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colorado 31, texas tech 26

## Buff play Tech-away

Four interceptions - three by Wheatley - pave way for road upset

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

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Colorado running back Hugh Charles breaks into the clear on a 31-yard touchdown run to open the scoring. (AP | Joe Don Buckner)

LUBBOCK, TEXAS — Sensing Colorado coach Dan Hawkins was giving them a bit of the silent treatment all week, Buffaloes players took it upon themselves to make some noise Saturday at Texas Tech.

Did they ever.

Making an emphatic statement on both sides of scrimmage, Colorado frustrated record-setting

Tech quarterback Graham Harrell with four interceptions, played almost flawless keep-away on offense and took a big step toward earning a bowl bid with a 31-26 victory over the Red Raiders in front of 49,084 fans at Jones AT&T Stadium.

CU players said they never had experienced Hawkins being so quiet in recent practices. He must have known something.

"Even after practices, he would say, like, two words," said senior cornerback Terrence Wheatley, who tied a single-game school record with three interceptions. "We understood that he was letting it fall upon us, as players, to take control.

"We had to be aggressive on both sides of the ball. We had been tentative in some games. We had to make some plays."

Marching 91 and 75 yards on its first two possessions, Colorado (5-4, 3-2 Big 12) took a 14-0 lead and never trailed against a Texas Tech team that had won its four previous home games by an average score of 49-16, including blowout wins over Iowa State and Texas A&M.

A 13 1/2-point underdog, CU snapped a two-game losing streak and earned its second Big 12 road victory of the season, including a win at Baylor on Oct. 6. The Buffs went 3-0 against the Big 12 South this season.

In playing the strong, silent type, the usually verbose Hawkins must have reinforced the

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importance of this game and the intensity required. Colorado pulled within one victory of becoming bowl-eligible. Remaining is a home game Saturday against No. 13 Missouri, a road game against Iowa State (Nov. 10) and the regular-season finale against Nebraska, in Boulder on Nov. 23.

"Thank you. (Just) 10 minutes of enjoyment for this one, huh?" said a grinning Hawkins when asked in the postgame news conference about facing Missouri on Saturday.

"This is such a doggone tough league. You win this one and start worrying about the next one."

Saturday in Lubbock might as well have been senior day for the Buffs. Wheatley set a personal record with his three picks. Senior linebacker Jordon Dizon returned a third-quarter interception 42 yards for a touchdown, and senior tailback Hugh Charles rushed for 121 yards - his fifth game out of the past six over the century mark. He scored two touchdowns, including one as a receiver.

"This was a great day, coming back to Texas," said Charles, who grew up in Keller, near Dallas-Fort Worth, and said he had at least 20 friends and family members in the stands.

Charles' 6-yard TD catch in the third quarter gave the Buffs a 31-13 cushion. And against Tech's quick-striking passing attack, no cushion feels safe.

"Hugh is a great back," CU quarterback Cody Hawkins said. "When he gets that rhythm going and gets the feel of the game, he can make things happen."

The least-important statistic of the game was Hawkins throwing for a season-low 123 yards. He did toss two touchdown passes. And for the first time this season, the redshirt freshman was not intercepted.

CU entered the game ranked 106th nationally in turnover margin (minus-9) but went plus-4 on Saturday. The Buffs did not have a giveaway against the Red Raiders (6-3, 2-3).

"That was huge," Dan Hawkins said.

A junior, Harrell entered the game ranked first nationally in passing yardage (3,548) and touchdown passes (32). Saturday, he added 431 yards and three scores, but Colorado's defense made him work for them. Harrell threw 62 times, completing 46. The four interceptions were momentum killers.

"Sometimes when the guy (Harrell) has success, the temptation to not stay within yourself is too big," Tech coach Mike Leach said of Harrell forcing some throws into coverage.

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cu notes

## Wheatley scores hat trick with three picks for Buffs

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

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Cornerback Terrence Wheatley has 14 interceptions in his career, tied for third in University of Colorado history. (AP) Joe Don Buckner

LUBBOCK, TEXAS — Senior cornerback Terrence Wheatley didn't have to jog his memory

Saturday when asked after Colorado's 31-26 win over Texas Tech if he had ever intercepted three passes in a game.

"Like, um, never," Wheatley said with a smile.

Not in high school. Not in junior high. Not in Pop Warner youth leagues.

Not that he is counting but, well, Wheatley is counting. Now with 14 career interceptions, he moved into a tie for third place on the all-time CU list with College Football Hall of Fame member Dick Anderson, who later starred on the Miami Dolphins' undefeated 1972 team.

"Two more would be nice," Wheatley said, referring to the CU record of 16 career picks held by two-sport star John Stearns, who played major-league baseball and is a minor-league manager.

Wheatley's interceptions Saturday were his first since getting a pick in each of CU's first two games, against Colorado State and Arizona State.

"Anybody who has watched tape (of Wheatley) knows that he's pretty good," CU coach Dan Hawkins said. "We've kind of been on him a little bit because his expectations are high, and ours are as well. We kind of challenged him a little bit. He definitely answered."

Wheatley almost had four interceptions

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Saturday. He appeared in position to pick off a Graham Harrell pass in the end zone, but the spiral slipped through Wheatley's hands and was grabbed for a 19-yard touchdown by Texas Tech star Michael Crabtree with seven seconds remaining in the third quarter.

"I can't believe he caught it," Wheatley said.

## Real deal

That's what Wheatley called Crabtree, a redshirt freshman who caught 12 passes for 131 yards and a touchdown, establishing an NCAA season record for catches by a freshman (he has 100). Through nine games, Crabtree already has set Big 12 Conference season marks (all classes) for receptions and touchdown catches (18).

"He is the best receiver I've covered my whole college career, period," Wheatley said. "He has the mentality of an NFL guy. He always wants the ball."

## Footnotes

CU quarterback Cody Hawkins helped keep the Buffs' second scoring drive alive when, after handing off to wide receiver Scotty McKnight on a reverse, he went out for a pass and caught a 9-yarder down the left sideline. "I guess Cody is a better athlete than people think," McKnight said. ... CU's only reported injuries, to linebacker Jordon Dizon (eye abrasion) and offensive lineman Edwin Harrison (knee strain), were not considered serious. ... The

Buffs finished with a three-game sweep of Big 12 South Division teams, including victories over Oklahoma and Baylor.

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# Bufs pick off victory over TTU

## Colorado intercepts four Red Raider passes in win

By Kyle Ringo  
Sunday, October 28, 2007

LUBBOCK, Texas — Ten days ago, Colorado football players saw head coach Dan Hawkins as mad as they had ever seen him during a Thursday practice. He yelled and screamed and was rewarded with a sub-par performance and a loss to Kansas.

A stoney silence fell over Hawkins in the week leading up to Saturday's game at Texas Tech. His players took it to mean the coach was done trying to inspire them in his way and was ready to let them take control.

Practices improved and became some of the best in Hawkins' tenure and the Buffs surprised the heavily favored Red Raiders with a 31-26 beating at Jones AT&T Stadium. It was the first CU victory in West Texas and the first road win for a team in the series.

The victory gave CU a season sweep over the Big 12 Conference South Division for the first time since 1998. The Buffs (5-4, 3-2) are now 21-15 against the South, the best record of any North team. The win also kept CU alive in North Division race and brought the Buffs to within one win of bowl eligibility. Texas Tech dropped to 6-3 and 2-3 in the Big 12.

It came through efficient offense featuring a strong run-ning game and no turnovers. Quarterback Cody Hawkins played his first full game without throwing an interception. But the defense deserves the bulk of the credit, with veterans rising to the occasion and coming up with three sacks and four interceptions of the leading passer in the nation.

It was the second-consecutive four-interception game for TTU's Graham Harrell, who finished the day with three touchdown passes and 431 yards passing on 62 attempts.

All-Big 12 cornerback Terrence Wheatley tied a school record with three interceptions, raising his career total to 14, and linebacker Jordon Dizon also picked off Harrell, returning his act of thievery 42 yards for a third-quarter touchdown.

Wheatley said afterward that while Hawkins toned it down this week, he never stops trying to motivate. Wheatley said he and Hawkins crossed paths in the Dal Ward Center on Tuesday and Hawkins asked whether Wheatley was done picking off passes.

"We definitely stressed it this week that we have to get more turnovers, especially interceptions," Wheatley said. "I think four in a day is not bad."

The offense set the tone for the day by claiming an early lead and pounding Texas Tech with the run game. CU finished with 217 yards rushing from seven ball carriers.

Senior running back Hugh Charles produced his fifth 100-yard rushing game in the past six outings and scored twice. The Buffs averaged 4.9 yards per carry. Charles said the Buffs practiced better than they had all season and noticed the change in their coach.

"He got really pumped up last week and he tried to fire us up," Charles said. "I believe with this team, we're a team where we've got to show people. We can't talk about it. We've got to show the world who we are and what we can do.

"I believe coach Hawk has kind of grasped on to that and that's why he was kind of quiet this week."

The Buffs scored on their first possession of the game, marching 91 yards in 10 plays while using four different tailbacks to carry the ball. Charles skipped around left end on a 31-yard touchdown run for the score.

CU used a bit of trickery and the passing game to take a 14-0 lead on its second drive. The Buffs chewed up 75 yards in 12 plays, including a pass from wide receiver Scotty McKnight to quarterback Cody Hawkins for a nine-yard gain. Hawkins took a shot from a pair of defensive backs on the play but managed to hold on to the ball.

"That was impressive. That was a pretty good catch," Dan Hawkins said of his son.

Hawkins later connected with tight end Riar Geer for a 2-yard scoring pass on fourth-and-goal. It was the fourth time this season Hawkins has thrown a touchdown pass to a tight end on fourth down.

The Buffs wasted an opportunity to take a three-score lead following Wheatley's first interception of Harrell. Wheatley's 12th career interception gave the Buffs possession at the Red Raiders' 20-yard line, but the offense was unable to stick the ball in the end zone and place-kicker Kevin Eberhart inexplicably missed a 25-yard field goal.

Texas Tech was able to run off the field down by a single score at halftime after driving to kick a 42-yard field goal on the final play of the half.

CU began the second half by driving to kick a 44-yard field goal. On the ensuing Texas Tech possession, Dizon fooled Harrell into believing he was playing the run and snagged his second career interception. The former high school running back rumbled 42 yards for the score and CU was comfortably ahead 24-6.

The Red Raiders rallied from that point to score three second-half touchdowns, including a 19-yard pass to freshman wide receiver Michael Crabtree to continue his remarkable year with another NCAA record.

Crabtree caught 12 passes in the game, giving him 100 for the season, which is an NCAA freshman record. He also established a Big 12 single-season record with his 18th touchdown catch.

"I'll be the first to say he is the best receiver I've covered in my whole college career, period," Wheatley said.



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# Woelk: These Buffs have become a good team

By Neill Woelk

Sunday, October 28, 2007

This one isn't a fluke. Not an upset, not a stunner, not one that should surprise anyone.

Dan Hawkins' Colorado Buffaloes beat a pretty good football team Saturday, on the road, and looked right at home doing it. The Buffs needed a win to turn their season back in the right direction, and they took care of business with a 31-26 win in a stadium in which they'd never won before.

There were no freak circumstances, no miracle moments in this one. The Buffs simply made more plays than Texas Tech, and they made them at key junctures. They executed well-conceived game plans on both sides of the ball, they never panicked, and their best players became difference-makers.

That's what good teams do. Given all the evidence presented Saturday, the Buffs qualify for that category.

Of course, that designation comes with a codicil, the same one that's followed these Buffs all season.

The Buffs are a good team when they play at their highest level. They are still a team that does not have the firepower or manpower to overcome mistakes. They are still a team with a margin for error as slim as the few seconds that made the final difference in Saturday's game.

But when they limit their mistakes, and when their best players make plays, they are good enough to compete with just about any team on their schedule.

The Buffs didn't work any magic against the Red Raiders. Unlike come-from-behind wins over Colorado State and Oklahoma earlier this year, Colorado took control early and maintained that edge for most of the game.

Yes, the Red Raiders did rally. Yes, it certainly got close down the stretch. Colorado's offense went on the fritz in the fourth quarter, when even a couple of first downs after two TTU turnovers would have given the Buffs some breathing room.

But if you didn't expect the Raiders to rally, you haven't been watching them play. They've put up plenty of yards and a plethora of points on just about everyone they've played. They're a good team, and to expect them not to make some plays themselves would be silly.

It was Colorado, though, that had the edge when it came to play-makers. The Buffs aren't loaded with those kinds of players, but the ones they do have all came up big.

The three-interception day by Terrence Wheatley might be one of the best performances by a CU defensive back since the days when the Buffs were churning out Thorpe Award winners. The matchup between Wheatley and TTU's Michael Crabtree was one for the ages, and Wheatley more than held his own.

Then there's linebacker Jordon Dizon. The nation's leading tackler came up huge with an interception return for a touchdown, along with nine tackles. Dizon is money, and he rang up the register on Saturday.

Offensively, Hugh Charles bounced back from a tough game against Kansas to give Colorado a huge boost in the running game. Charles has taken more than his fair share of criticism this year, but Saturday, his effort on the ground helped the Buffs put forth perhaps their best all-around offensive performance of the year.

Woelk: These Buffs have become a good team

And, quarterback Cody Hawkins silenced the wolves at the door with a very effective performance: two touchdowns, no interceptions and a well-managed game all-around.

Stat of the day: For only the 13th time in CU history, the Buffs didn't allow a sack or turn the ball over. Not surprisingly, they are 13-0 in those games.

Good team?

Saturday, the Buffs proved they can meet that standard.



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# Defense comes up big for Buffaloes

## Wheatley, Dizon and Hypolite all produce key plays

By Kyle Ringo

Sunday, October 28, 2007

LUBBOCK, Texas — Texas Tech football coach Mike Leach is said to have a fascination with pirates. Colorado linebacker Jordon Dizon walked out of the visitor's locker room Saturday at Jones AT&T Stadium looking the part after a game in which he played the part, helping to ruin Leach's day.

Dizon suffered a scratched cornea and went home with a patch over his eye following the Buffs' upset victory over a team that was favored by two touchdowns. Dizon's third-quarter interception return for a touchdown proved to be a pivotal play.

The win was a product of a steady defensive outing in which the best Buffs made their mark.

Dizon, cornerback Terrence Wheatley and defensive tackle George Hypolite are each All-Big 12 caliber players and they all played like it in the same game.

Hypolite recorded a sack, Dizon made his play and Wheatley stole the show with three interceptions to move up to third place on the school's career list.

"That's what we expect out of those guys and that's what they gave us," defensive coordinator Ron Collins said.

Wheatley very narrowly missed becoming the first Buff in history to intercept four passes in one game. A third-quarter touchdown catch by Texas Tech receiver Michael Crabtree literally went right through Wheatley's hands, injuring a thumb in the process.

The three-interception outing tied the CU single-game record and gave Wheatley 14 in his career. He is tied in third place on the career interceptions chart with Hall of Fame Buff Dick Anderson.

"When the ball was in the air, I mean, I didn't care. I was going for it," Wheatley said. "If I missed, I missed."

Wheatley, whose big game came in the state in which he played high school football, is acutely aware of the fact he needs just two more interceptions this season to tie the CU career record held by John Stearns.

"Two more sounds real good," he said.

Wheatley wasn't the only Buff to move into prestigious territory on one of the school's lists of defensive accomplishments. Dizon, who led the nation in tackles going into Saturday's game, registered nine more stops, giving him exactly 400 in his career.

Dizon joined an elite group of four other CU linebackers as the only players in CU history to record 400 tackles. Barry Remington, Matt Russell, Greg Biekert and Ted Johnson accomplished the feat before him. Dizon is a semifinalist for the Dick Butkus Award this season.

"He is playing consistent and we expect that from him," linebackers coach Brian Cabral said. "He keeps bringing it week after week. He does exactly what we ask him to do. I couldn't be any more proud of him."



# Hawkins extends TD streak, ends stretch of interceptions

By Kyle Ringo  
Sunday, October 28, 2007

LUBBOCK, Texas — Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins finally played an entire college football game without throwing an interception Saturday, but only because Marlon Williams can't catch.

Hawkins got away with throwing the ball into several tight situations again in a victory at Texas Tech.

In the first quarter on third-down-and-goal at the Red Raiders' 2-yard line, Hawkins threw to the back of the end zone to a receiver being double-covered. The ball hit Williams in the hands and bounced to the artificial surface.

On the ensuing fourth-down play, Hawkins connected with tight end Riar Geer for a touchdown, but many in the stadium thought the pass was intercepted by Texas Tech cornerback Jamar Wall, who would have returned it for a touchdown.

Geer is the eighth different receiver Hawkins has thrown a touchdown pass to this fall.

"We didn't have any tipped balls this game and our guys felt really comfortable with the game plan and everybody was running crisp routes," Hawkins said. "It's definitely nice for the whole offense because I thought we were really efficient."

Hawkins completed 15 of 26 passes for 123 yards and two touchdowns. He tied a school record by throwing a touchdown pass in his ninth consecutive game. The last CU quarterback to do that was Koy Detmer in 1996.

Hawkins' 123 passing yards moved his total to 2,090 for his freshman season. It is the 12th 2,000- yard passing season in CU history but the first from a freshman.

Avoiding an interception wasn't the only first for Hawkins on Saturday. He also scrambled for a 12- yard gain. It was the longest run of his brief career, and he caught the first pass of his career on a trick play in the second quarter.

He pitched the ball wide receiver Scotty McKnight on what appeared to be a reverse, but McKnight abruptly stopped and threw back to Hawkins, who was running down the sideline. Hawkins caught the ball despite being smacked by two defensive backs.

It was the first reception by a CU quarterback since Bernard Jackson threw to Joel Klatt in 2004 against Texas A&M.

"I've always felt my natural position was wide receiver," the not-so-nimble-footed freshman joked in his postgame radio interview. "So it was nice to go out there and showcase my skills."

## Pressured

After registering just two sacks in the previous five games, the Buffs made three sacks Saturday and hurried Texas Tech quarterback Graham Harrell on five other occasions.

"A lot of times as a defensive tackle, it's very hard to get the quarterback to the ground because even if you beat the guy or the two guys in front of you, the quarterback can always scramble out," George Hypolite said. "Our ends and

linebackers did a good job of coming up and getting into his face. If I flushed him, they finished the play."

### **Return man, too**

Cornerback Terrence Wheatley's performance Saturday will be forever remembered for his three interceptions, but the senior from Richardson, Texas, also made his mark on kickoff returns. His 82 return yards gave him 1,242 in his career, which ranks second in school history behind Ben Kelly.

### **Major boost**

For the second consecutive season, Dan Hawkins fought off many of the premier programs in the nation to earn the commitment of the top-ranked high school football recruit in the state.

Ponderosa linebacker Jon Major committed to play at CU this week and announced his decision by sending an e-mail to rivals.com at 1:09 a.m. on Saturday. CU freshman offensive lineman Ryan Miller was the top recruit in Colorado last year and broke into the starting lineup in the sixth game of the season this fall.

Major is expected to compete for playing time right away in Boulder as well, regardless of whether he plays linebacker or defensive end. He is a 6-foot-4, 230-pound prospect rated as a four-star recruit by rivals.com and other recruiting services.

Major is the ninth known commitment for the 2008 recruiting class and the second four-star player. He is the third linebacker in the class. The class also features two defensive backs, a quarterback, a running back and a wide receiver and a defensive tackle.

### **Wile E. Coyote**

About 50 minutes before Saturday's game, a coyote darted onto the field at Jones AT&T Stadium from its hiding spot under a stairway. The coyote jumped into a grass area behind one end zone and then into the stands, where it wove its way up through startled fans to the concourse level where it disappeared beneath a stand of bleachers.

### **Notable**

Colorado played most of the second half without senior guard Edwin Harrison, whose chronically bad right knee was hurt once again. Harrison said he would be fine after the game and sophomore Devin Head filled in well in Harrison's place. ... Officials from the Alamo Bowl and the Independence Bowl attended Saturday's game. ... If there is a Game 6 in the World Series on Wednesday, the Dan Hawkins radio show will be moved to Tuesday for the second week in a row.



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# Ex-Buff touched lives of many

## Boulder man led life as athlete, minister and magician

By Heath Urie

Sunday, October 28, 2007

Chris Johnson was working his shift at a Dairy Queen on the Boulder Hill late one night in 2005, when everything seemed to be going wrong.

"I was broken up and depressed," Johnson said. "I didn't know if there was a God."

That's when Tennyson McCarty strolled in for a late-night malt.

"It was just before closing, and we were the last two people there," Johnson recalled. "He did some magic tricks for me, and started sharing with me what he believed about Jesus Christ. We started talking, and he was hitting home on a lot of stuff."

A few weeks later, Johnson, who had been living in his truck, moved in with the former University of Colorado football player.

That sort of thing seemed to happen a lot when McCarty was around.

As family members and friends now grieve his death, they say McCarty left a life-changing impression on hundreds of people around the world, through an eclectic life as an athlete-turned-Christian-magician.

McCarty, 32, went missing Oct. 15 and was found dead Oct. 19 in a creek near the Peak to Peak Highway northeast of Peaceful Valley. A cause of death has not been determined.

### 'Hero' athlete

Born in 1975 to Cleveland and Jacquelyn McCarty, Tennyson grew up with a passion for sports and the outdoors.

Tennyson maintained a 3.8 GPA at Boulder High School, while lettering as a three-year varsity football player. His senior year, after tallying six sacks in a single game, he was named MVP of the 1992 state championship game and honored as Colorado's Defensive Player of the Year.

Tennyson received a football scholarship from the University of Colorado in 1993 and lettered each of his four years playing for head coaches Bill McCartney and Rick Neuheisel.

While playing for the Buffs, Tennyson caught 37 passes for 311 yards and one touchdown in 42 career games. He is most often recognized for his catch from John Hessler to beat Texas A&M in 1995.

He was named first-team Academic All-Big Eight in 1994 and 1995, and first-team Academic All-Big 12 in 1996 and 1997.

"He's a guy who was very smart and athletically talented and devoted to being a student to whatever he was doing," said Eric McCarty, the eldest of Tennyson's six siblings.

Ex-Buff touched lives of many

Eric McCarty, who serves as CU's director of sports medicine, also lettered at Colorado from 1983 to 1987 as a fullback and linebacker. He said his younger brother looked up to him as a football player, but he also looked up to Tennyson.

"I may have been the hero to (Tennyson), but it was quite apparent as the years went on — as Tennyson matured into a young man — that he became my hero," Eric McCarty said. "He was the guy that was encouraging me in my faith and my family. It's amazing how that can happen."

Tennyson's aspirations to play in the NFL were cut short his senior year by a series of foot injuries.

"His college career was good, but not as good as Tennyson wanted," Eric McCarty said.

Even so, Tennyson maintained a 3.7 GPA as a Buffalo and graduated from CU in 1998 with a degree in kinesiology.

Eric McCarty said his brother initially showed an interest in physical therapy or other medicine, but would end up choosing another path.

### **'The turning point'**

When football didn't work out after school, Tennyson decided instead to take to his spiritual roots.

As a child, Tennyson once went with his father to see evangelist Billy Graham speak at the old Mile High Stadium.

"I think that had an enormous impact on him," said his father, 74-year-old Cleveland McCarty.

Throughout high school, Tennyson became active with Student Venture, a youth ministry in Boulder.

Louisville resident Mike Painter, a longtime McCarty family friend who taught Tennyson's youth group, said a Christian magic show Tennyson attended in 1990 solidified his relationship with the Christian faith.

"That was a turning point for him," Painter said. "He made a personal decision to ask Christ into his life."

Tennyson used to take Painter's son into the CU locker room after games, and the family still has an autographed football from him, Painter said.

"We're in a state of shock," he said. "It's a huge loss for the whole community. You don't replace a guy like that."

After graduating from CU, Tennyson decided to embrace vocational ministry. He earned a master's degree in global arts and leadership from Fuller Seminary and moved to Austin, Texas, to begin his career.

He helped create campus ministries at the University of Texas, Texas State University, Texas A&M and at CU. He also worked with ministry efforts in more than 300 college and high school campuses across the United States, New Zealand, Australia, Haiti and Asia.

### **Ministry through magic**

In 2000, Tennyson befriended Jim Munroe, formerly of Broomfield, who shared his passion for ministry.

Munroe also rekindled Tennyson's childhood fascination with magic and illusion.

"He loved magic," Cleveland McCarty said. "I got him started a little bit, showing him some simple things I knew how to do."

He said Tennyson would often beg to know how the tricks were done, but he refused to divulge his secrets until Tennyson was 22.



Ex-Buff touched lives of many

"I wouldn't tell him how they worked," said the elder McCarty. "I wanted to keep it a secret. He was so puzzled by it."

After perfecting some illusions in 2000, Tennyson worked with Munroe to form MAZE Ministries, a national traveling ministry that blends performance magic with Christian gospel.

"We encouraged each other to do the magic," Munroe said. "He always had the vision for evangelism, and I continued to help on the magic front."

As the fledgling show gained popularity, Munroe said, "small crowds turned into small audiences, and then small audiences were turning into large audiences."

"Next thing we knew, we did 40 cities with Acquire the Fire last year, including a 10,000-person arena in Toronto," Munroe said.

Earlier this year, MAZE partnered with Campus Crusade for Christ to bring the tour to college campuses.

Munroe said the show was Tennyson's true calling.

"Tennyson — his life is marked by wanting other people to know the power of Jesus Christ," Munroe said. "He felt called by God to share the gospel message, and doors kept opening up constantly for him."

Munroe said his friend's faith ran deeper than anyone else's, and that he shared that passion with everyone he met.

"Tennyson was just the real deal," Munroe said. "His whole life was other people. He would go bail guys out of jail."

Munroe said he isn't sure what will become of the MAZE show without his partner.

"It will be different, if it does continue."

### **'An answer to a prayer'**

Cleveland McCarty said his son had "no foes" and would "fearlessly make friends," making it even more difficult for the family to understand what might have happened to Tennyson alone in the woods.

"We can only imagine him just praying, and for whatever reason, it was time for him to go," said Eric McCarty. "Based on the facts we have from the coroner's office and the sheriff's office, the exact cause of death can't be determined. The most likely explanation is hypothermia."

Boulder County Coroner Tom Faure said laboratory test results and further investigation are not expected to be completed for weeks, but foul play is not suspected.

Among the closest of Tennyson's friends still struggling to understand what happened to him are many assorted roommates Tennyson invited into his Boulder home over the years.

Zack Serry, 22, moved in with Tennyson last summer, after another chance meeting.

Serry said he was selling cell phones when McCarty came browsing through his shop.

"This big, muscular-looking football player guy walked up to me, and I was trying to sell him a phone," Serry said. "In actuality, he was an answer to a prayer. God really put him in my life and he introduced me to Jesus. He had one of the most authentic relationships with God that I've ever seen and known, which was all new for me."

Serry said Tennyson "made himself available to God" all the time, and would stop in his tracks to minister someone in need.

"One night, all of a sudden he started ministering to this one guy," Serry said. "He would take Jesus and take the gospel to areas that were taboo. He really lived his life that way — surrendered to God."

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## Bufs rock Raiders

*By Patrick Ridgell  
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LUBBOCK, Texas — They say turnovers in football can come in bunches or prove impossible to force, two extremes with which the Colorado Buffaloes of 2007 have grown well acquainted.

It's been mostly the latter for Colorado of late, which is why the Buffs entered the weekend tied for last in the Big 12 in turnover margin at minus-9. But Saturday at Texas Tech, something changed for the Buffs, who were two-touchdown underdogs in a place they had never won in four trips.

CU beat Texas Tech, 31-26, at Jones AT&T Stadium thanks largely to a defense that intercepted Red Raiders quarterback Graham Harrell four times. Terrence Wheatley grabbed three, and he and CU coaches insisted afterward he should have had a fourth one that zipped through his hands and into a Tech receiver's for a third-quarter touchdown.

CU's Jordon Dizon also intercepted Harrell, and he returned his pick 42 yards in the third quarter for his first career touchdown, a score that proved pivotal.

CU, now a win shy of bowl eligibility at 5-4, and at 3-2 holding hope in the Big 12 North race, led all day and by as much as 18 late in the third. But CU never felt secure against Tech's pass-happy attack until tight end Tyson DeVree recovered an onside kick with 2 minutes, 8 seconds to play. That's when the Buffs could finally exhale and exhaust the clock.

While Harrell went 46-for-62 for 431 yards and three scores, he did not, according to Tech's sports information department, answer questions after the game. He might have been frustrated, a sentiment clear in the words of a few Red Raiders — "I guess you could say we failed," star receiver Michael Crabtree said.

But the Buffs stressed forcing turnovers in recent practices and practiced using the type of aggression necessary to coax interceptions from a foe like Tech (6-3, 2-3). And on Saturday, they saw tangible results. Explanations aren't hard to find, and it might have been simply that CU was due for a few turnovers. But the main culprit was Wheatley, of whom teammates and coaches couldn't say enough.

"I'm surprised that guy hasn't gotten more attention," CU quarterback Cody Hawkins said. "In practice, it's almost impossible to throw to that side of the field. ... I think he's an unbelievable corner and he doesn't get enough credit.

"He's had an awesome career at Colorado, and he's going to be great in the NFL."

Head coach Dan Hawkins said of Wheatley: "We've been on him a little bit because ... his expectations are high, as well as ours, and we kept challenging him. He definitely answered."

Actually, Hawkins' challenge came in the form of a joke this week at the Dal Ward Center, where one day he stopped the senior cornerback on the stairs and asked, "What, are you done getting interceptions for the year?"

Wheatley is an intuitive type who didn't see anything humorous in the comment. In recent weeks, he fell out of the Big 12's top 10 in passes defended and interceptions, and he hadn't grabbed one since Week 2 at Arizona State. Frustration was high, but not just in him. It permeated every defender, who entered Saturday with a paltry six picks in 2007.

"Especially in the back half, you look at some of the numbers and you just kind of shake your head and wonder, 'Why are we not making more plays?'" he said. "We realized we have to be more aggressive.

"It's frustrating going into the game, but I guess when you have a game like this, where you make plays and frustrate the quarterback and hit the quarterback like we did because of coverage, it just shows you're being aggressive. Hats off the D-line for getting pressure, and hats (off) to everybody else in the secondary for playing hard."

Dizon, who suffered an eye abrasion late and wasn't on the field when Tech scored its final touchdown with 2:08 left, made the second

interception of his season and career count. It came after a halftime adjustment on a defensive set from which Dizon blitzed in the first half. When CU ran it on Tech's first offensive play in the second half, Dizon dropped into coverage and, according to the Buffs, fooled Harrell, whose pass went right to the linebacker.

Dizon sprinted down the sideline, then juked Harrell inside the 10 to score untouched.

"That was a nice move," defensive tackle George Hypolite said. "That kid's athletic."

CU's Hugh Charles regained the stride he lost last week against Kansas to run for 121 yards and a score on 20 carries. On offense, the Buffs did not turn the ball over, and for the first time in 2007, Cody Hawkins did not throw an interception. He threw five the previous two weeks.

And Wheatley did a nice job of playing aggressively. Coaches will be looking for more of the same next week when the Buffs host Missouri (4:30 p.m., FSR).

"He is just like anyone else on this football team: He has to continue to look at how to improve," Collins said of Wheatley. "But I do give him props for what he did today: three picks. That's what we want to get out of him every game.

"But if he's satisfied with what he did today, then he'll never get better."

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