ He has bulked up 25 pounds since last fall and provides depth and defensive end as well as the tackle spot. He missed all of spring drills after suffering a torn pectoral muscle in winter conditioning.
- ➔ He played in one snap against Kansas, his first action of the season as he is battling injuries and likely will not receive a medical redshirt.
- ➔ He is a big movie "Buff" with his favorite films being the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* series. Former defensive lineman James Garee, a senior last season, used to call Ligon "Teenage Mutant Ninja Defensive End."
- ➔ In 2004, he played in all 13 games, starting 10. He was tied for second on the team in tackles for loss (11) as well as in sacks (4½), and because of that was named an honorable mention all-Big 12 honoree by the *Associated Press*.
- ➔ Against Washington State he recorded a team-high three sacks for 26 yards, seven total tackles (six solo), one other stuff for loss and a forced fumble. He became the first Buff to garner Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week honors since former safety Medford Moorer did so in 2002 against Texas Tech. The last time one CU player (Drew Wahlroos) had notched three sacks alone was against Missouri in 2000.
- ➔ His father (Alfred) played free safety at UNLV in 1982-83 and signed with the Kansas City Chiefs as a free agent, but injuries cut short his attempt to make the team.

## 53 ABRAHAM WRIGHT, DE

- ➔ A dominant speed rusher, Wright leads the Buffs in sacks with 11½.
- ➔ He studies film so extensively that he often knows exactly when the snap is going to come. Often when the opposing team in shotgun formation he sees the center put his head up and then he knows it is "one thousand one and then the snap." His film study is what often allows him to anticipate the snap and blow off the line, often before the offensive tackle has time to react.
- ➔ CU left tackle Tyler Polumbus has to face Wright every day in practice: "I have way more problems with him in practice than I do [with other players] in games. I've played Texas, Miami, all the best teams, and he's definitely the best pass rusher for sure."
- ➔ He was named a midseason first-team All-American by CollegeFootballNews.com. He was also named to the 2006 Ted Hendricks Award midseason watch list.
- ➔ Had no sacks against Oklahoma, but made one-and-a-half against the Jayhawks. With 10.5 on the season, Wright is first in the Big 12 and fourth in the nation in sacks.

## WRIGHT, CONTINUED

- ➔ He sacked Texas Tech quarterback Graham Harrell on fourth down in the second quarter for a loss of 10 yards when Tech was threatening in CU territory.
- ➔ He had one sack and four quarterback pressures against Arizona State, amazingly playing in every defensive snap for the Buffs. On one play, he blew past ASU tackle Brandon Rodd, getting into the backfield after the snap before Rodd could even react. He leaped into the air and leveled ASU quarterback Rudy Carpenter before he could even finish dropping back.
- ➔ He was in the Colorado State backfield all day, making five tackles and three sacks against the Rams. It was the first three-sack game by a Buffalo since DE Alex Ligon had three against Washington State in 2004.
- ➔ Picking up where he left off in 2005, Wright had five tackles, a quarterback sack, two quarterback hurries and a pass broken up against Montana State.
- ➔ In 2005, he tied for the team lead with five sacks. He also had five passes broken up. He can get so high in the air that often he jumps up and has screen passes hit him in the chest. Coaches have had him work with the jugs machine so he can start to catch some of those balls.
- ➔ As a sophomore in 2004, he finished the regular season second in QB pressures with six and tied with Ligon in sacks (4½).
- ➔ He played junior college ball at Northeast Oklahoma A&M before transferring to CU in the spring of 2004. He came in right away and impressed the coaches with his speed and initial quickness off the line.
- ➔ At NEO, he lined up at defensive end and linebacker. In 2003, he was named to the Top 100 JUCO list, coming in at No. 62 overall and being the No. 5 defensive end.
- ➔ He has taken several courses in sign language at CU. He has hosted deaf children and given them tours on campus and he has an interest in working with the deaf after his football career.

## ***57 BRYCE MACMARTIN, C***

- ➔ Has started most of the season in place of Mark Fenton who suffered a cracked fibula against Georgia. The coaches have been pleased with his play and he's really answered the call in subbing for Fenton.
- ➔ His excellent play has allowed mark Fenton to be brought along more slowly and carefully from his injury.
- ➔ An engineering major, he adjusted very quickly to barking out signals for the offensive line and it's almost like there's another coach out there on the field.

## ***58 MARK FENTON, C***

- ➔ After finishing the 2005 season as one of six finalists for the Rimington Award for the nation's best center, he is again a top contender for the award and was a near-unanimous preseason All-Big 12 selection.
- ➔ He saw his first game action against Iowa State since being injured against Georgia.
- ➔ He returned to practice on a limited basis the week of the Oklahoma game, but did not play against the Sooners and did not travel to Kansas. He is nearing 100 percent and could return to action against Kansas State.
- ➔ In 2005, Fenton was the only offensive lineman to start every game, as he played in a team-high 799 snaps from scrimmage.
- ➔ In 2004, he wrapped up the starting center position with a solid performance in fall camp. He made his first career start against CSU in the opener and he played the most out of every lineman this season, only missing one snap.
- ➔ He first caught the eye of the coaches as a center during the team's Alamo Bowl practices in 2002. He practiced at center for the first extended period of time (he was recruited as a defensive lineman), and former head coach Gary Barnett noted at the time, "I think we may have found our future center."
- ➔ He cracked his fibula in the Georgia game. It was originally feared that he would miss nearly the whole season, but Fenton expects to only miss a few weeks. Since the fibula is not a weight-bearing bone, it should just become an issue of how much pain he can tolerate. He is using a bone-growth stimulator to expedite the healing process.

## **60 PAUL BACKOWSKI, OT**

- ➔ He made the first start of his career Saturday in place of Edwin Harrison, who continues to battle an ankle sprain. Backowski played the first quarter but was relieved in the second quarter by Harrison.

## **63 JACK TIPTON, OT**

- ➔ He missed all of spring practice while rehabilitating from a knee surgery last December.
- ➔ He started against Iowa State, partly because of Harrison's injury and partly because he presented a better match up for the Buffs. He will also start against Nebraska.

## **66 BRIAN DANIELS, OG**

- ➔ In his fourth year as a starter at offensive guard, Daniels is a team captain and the vocal leader of the offense. Offensive line coach Chris Strausser, who was already impressed that Daniels had started for three years in the Big 12, said he never takes a day off.
- ➔ He is a finalist for the prestigious Draddy Award.
- ➔ He has missed only one snap all season—when his shoe came off during a play against Kansas State.
- ➔ One of the team's most outstanding students, he made application for the Rhodes Scholarship last spring, but did not advance to the next stage (most people don't, but it's an honor to meet the qualifications to apply).
- ➔ In the 2005 season opener against Colorado State, he left in the first half after being hit in the side. After being taken to the hospital and diagnosed with a broken rib and a bruised kidney and watched the game on TV. Not able to take it anymore, he went back to the stadium and tried to play. Fans with keen eyes could have seen the hospital bracelet still around his wrist. He only went three plays, but the pain didn't stop him. The restricted breathing did. Said Daniels: "I guess one hour wasn't enough time to wait after a broken bone."
- ➔ In 2004, he built on his outstanding freshman campaign and was tabbed as an honorable mention all-Big 12 selection by both the conference coaches and *Associated Press*. He was also only one of 10 players to be named to CU's prestigious Victory Club, as he was the only offensive lineman who graded out to a winning performance in at least eight games.
- ➔ He started 11 games as a true freshman, setting the record for the most offensive line starts made by a freshman in school history. He also earned first-team Freshman All-America honors from [collegefootballnews.com](http://collegefootballnews.com). He was only the seventh true frosh to start on the offensive line since 1973.
- ➔ As a high school senior, he was the No. 1 ranked power lifter in the state.
- ➔ One reason for his quick feet is the fact that he has been ice-skating on Evergreen Lake (in his hometown) "ever since I could walk."
- ➔ His younger brother, Shawn, has committed to play for Colorado in 2006.

## **75 DANIEL SANDERS, OG**

- ➔ He started against Arizona State and Colorado State, after not playing against Montana State due to lingering effects from a slight hamstring pull.
- ➔ He saw extensive playing time as a redshirt freshman in 2005, appearing in 10 games and making four starts. He missed two games in the middle of the season (Texas, Kansas) with a partially torn hamstring. He also missed the Champ Sports Bowl after suffering a severe knee sprain in bowl practices. *The Sporting News* selected him to its Freshman All-Big 12 Team.

## **76 EDWIN HARRISON, OT**

- ➔ He battled a shoulder injury early in fall camp, causing him to miss some practices.
- ➔ As a sophomore in 2004, he spring drills and most of fall camp after off-season shoulder surgery. He went on to play in 11 games, starting seven. He did not allow a quarterback sack and was called for just one penalty on the year.
- ➔ As a freshman in 2004, he played in 10 games and *The Sporting news* selected him to its Freshman All-Big 12 Team.
- ➔ His grandfather (Calvin Jones) won the Outland Trophy as the nation's outstanding interior lineman as a senior at Iowa in 1955; Jones was the first two-time consensus All-American in Iowa history, and his No. 62 was retired by the Hawkeyes.
- ➔ Hobbies include traveling, with the Bahamas as his favorite place he has ever visited, and skiing. He received the Eagle Scout Badge in 2001 for helping build a library for "The Project Royal," which helps single moms and kids.

## **77 TYLER POLUMBUS, OT**

- ➔ The massive Polumbus (6-8, 285 pounds) will be responsible for protecting the quarterback's blindside. He benefited from going against speedy defensive end Abraham Wright throughout fall camp. He missed all of spring drills after having surgery in January to relieve a chronic shoulder condition.
- ➔ Two members of his family played sports at CU: Father (Tad) lettered in football, basketball and golf (1965-66), and an uncle (Gary Polumbus) lettered three years in golf and twice made it to the NCAA Championships. His father had 14 career receptions at CU...out of 15 passes thrown to him.

## **80 JARRELL YATES, WR**

- ➔ He had barely played at all the whole season before the coaches called on him in the second quarter and he caught his first reception of his career on a 29-yard pass from Jackson. Said Yates: "This feeling right now is off the charts. It was my first game here at CU, first Division I football games, first catch, first touchdown, first win, just everything. It just blew it off the charts."

## **83 DUSTY SPRAGUE, WR**

- ➔ Battling a hamstring injury throughout fall camp, he is finally healthy. He possesses great size (6-4, 195 pounds) and is an extremely sure-handed target who is not afraid to go over the middle.
- ➔ As a sophomore in 2005, he played in all 13 games, making 11 starts. He led the Buffs in receptions in the regular season with 43, good for 468 yards and a touchdown. He was the first sophomore to lead CU in receiving since Michael Westbrook in 1992.
- ➔ As a freshman in 2004, he turned into one of Joel Klatt's favorite targets before suffering a broken collarbone midway through the season. *The Sporting News* named him to its Freshman All-Big 12 team.
- ➔ His family is no stranger to college football, as two older brothers (Aaron and Russell) both played receiver at Colorado State.
- ➔ He caught what looked to be a touchdown in the first quarter against Georgia, but the fourth down play was stricken due to a false start penalty.

## **84 TYSON DEVREE, TE**

- ➔ He saw his first game action as a member of the Buffs against Colorado State and caught his first pass, a six-yarder for a first down against Arizona State.
- ➔ He suffered a rib injury late in fall camp and had to miss some practice and the home opener against Montana State. The misplaced rib caused an air pocket to form in his lungs and he had to stand on the sidelines at practice breathing from an oxygen canister because doctors feared that his lungs could collapse. He has since returned to practice after doctors used a catheter to remove the air pocket.
- ➔ After transferring from Western Michigan, he had to sit out the 2005 season. He impressed coaches and teammates on a consistent basis with his talent on the scout team.

- ➔ At Western Michigan, he was a 2004 second-team all-Mid American Conference selection and a John Mackey Award watch list candidate.
- ➔ In 2003, at Western Michigan, he was named a second-team All-American by *The Sporting News*.

## **85 NICK HOLZ, WR/HLD**

- ➔ A career walk-on and PK Mason Crosby's best ally as a holder, Holz made his first career start at wide receiver against Baylor.
- ➔ His nickname is "Pony."

## **86 GEORGE HYPOLITE, DT**

- ➔ A first-year starter at defensive tackle in 2006, following an impressive year as a true freshman. He has added another 15 pounds to his frame to solidify his presence in the middle.
- ➔ One of his best games to date against Georgia. He had his first two career sacks against the Bulldogs, with one causing a fumble on UGA's first second half possession that led to a CU field goal.
- ➔ He had an outstanding fall camp as a freshman in 2005 that moved him to second on the depth chart at nose tackle behind incumbent senior Vaka Manupuna.

## **87 RIAR GEER, TE**

- ➔ He caught his second career touchdown against Texas Tech on CU's first drive. He caught a rollout pass from Jackson, made a cut up field and rumbled 28 yards into the end zone to give the Buffs a 7-0 lead. He finished as CU's leading receiver with four catches for 48 yards.
- ➔ Caught his first career touchdown in the first overtime against Baylor.
- ➔ He came almost out of nowhere against Georgia to lead the Buffs in receiving with seven catches for 71 yards. He was the primary reason the Buffs were able to keep the Bulldogs off-balance for most of the day after coaches decided the best way to attack the Georgia defense was on the perimeter and in the flats. Said QB Bernard Jackson: "Obviously, today he was the man. I just get the ball to him and let him make plays."
- ➔ He never played tight end until coming to CU; he saw action at linebacker, receiver and quarterback in high school, but the previous coaching staff thought he had the physique to be a quality collegiate tight end—and it appears they were right.

## **90 ISAAC GARDEN, P/PK**

- ➔ He consistently boots the football as far as starter Matt DiLallo in practices, but he doesn't have as fast of a release.
- ➔ He is also a left-footed punter just like his predecessor John Torp and DiLallo, so CU may have cornered the market on lefties.

## **91 MAURICE LUCAS, DE**

- ➔ A physical specimen (6-4, 240 pounds), Lucas already has the build to be an elite Big 12 defensive end. Position coach Romeo Bandison has said Lucas needs to be more consistent and needs to be able to move on after a mistake without thinking about it.
- ➔ He had the first sack of his career against Iowa State.
- ➔ He was originally ticketed to redshirt the 2005 season, but was activated in the sixth game of the season and made his collegiate debut against the eventual National Champion Texas Longhorns—in Austin. He ended up playing in eight games, starting the last six.

## ***94 BRANDON NICOLAS, DT***

- ➔ As with many D-tackles, he has been performing on a consistent basis but has received very little attention. But make no mistake about it, he is one of the reasons CU has defended the run well. He stepped right into the starting role vacated by Vaka Manupuna and CU has not missed a beat.
- ➔ In 2005, he sat out the entire season after transferring to Colorado from Notre Dame. Also used the time to have surgery to mend chronic shoulder problems.
- ➔ He came from legendary football power Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana, Calif., and was recruited to Notre Dame by former coach Tyrone Willingham. He did not play as a freshman in 2004, but Willingham told him his chances of playing as a sophomore were promising. After Charlie Weiss was hired to replace Willingham, Nicolas felt uncomfortable with the system. He decided to transfer to Colorado over UCLA in large part because he thought it would be fun to play for former CU head coach Gary Barnett. After the coaching change at Colorado and with Nicolas finding himself with his third coaching staff in three years, he is finally comfortable.
- ➔ “Tradition is strong at Notre Dame,” Nicolas said. “But there’s a lot of tradition here too. This is a big-time program. Classes are hard. There’s not that much of a difference, really.”

## ***96 MARCUS JONES, DT***

- ➔ With his size (6-4, 300 pounds), he provides valuable depth in the interior and can occupy multiple blockers.
- ➔ He has missed the last two games with a concussion but should be available against Nebraska.

## ***97 TAJ KAYNOR, DT***

- ➔ It was almost Kaynor who was activated from his redshirt season in 2005 to play defensive end; instead coaches went with Maurice Lucas because he was more physically developed for the position.
- ➔ Kaynor has since bulked up to from 250 to 285 pounds to play the interior line. He did so by eating between 7,000 and 8,000 calories per day in the spring.

## ***98 MICHAEL SIPILI, ILB***

- ➔ Sipili impressed coaches in fall camp and is one of the few true freshmen who has played early and often. He has seen some spot action from scrimmage as well as duty on special teams.