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COLORADO FOOTBALL: 2008 LETTER-OF-INTENT DAY NOTES & BIOS / INFORMATION

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QUICKLY

It's the 2008 edition of national letter-of-intent day, as high school seniors around the nation were allowed to sign on the dotted line starting at 7:00 a.m. local time on Wednesday, February 6... The signed letters are express mailed in, but can be confirmed by FAX... The full team total cannot exceed 85 scholarships at any point, or a maximum 25 qualifiers any single year... The NCAA maximum is 56 recruiting visits allowed; the Buffs did not "bank" any from last year and have utilized 44 of the 56 to date; CU can pickup a maximum six of those unused visits to bank toward next year, and can have 62 for the 2009 class... The list of signees and their biographies are later in this packet.

NAMES & NUMBERS

Here's a look at the preliminary roster numbers when taking a look at the 2008 University of Colorado football roster:

Lettermen Returning: 42 (19 offense, 21 defense, 2 specialists)

Lettermen Lost: 22 (14 offense, 6 defense, 2 specialist)

Starters Returning (15)—Offense 7: TE Riar Geer (17/8), QB Cody Hawkins (13/13), OG Kai Maiava (9/9), WR Scotty McKnight (5/5), OT Ryan Miller (7/7), C Daniel Sanders (28/13), WR Patrick Williams (14/7). **Defense 8:** CB Benjamin Burney (15/13), SS D.J. Dykes (12/12), DT George Hypolite (20/12), OLB Brad Jones (24/13), DE Maurice Lucas (14/7), NT Brandon Nicolas (24/13), ILB Jeff Smart (10/10), FS Ryan Walters (22/12). (*Career/2007 starts in parenthesis; calculated by those with five-plus starts and were regulars or starting at the end of 2007.*)

Others Returning With Significant Starting Experience (7; min. 3 career starts)— FB Jake Behrens (3/3), CB Cha'pelle Brown (12/8), FB Maurice Cantrell (7/2), WR Cody Crawford (4/1), OG Devin Head (7/6), WR Josh Smith (5/5), TE Nate Solder (4/4).

Others Returning With Significant Position Game Experience (8; two or fewer career starts)— DT Jason Brace, CB Jalil Brown, ILB Marcus Burton, WR Kendrick Celestine, DT Taj Kaynor, CB Gardner McKay, ILB Michael Sipili, CB Jimmy Smith.

Starters Lost (7)—Offense 4: TB Hugh Charles (24/5), OT/G Edwin Harrison (29/13), OT Tyler Polumbus (28/13), WR Dusty Sprague 21/6).

Defense 3: DE Alonzo Barrett (14/13), ILB Jordon Dizon (47/13), CB Terrence Wheatley (30/11).

Others Lost With Significant Starting/Playing Experience (9)— ILB R.J. Brown (1/1), TE Tyson DeVree (6/3), TB Byron Ellis (10/5), SS Lionel Harris (8/1), WR/KR Chase McBride (0/0), WR Stephone Robinson (3/2), TE Joe Sanders (1/1).

Specialists Returning (2)— P Matt DiLallo, SN Justin Drescher.

Specialists Lost (2)— PK Kevin Eberhart, PK Tyler Cope.

Base Spring Roster (85 players/62 scholarship)— 18 seniors, 16 juniors, 23 sophomores, 28 freshmen (27 redshirt/1 true).

HONOR CANDIDATES TO WATCH

Looking ahead to this fall, there are a few Colorado players who should be in the mix for some individual honors. Topping the list are seniors-to-be **DT George Hypolite**, a first-team All-Big 12 performer this past fall, **OLB Brad Jones**, **NT Brandon Nicolas**, **C Daniel Sanders** (a Rimington Watch List member) and **FS Ryan Walters**. Juniors **CB Cha'pelle Brown**, **TE Riar Geer** and **P Matt DiLallo** are worthy of a look, and then there's a slew of underclassmen that could emerge as honors-type players as the program evolves under coach **Dan Hawkins**. Several could emerge as All-Big 12 Conference candidates (or even All-America) with breakout seasons.

2008 SCHEDULE

series

| | | |
|------------|---|---------|
| A 30 | Colorado State (<i>Denver</i>) | 58-19-2 |
| S 6 | EASTERN WASHINGTON | 0-0-0 |
| S 18 or 20 | WEST VIRGINIA | 0-0-0 |
| S 27 | Florida State (at Jacksonville) | 0-2-0 |
| O 4 | * TEXAS (<i>Homecoming</i>) | 7-9-0 |
| O 11 | *at Kansas | 41-23-3 |
| O 18 | * KANSAS STATE (<i>Family Weekend</i>) | 43-19-1 |
| O 25 | *at Missouri | 31-38-3 |
| N 1 | *at Texas A&M | 5-2-0 |
| N 8 | * IOWA STATE | 47-14-1 |
| N 15 | * OKLAHOMA STATE | 26-17-1 |
| N 28 | *at Nebraska | 18-46-2 |
| D 6 | Big 12 Championship (<i>at Kansas City</i>) | |

*—Big 12 Conference game; OPEN WEEK: Nov. 22.

2007 RESULTS

(Won 6, Lost 7; 4-4 Big 12)

| | | | | |
|------|---|--------|-------|--------|
| S 1 | Colorado State (<i>Denver</i>) | (OT) W | 31-28 | 68,133 |
| S 8 | at Arizona State | L | 14-33 | 58,417 |
| S 15 | FLORIDA STATE | L | 6-16 | 52,951 |
| S 22 | MIAMI-OHIO | W | 42-0 | 45,243 |
| S 29 | * OKLAHOMA (<i>Homecoming</i>) | W | 27-24 | 50,231 |
| O 6 | * BAYLOR | W | 43-23 | 32,376 |
| O 13 | *at Kansas State | L | 20-47 | 46,637 |
| O 20 | * KANSAS (<i>Family Weekend</i>) | L | 14-19 | 51,940 |
| O 27 | *at Texas Tech | W | 31-26 | 49,084 |
| N 3 | * MISSOURI | L | 10-55 | 51,483 |
| N 10 | *at Iowa State | L | 28-31 | 45,487 |
| N 23 | * NEBRASKA | W | 65-51 | 51,403 |
| D 30 | Alabama (Independence Bowl) | L | 24-30 | 47,043 |

*—Big 12 Conference game.

RECRUITING REVIEW

Over the past 36 years, the bulk of CU's recruits have come primarily from three states: Colorado (223), California (193) and Texas (102). Here is a look at CU's **high school only** recruiting numbers since 1973, the year students were again able to participate as freshmen. It includes signed recruits who might not have reported to campus for whatever reason, unless that player signed again and counted toward a subsequent class; this prevents double counting. (*—denotes how many members of the class were future NFL draft picks; 1 in every 5.8 CU recruits since 1973 has been drafted into the pros):

| Year | Coach On Signing Day | Total | Colo. | Calif. | Texas | Other States | JC | NDP* |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|-----------|------------|
| 2008 | Dan Hawkins | 20 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 2—Ohio; 1—Arizona, Idaho, Kentucky, New Jersey, Utah | 1 | — |
| 2007 | Dan Hawkins | 23 (1) | 4 | 7 | 0 | 2—Florida, Hawai'i, Pennsylvania, Tennessee; 1—Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana | 4 | — |
| 2006 | Dan Hawkins | 20 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 2—Hawaii; 1—Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, New Jersey, Washington (1—Samoa) | 2 | — |
| 2005 | Gary Barnett | 21 (1) | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2—Florida; 1—Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska | 4 | — |
| 2004 | Gary Barnett | 17 (1) | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3—Michigan; 2—Hawaii; 1—Alabama, Iowa, Louisiana, Oklahoma | 1 | 1 |
| 2003 | Gary Barnett | 23 (1) | 5 | 4 | 8 | 2—Tennessee; 1—Alabama, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma | 2 | 1 |
| 2002 | Gary Barnett | 28 (2) | 7 | 6 | 10 | 3—Louisiana; 2—Illinois; 1—Kansas, Wisconsin | 2 | 2 |
| 2001 | Gary Barnett | 13 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 1—Hawai'i (1—Canada) | 4 | 2 |
| 2000 | Gary Barnett | 19 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 1—Arizona, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana (2—Canada) | 5 | 2 |
| 1999 | Gary Barnett | 16 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1—Arkansas, Hawai'i, Idaho, Illinois, Washington, Wisconsin | 2 | 0 |
| 1998 | Rick Neuheisel | 20 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 1—Alaska, Florida, Hawai'i, Oregon, Washington | 1 | 5 |
| 1997 | Rick Neuheisel | 22 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 2—Arizona, Washington; 1—Missouri | 1 | 5 |
| 1996 | Rick Neuheisel | 21 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 1—Arizona, Hawai'i, Maryland, Ohio, South Dakota, Washington | 0 | 3 |
| 1995 | Rick Neuheisel | 22 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 1—Arizona, Tennessee | 0 | 2 |
| 1994 | Bill McCartney | 18 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 3—Michigan; 1—Florida, Illinois, Oklahoma, Tennessee | 0 | 1 |
| 1993 | Bill McCartney | 20 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 2—Louisiana; 1—D.C., Ga., Hawai'i, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada (1—Samoa) | 0 | 5 |
| 1992 | Bill McCartney | 25 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3—Louisiana; 1—Arizona, Hawai'i, Illinois, Mich., Minn., Mo., Ohio, Wyo. (1—Samoa) | 1 | 10 |
| 1991 | Bill McCartney | 20 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2—Louisiana; 1—Arizona, Florida, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, Utah | 2 | 9 |
| 1990 | Bill McCartney | 20 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3—Louisiana; 1—Michigan (1—Canada) | 3 | 7 |
| 1989 | Bill McCartney | 20 (1) | 8 | 7 | 1 | 2—Michigan; 1—Mississippi, Ohio | 1 | 4 |
| 1988 | Bill McCartney | 22 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 2—Idaho; 1—Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, Washington | 4 | 5 |
| 1987 | Bill McCartney | 12 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2—Nevada; 1—Missouri | 0 | 6 |
| 1986 | Bill McCartney | 23 | 7 | 12 | 2 | 2—Missouri | 0 | 6 |
| 1985 | Bill McCartney | 23 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 3—Missouri; 2—Nevada; 1—Kansas | 0 | 0 |
| 1984 | Bill McCartney | 22 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 1—Illinois, Nebraska | 7 | 1 |
| 1983 | Bill McCartney | 24 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 3—Missouri; 2—Florida, 1—Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio | 3 | 4 |
| 1982 | Chuck Fairbanks | 13 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 1—Arizona, Nevada | 15 | 1 |
| 1981 | Chuck Fairbanks | 24 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 2—North Carolina, Pennsylvania; 1—Oklahoma | 3 | 2 |
| 1980 | Chuck Fairbanks | 25 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 2—Illinois, Pennsylvania; 1—Florida, Idaho, Michigan, Missouri, N.C., N.M., Oregon, Wash. | 3 | 5 |
| 1979 | *Bob Cortese | 24 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 2—New York; 1—Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington | 5 | 0 |
| 1978 | Bill Mallory | 28 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 7—Florida; 3—Illinois; 2—Oklahoma, Washington; 1—Mo., Neb., Nevada, N.M., Ohio | 2 | 0 |
| 1977 | Bill Mallory | 21 | 10 | 5 | 0 | 2—Illinois; 1—Arizona, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio | 1 | 3 |
| 1976 | Bill Mallory | 23 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 5—Illinois, 4—Washington, 1—Kansas, Oklahoma, Oregon, Wyoming | 2 | 9 |
| 1975 | Bill Mallory | 21 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 2—Illinois; 1—Oregon, 1—Washington | 3 | 5 |
| 1974 | Bill Mallory | 23 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 2—Ohio, Washington; 1—Hawai'i, Kansas, New Mexico | 2 | 3 |
| 1973 | Eddie Crowder | 35 | 12 | 5 | 3 | 2—Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, New Jersey; 1—HI, NE, NM, OH, OK, WA (1—Canada) | 3 | 4 |
| Totals | | 771 | 223 | 193 | 102 | Illinois 23, Florida 22, Louisiana 19, Washington 19, Missouri 16, Hawai'i 14, Michigan 13, Arizona 13, Ohio 11, Kansas 8, Nevada 7, Nebraska 6, Tennessee 6, New Mexico 5, Oklahoma 5, Oregon 5. | 89 | 113 |

*—Fairbanks did not become head coach until April 4, 1979; Cortese coordinated recruiting in the interim. In this time frame, 29 percent of all Buffalo high school recruits have come from Colorado, with 25 percent from California and 13 percent from Texas. (#)—denotes (HS) players that counted toward previous class.

RECRUITING POSITION BREAKDOWNS

Listed below are the position breakdowns of Colorado's recruiting classes since 1982. Counts include high school and junior college signees; fullbacks counted in running back totals; outside linebackers count either under defensive ends or linebackers, depending on where they eventually played:

| Year | Total | Offense----- | | | | | | Defense----- | | | | | |
|------|-------|--------------|----|----|----|----|---|--------------|----|----|----|------|--|
| | | OL | QB | RB | TE | WR | | DE | DT | LB | DB | PK/P | |
| 2008 | 21 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | | |
| 2007 | 28 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 0 | | |
| 2006 | 22 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | | |
| 2005 | 25 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 1 | | |
| 2004 | 19 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 | | |
| 2003 | 25 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 2 | | |
| 2002 | 30 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 0 | | |
| 2001 | 17 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | |
| 2000 | 24 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | | |
| 1999 | 18 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | | |
| 1998 | 21 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | | |
| 1997 | 23 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0 | | |
| 1996 | 23 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 0 | | |
| 1995 | 22 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | |

| Year | Total | Offense----- | | | | | | Defense----- | | | | | |
|------|-------|--------------|----|----|----|----|---|--------------|----|----|----|------|--|
| | | OL | QB | RB | TE | WR | | DE | DT | LB | DB | PK/P | |
| 1994 | 17 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | | |
| 1993 | 19 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | | |
| 1992 | 25 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 0 | | |
| 1991 | 23 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | |
| 1990 | 23 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | |
| 1989 | 21 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 0 | | |
| 1988 | 26 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | | |
| 1987 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | | |
| 1986 | 23 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 0 | | |
| 1985 | 23 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 0 | | |
| 1984 | 29 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 1 | | |
| 1983 | 27 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 1 | | |
| 1982 | 28 | 13 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 0 | | |

BUFFS MAKE PRESENCE KNOWN IN RAIDING BEST-IN-WEST SQUAD

One of the most prestigious teams is the *Long Beach Press-Telegram's* Best-In-West squad, which the paper started selecting in 1977. The first-team consists of 20 top players from the Mountain and Pacific Time zones (and Alaska and Hawai'i). When all was said and done, USC plucked off six of the 20; next on the list? Colorado. CU signed four/three off the list: **TB Darrell Scott** (ranked first, the top point getter, receiving 208 out of a possible 210), **ILB Lynn Katoa** (No. 6 on the list), **ILB Jon Major** (No. 17) and **OT Bryce Givens** (No. 20). Four schools snared two, Arizona State, Notre Dame, UCLA and Washington, with Arizona, and BYU and Texas signing one each.

STATE-BY-STATE

The below chart indicates the last time a player from each state was on the CU roster (includes transfers and walk-ons; had to suit for at least one game). Rosters were available back to 1928; going into 2008, only two states, Rhode Island and Vermont, have never produced a CU player, with eight not having a prep recruit. A state-by-state look (**a**—last year a prep recruit signed from that state; **b**—last year a player from that state, recruit, walk-on or transfer, was on the roster):

| State | a-Year | b-Year | State | a-Year | b-Year | State | a-Year | b-Year | State | a-Year | b-Year | State | a-Year | b-Year |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|----------------|--------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|
| Alabama | 2004 | 2007 | Hawai'i | 2007 | 2007 | Michigan | 2004 | 2007 | North Carolina | 1981 | 2001 | Utah | 1991 | 2007 |
| Alaska | 1998 | 2002 | Idaho | 2007 | 2007 | Minnesota | 2005 | 2006 | North Dakota | 1968 | 1978 | Vermont | ..... | ..... |
| Arizona | 2007 | 2007 | Illinois | 2002 | 2006 | Mississippi | 1989 | 1993 | Ohio | 1996 | 1999 | Virginia | ..... | 1969 |
| Arkansas | 1999 | 2003 | Indiana | 1972 | 2001 | Missouri | 2005 | 2006 | Oklahoma | 2005 | 2007 | Washington | 2006 | 2007 |
| California | 2007 | 2007 | Iowa | 2004 | 2007 | Montana | 1991 | 1994 | Oregon | 1998 | 2007 | West Virginia | ..... | 1970 |
| COLORADO | 2007 | 2007 | Kansas | 2005 | 2007 | Nebraska | 2005 | 2007 | Pennsylvania | 2007 | 2007 | Wisconsin | 2002 | 2003 |
| Connecticut | 1968 | 2005 | Kentucky | 2006 | 2006 | Nevada | 1993 | 1997 | Rhode Island | ..... | ..... | Wyoming | 1992 | 1996 |
| Delaware | ..... | 2001 | Louisiana | 2007 | 2007 | New Hampshire | ..... | 2002 | South Carolina | ..... | 2001 | AMER. SAMOA | 2006 | 1996 |
| Dist. of Columbia | 1993 | 2007 | Maine | ..... | 1988 | New Jersey | 2006 | 1989 | South Dakota | 1996 | 2000 | CANADA | 2001 | 2005 |
| Florida | 2007 | 2007 | Maryland | 1996 | 1998 | New Mexico | 1991 | 1997 | Tennessee | 2007 | 2007 | ENGLAND | ..... | 1964 |
| Georgia | 2007 | 2007 | Massachusetts | 1983 | 2003 | New York | 1979 | 2006 | Texas | 2006 | 2007 | | | |

CLASS NOTES

Colorado five-instate recruits all were members of the All-Colorado teams by the *Rocky Mountain News* and/or *Denver Post*... Colorado inked players from nine states overall, with the last two classes representing 15 different states (16 total in **Dan Hawkins'** three classes)... After being shutout in Texas last year (for the first time since 1983), the Buffs landed two from the Lone Star State this time around... Here are some quick tidbits about the **21** members of this year's recruiting class:

WR Chance Blackmon is not used to losing; high school, Tatum (Texas), went 42-4 during his three years as a member of the varsity... **DL Curtis Cunningham** had a 4.2 grade point average, on a 4.0 scale, during the fall semester of his senior year while playing football. Wow... **OL Ryan Dannewitz** has done something most people wish they've had the chance to: visit the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. ... **PK Jameson Davis** signed on to play football at Boise State for Hawkins in 2005, but left shortly thereafter to serve his two-year Mormon Mission in Guatemala; they did not have a scholarship for him upon his return and he chose to seek out Hawkins and special teams coach Kent Riddle at Colorado.

TE Ryan Deehan had the kind of unwanted media attention no one would desire; his family lost their Poway, Calif., home to the Southern California wildfires and once it was found out he was a highly touted recruit, the media descended on him. Many of his teammates as well as schoolmates were affected by the fires, but Poway found the resolve to go 12-0 and win the CIF San Diego area title. The last recruit from Poway was a decade ago, as ILB Drew Wahlroos signed in the 1998 class... **S Vince Ewing** is the first Buff from Carlsbad (Calif.) High School since eventual Butkus Award runner-up Ted Johnson signed in the spring of '91... **OT Bryce Givens'** father pitched two seasons in the major leagues with the Milwaukee Brewers (Brian Givens); the younger Givens doesn't have a fastball, but he has pancakes: 150 of them over his last two years as a prep.

QB Tyler Hansen is from a quarterback family, as his father played at San Diego State between 1978 and 1983; the younger Hansen was a "1-star" recruit until the services noticed Michigan and Iowa got interested in him after Colorado found him out; he jumped to a "3-star" prospect somehow in early July without playing a game... **DB Steven Hicks** will be reunited with his cousin this October 4 in Boulder, as Nic Redwine is a senior fullback with the University of Texas... **ILB Lynn Katoa** is the first prep recruit from Utah to sign with Colorado since 1991 (DT Kerry Hicks/Salt Lake City Highland); he was the lone member of the high school signees to graduate early and enroll in classes and thus will participate in spring drills... S Patrick Mahnke was the first commit of Colorado's 2008 class, pledging to the Buffs in early June 2007.

ILB Jon Major is CU's first recruit from Ponderosa since 1999 (ILB Dryden Dunsmore); along with Cunningham, he is one of two Colorado Chapter/NFF Scholar-Athletes in the class. Both will be honored February 18 at the Denver West Marriott in Golden... **B Shaun Mohler** was the only junior college transfer signed in this year's class; that's the fewest since the 2004 class had a single JUCO... **TE Will Pericak** will attend CU on a football scholarship; the school practically "owes" him that as he has an older brother (Tom) and sister (Zoe) who already attend CU. His mother, Wynn, is the assistant to the vice president of administration for the CU system (Leonard Dinegar). Pericak took Dan Hawkins' often-said advice of getting out of one's comfort zone; on New Year's Day, with his sister and a friend, he took part in the annual Polar Bear Plunge at Boulder Reservoir (it was about 22 degrees)... **TB Ray Polk's** father, Ray Sr., played four times against the Buffaloes while a member of the Oklahoma State football team between 1981-84; CU faces the Cowboys for the first time since 2005 on November 17.

If **LB Douglas Rippy** challenges you to a game of basketball with his cousins, you'd better bring Allen Iverson with you. He has three cousins who are or have played Division I college basketball: Chris Wright is a freshman forward at Dayton; James Davis signed a letter of intent to play at Toledo beginning this fall; and Greg Moore played at Cincinnati... Rippy and **TB Rodney Stewart** are the first high schoolers from Ohio to sign with the Buffs since 1996 (CB Ben Kelly/Mentor Lake Catholic, Solon)... **TB Darrell Scott** scored 99 career rushing touchdowns; couldn't they have found him one more somewhere?... **OL Maxwell Tuioti-Mariner's** cousin, Pisa Tinoosamoa is a linebacker for the St. Louis Rams... **ATH Paul Vigo** has an impressive resume in community relations work, and is also an avid boxer... **TE Ryan Wallace** has something in common with CU quarterback Cody Hawkins; in high school, Wallace's head coach was his father, Kevin.

Eleven members of the class were team captains, some for multiple seasons (Cunningham, Dannewitz, Deehan, Givens, Hansen, Hicks, Mahnke, Major, Pericak, Polk and Rippy).

HISTORY AND THE "EXPERTS"

Recruiting services can provide a barometer outline in assessing talent and grading the various schools; however, remember most of recruiting is what coaches spot in their own evaluations, either from video or in person in summer camps, not to mention how well players are coached once in college. Here's a look back at all of Colorado's first-team Big Eight/12 performers (or better) over the past 19 years and the top honor each earned in their prep careers. The Buffs have had good success in both areas; CU has signed **168** high school all-Americans (prior to this year), and has nurtured several others into prominent careers. Of the **65** players listed below, **34** (or 52 percent) were high school all-Americans by the various services, meaning **31**, or 48 percent, were not:

| POS | PLAYER | H.S. ALL-AMERICAN | HIGHEST PREP HONOR (FIRST-TEAM UNLESS NOTED); NOTES |
|-----|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| DT | JUSTIN BANNAN | YES | all-Big 12 as a senior in 2001 |
| OT | JUSTIN BATES | YES | All-America, all-Big 12 as a senior in 2002 |
| OG | BRAD BEDELL | YES (H.M.) | all-region, second-team all-state |
| OT | TONY BERTI | NO | Second-team all-state (preseason all-American) |
| LB | GREG BIEKERT | NO | all-state (eventual Butkus semifinalist an 10-year pro) |
| TB | ERIC BIENIEMY | YES | Best-In-West Member (CU's all-time leading rusher) |
| CB | RONNIE BRADFORD | YES (H.M.) | Owns biggest blocked kick in school history ('91 Orange Bowl) |
| DE | TYLER BRAYTON | NO | third-team All-America as a senior ('02) |
| LB | CHAD BROWN | NO | all-state, all-CIF ('96 Pittsburgh Steelers All-Pro) |
| WR | RAE CARRUTH | YES | CU's second all-time leading receiver (yards) |
| DT | SHANNON CLAVELLE | YES | Opted for NFL after junior year; 'Super Bowl' ring with Green Bay |
| PK | MASON CROSBY | NO | all-district, all-Midlands; CU's first All-American placekicker |
| QB | KOY DETMER | YES | CU's second all-time leading passer |
| ILB | JORDON DIZON | NO | all-region, second-team all-state; consensus All-American, Butkus Award runner-up |
| TE | CHRISTIAN FAURIA | NO | all-CIF, all-time CU tight end reception leader |
| C | MARK FENTON | NO | all-district, all-city; finalist for 2005 Rimington Award |
| CB | DEON FIGURES | NO | all-CIF; 1992 Thorpe Award winner |
| PK | JEREMY FLORES | NO | all-Big 12 in 2001 |
| OG | JOE GARTEN | NO | all-CIF, all-Orange County |
| TE | DANIEL GRAHAM | YES | Mackey Award winner in 2001 (best TE); top 10 at CU in catches & yards |
| C | ANDRE GURODE | YES | AP All-American in 2001 |
| QB | DARIAN HAGAN | YES | Unanimous Best-In-West, led CU to 1990 national title |
| SS | ERIC HAMILTON | NO | all-CIF |
| OT | JIM HANSEN | NO | all-league; Rhodes Scholar at Colorado |
| NT | KERRY HICKS | YES | Three-year starter at defensive tackle |
| WR | ROMAN HOLLOWELL | YES | first-team All-American in 2001 (at kick returner) |
| DT | GARRY HOWE | NO | all-league, honorable mention all-state |
| CB | CHRIS HUDSON | NO | all-region, all-state; 1994 Thorpe Award winner |
| DT | GEORGE HYPOLITE | NO | all-region, all-league |
| OG | HEATH IRWIN | YES | AP All-American in 1995 |
| FS | TIM JAMES | NO | all-CIF |
| OT | RYAN JOHANNINGMEIER | YES | played three offensive line positions in 1998 |
| WR | CHARLES JOHNSON | YES | Third all-time receiver at Colorado (yards) |
| TB | CORTLEN JOHNSON | YES | all-Big 12; only CU player to ever have 100 yard rush & receiving in same game |
| LB | TED JOHNSON | NO | all-CIF; 1994 Butkus Award runner-up |
| CB | BEN KELLY | YES | all-state |
| TE | JOE KLOPFENSTEIN | YES | SuperPrep only one to honor him as AA; set CU record for TDs by a tight end |
| C | JAY LEEUWENBURG | NO | all-league (eventual All-American and Orange Bowl Legend Team member) |
| SS | MICHAEL LEWIS | YES | third-team All-American, Thorpe semifinalist in 2001 |
| CB | DAVE MCCLOUGHAN | NO | all-state |
| P | MARK MARISCAL | YES | 2002 Ray Guy Award winner, consensus All-America |
| LB | KANAVIS MCGHEE | NO | all-district |
| OG | CHRIS NAEOLE | YES | 1996 Consensus All-American |
| NT | RYAN OLSON | YES | all-Big 12; Academic All-American |
| WR | MIKE PRITCHARD | YES | Nevada Player-of-the-Year |
| DT | LEONARD RENFRO | NO | all-state; opted for NFL draft as a junior |
| OT | VICTOR ROGERS | YES | all-Big 12, second-team All-American (lesser services) in 2001 |
| FS | STEVE ROSGA | YES (H.M.) | third-team Associated Press All-American |
| LB | MATT RUSSELL | YES | 1996 Butkus Award winner, Consensus All-American |
| TB | RASHAAN SALAAM | YES | 1994 Heisman Trophy winner; 2,000 yard rusher |
| WR | PHIL SAVOY | YES | CU's second all-time leading receiver (receptions; fourth in yards) |
| NT | JOEL STEED | NO | all-state ('97 all-pro with Pittsburgh in NFL) |
| QB | KORDELL STEWART | YES | All-time Big Eight total offense leader |
| C | BRYAN STOLTENBERG | NO | all-district, honorable mention all-state |
| FS | RYAN SUTTER | NO | first-team all-league as a prep; first-team all-Big 12 |
| LB | JASHON SYKES | YES | CU team MVP as a sophomore |
| P | JOHN TORP | NO | all-conference; set CU record for punts, 50-plus kicks and inside-the-20 punts |
| OT | MARK VANDER POEL | NO | all-valley, all-league, Best-In-West team |
| PK | NEIL VOSKERITCHIAN | NO | none; CU's second all-time kick scorer |
| WR | MICHAEL WESTBROOK | NO | all-metro, all-region; CU's all-time reception leader |
| CB | TERRENCE WHEATLEY | NO | all-state (honorable mention, all-district) |
| CB | DAMEN WHEELER | YES | Thorpe Award watch list member in '98 |
| LB | ALFRED WILLIAMS | YES | 1990 Butkus Award winner; '96 Denver Broncos All-Pro |
| LB | RON WOOLFORK | YES (H.M.) | second all-time in QB sacks at CU (moved from QB to OLB) |
| DE | ABRAHAM WRIGHT | NO | all-district; first player at CU since Woolfork in '93 to record 10-plus sacks in a season |

In this same time frame (since 1989), CU has recruited **97** others with All-America honors who have completed their CU careers that never earned first-team all-league (though **57** of the **97** started at least one season). In this same span, **48** players who were not high school All-Americans have earned all-Big Eight/12 or better, with **129** such players earning starting positions. CU has four league titles and three other division titles in these 19 seasons.

ANNUAL HISTORY LESSON

The most players a Division I school can have on scholarship is **85**; it had been 95 for several years, until a four-year reduction that started in 1988 for Title IX purposes by the NCAA scaled it down to the current 85 over a four-year period (ending in 1992). At one time, there was no limit on the number of scholarships a school could offer (40 recruits were the norm back in the 1970s). Though with attrition, the average number of players on scholarship in Division I-A has hovered around 79 or 80, according to the AFCA figures. Colorado has **62** players on scholarship at present.

POSITION CHANGES / NON-RETURNEES

As of now, there are two position changes planned for spring drills: two safeties are moving to wide receiver, **Kyle Black** (Soph.) and **Jason Espinoza** (Fr.-RS), with another frosh redshirt safety, **Travis Sandersfeld**, moving over to outside linebacker. Sophomore **Nate Solder** will be a “slash” player, at least in the spring, as he will play both tight end, his position his first two seasons, and offensive tackle.

Nine players will not return from the 2007 squad for assorted reasons: **WR Alvin Barnett**, **ILB R.J. Brown**, **PK Tyler Cope**, **OL Joe Fruechtel**, **ILB Greg McCudden**, **OL Wes Palazzi**, **DE Chris Perri**, **PK Justin Simmons** and **WR Jarrell Yates**. Brown’s career is done due to medical reasons (concussions); Cope, a walk-on, could no longer afford to attend CU and will attend college in his home state of Oregon; Fruechtel, McCudden and Simmons were also walk-ons.

SPRING PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Spring practice will begin Monday, March 17, and end with the spring game on Saturday, April 19. The tentative dates are as follows: **March 17-18-20; April 1-3-4-5-7-8-10-12-14-15-17-19**; a high school coaches clinic is set for April 3-5. The team is allowed 15 practices over 29 days; this is the third straight year spring ball will start prior to spring break, though this time around, there will be just one week of practice prior to break as opposed to two the previous two years. How the practice sessions will break down, per NCAA rules: three in shorts (no contact), four in pads (no tackling), four in pads (tackling allowed 50 percent or less of the time), four in pads (tackling allowed throughout).

COMBINE

The National Football League combine is this month at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis (February 20-26), with three Colorado Buffaloes (among 334 players) having currently been invited to participate: **ILB Jordon Dizon** (one of 34 linebackers), **OT Tyler Polumbus** (one of 49 offensive linemen) and **CB Terrence Wheatley** (one of 57 defensive ends). Those three plus **TE Tyson DeVree** were the only four Buffs to appear in any postseason all-star games. Other CU seniors will be showcased in CU’s own pro timing day on March 19; Colorado was one of the first to host their own, starting in the late 1980s. Now most schools do it.

ALL-AMERICANS

Nine members of the 2008 recruiting class garnered some level of All-America honor; here’s a quick look at who was bestowed such recognition (*—denotes Prep Star Dream Team member):

| Player | Recognized By (First-Team unless noted) |
|--------------------|--|
| Curtis Cunningham | EA Sports (third-team) |
| Ryan Deeham | PrepStar |
| Bryce Givens | *PrepStar, SuperPrep |
| Lynn Katoa | Parade, *PrepStar, SuperPrep; EA Sports (third-team) |
| Jon Major | Parade, *PrepStar, SuperPrep; EA Sports (third-team) |
| Shaun Mohler | PrepStar (JUCO) |
| Ray Polk | PrepStar, SuperPrep |
| Darrell Scott | Parade, *PrepStar, SuperPrep, <i>USA Today</i> ; EA Sports (second-team) |
| Max Tuioti-Mariner | *PrepStar, SuperPrep |

PRO TIMING DAY

Colorado’s annual pro-timing day is set for **Wednesday, March 19**, when around 40-plus scouts from most, if not all, of the 32 National Football League teams visit Boulder. They test CU’s seniors from last fall in an assortment of drills. The schedule for the day is not finalized (they usually convene at 9 a.m. that morning for the traditional bench press and speed and agility tests (40-yard dash, shuttles, vertical jumps, etc.); testing will be done in the weight room and in Balch Fieldhouse. CU had 29 alums in the NFL last year, the second most in the Big 12 and tied for the 17th most in the nation. The current members of the CU team will go through similar workouts on Thursday, April 24, five days after the completion of spring ball. It is not to open to the public, as all scouts must register with the football office; media can attend but must wear their 2007-08 CU Athletics credential.

SCHOLLIES

Colorado will have 62 players on scholarship for spring practice; the last three walk-ons to be placed on scholarship were **WR Cody Crawford** (midseason in 2007) and **SS Daniel Dykes** and **WR Scotty McKnight** beginning this semester.

COUNTING CROWS TO HIGHLIGHT GRIDIRON BASH

Colorado will play host to one of the **Gridiron Bash™ The Ultimate Fan Competition™** series for spring football this April (the day before the 2008 CU game). The event -- the first of its kind at Folsom Field and one of about 20 that will take place at Division I-A universities -- will take place during the afternoon and evening of **Friday, April 18** and include a live performance by renowned alternative-folk rock artists **Counting Crows**, as well as a giant pep rally introducing the team, appearances by coaches and former team legends, and a shortened practice, among other festive fan activities. Tickets go on sale today at the University of Colorado box office via CUBuffs.com and can also be purchased through www.gridironbash.com.

"Similar to the excitement surrounding Midnight Madness, there's also excitement around Spring Football, when schools hold practices and the Annual Spring Game to showcase their upcoming year's roster," said athletic director **Mike Bohn**. "Thousands of spectators come out each spring to watch CU football scrimmages, but that's typically where the 'fan experience' ends. Gridiron Bash extends the experience and enables fans to support their team, give back to their university and have a great time doing so."

In total, Gridiron Bash™ is expected to bring participating universities in 2008 an estimated \$12 million resulting from gate and merchandise revenue, as well as the opportunity to raise funds through parking and concession sales. At the core of Gridiron Bash™ is a fan contest --The **USA TODAY Bash for Cash Series™** -- that will establish which of the participating schools has the most passionate and supportive fans. The **USA TODAY Bash for Cash Series™** winners will be determined by adding up the total attendance at the Gridiron Bash™ event and combining that with the number of fans who text/call in to vote for their school. The **USA TODAY Bash for Cash Series™** winning university will receive a \$1 million contribution to their general scholarship fund, with second and third place schools receiving \$500,000 and \$250,000 respectively. For more information please visit www.gridironbash.com.

INJURY UPDATE

The injury picture for the Buffaloes a month ahead of spring practice:

| Pos | Player | Injury | Notes | Status/Spring Practice |
|-----|-----------------|-------------------|---|------------------------|
| S | Joel Adams | shoulder surgery | (postseason) cleaned up chronic problems | LIMITED |
| CB | Benjamin Burney | knee surgery | (postseason: advanced scope) cleaned up chronic problems; should be back by fall drills | OUT |
| WR | Cameron Ham | broken fibula | rehab nearly complete | FULL GO |
| DE | Drew Hudgins | ruptured Achilles | rehab nearly complete | FULL GO |
| ILB | Bryan Stengel | thumb | rehab complete | FULL GO |
| FS | Ryan Walters | shoulder surgery | (postseason) cleaned up chronic problems | LIMITED |

NOTE: Injuries are reported in conjunction with the HIPAA laws. CU releases player name, body part (but no right or left ID's), the general nature and playing status when it comes to reporting injuries. Status will be listed as either OUT, DOUBTFUL, QUESTIONABLE, DAY-TO-DAY or PROBABLE (or LIMITED if for spring or camp sessions).

GRADUATION STAT(US)

Two of CU's 17 seniors on the roster graduated last spring: **PK Kevin Eberhart** (Aerospace Engineering) and **TE Joe Sanders** (Ethnic Studies). Six are on schedule to graduate this month (Dec. 21): **DE Alonzo Barrett** (Sociology), **TE Tyson DeVree** (Education), **SS Lionel Harris** (Sociology), **OT Edwin Harrison** (Communication), **OT Tyler Polumbus** (Business Management), **WR Dusty Sprague** (Business Management); all are fifth-year seniors. In addition, Eberhart was in position to earn his master's in Aerospace Engineering. Seven are likely May '08 candidates to walk: **TB Hugh Charles** (Sociology), **ILB Jordan Dizon** (Economics), **TB Byron Ellis** (Integrative Physiology), **FB Samson Jagoras** (Integrative Physiology), **WR Chase McBride** (Geography), **WR Stephone Robinson** (double in Business Management & Sociology) and **CB Terrence Wheatley** (Economics). **WR Alvin Barnett** (Ethnic Studies) and **QB Bernard Jackson** (Ethnic Studies) are candidates for next summer.

► **NOTE:** Over the last five years (2002-06), CU has had **95** of its **111** seniors, including medicals, graduate; that translates to 85.6 percent (with five of the 16 non-grads still in school and looking to graduate within the next year, while three are in the NFL). NCAA numbers will not match these (it doesn't allow a school to count transfers who graduate, i.e., Wayne Lucier in '02 or WR Mike Duren in '04), but it does count against a school if it had a player transfer. It's one of the reasons the numbers are skewed to be lower than they really are, especially at tougher academic schools like Colorado.

CONFERENCE CHARTS

A look at how Big 12 Conference teams stack up in some categories since the league's birth in 1996:

On The Big 12 Road

| School | W | L | Pct. |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Texas | 31 | 11 | .738 |
| Oklahoma | 27 | 15 | .643 |
| Nebraska | 25 | 22 | .532 |
| Kansas State | 25 | 23 | .521 |
| Texas A&M | 24 | 24 | .500 |
| Colorado | 23 | 25 | .479 |
| Texas Tech | 20 | 28 | .417 |
| Oklahoma State | 15 | 32 | .319 |
| Missouri | 15 | 32 | .319 |
| Iowa State | 11 | 37 | .229 |
| Kansas | 10 | 38 | .208 |
| Baylor | 2 | 46 | .042 |

*Does not include neutral site games
OU-UT, '96 OSU-TTU or '98 NU-OSU
or '07 KU-MU.*

Inter-Division (North vs. South)

| School | W | L | Pct. |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Colorado | 21 | 15 | .583 |
| Kansas State | 20 | 16 | .556 |
| Nebraska | 20 | 16 | .556 |
| Missouri | 19 | 17 | .528 |
| Iowa State | 9 | 27 | .250 |
| Kansas | 8 | 28 | .222 |

Inter-Division (South vs. North)

| School | W | L | Pct. |
|----------------|----|----|------|
| Texas | 29 | 7 | .806 |
| Oklahoma | 25 | 11 | .694 |
| Texas A&M | 21 | 15 | .583 |
| Texas Tech | 19 | 17 | .528 |
| Oklahoma State | 17 | 19 | .472 |
| Baylor | 8 | 28 | .222 |

(does not include title games)

2007 Network TV Appearances

| School | Tot | ABC | FSN | ESPN | Oth |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Oklahoma | 13 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Texas | 12 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Colorado | 11 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 1 |
| Missouri | 10 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Texas A&M | 10 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Kansas | 9 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Oklahoma State | 9 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Kansas State | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Nebraska | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Texas Tech | 8 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Baylor | 6 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Iowa State | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |

*Does not include pay-per-view;
does include other packages (TBS,
ESPN, etc).*

INCLUDES BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.

**vs. Ranked Non-League Teams
(AP, since 1990; by games played)**

| School | G | W | L | T | Pct. |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Colorado | 27 | 13 | 13 | 1 | .500 |
| Texas | 23 | 8 | 13 | 2 | .364 |
| Nebraska | 14 | 8 | 6 | 0 | .571 |
| Oklahoma | 13 | 6 | 7 | 0 | .462 |
| Texas A&M | 12 | 4 | 8 | 0 | .333 |
| Texas Tech | 12 | 0 | 12 | 0 | .000 |
| Baylor | 10 | 2 | 8 | 0 | .200 |
| Missouri | 9 | 1 | 8 | 0 | .111 |
| Iowa State | 9 | 1 | 8 | 0 | .111 |
| Kansas | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | .000 |
| Oklahoma State | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | .000 |
| Kansas State | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | .333 |

(regular season; does not include bowls)

HEAD COACH DAN HAWKINS

Dan Hawkins has completed two seasons as head coach of the University of Colorado football program, seven years overall as a Division I-A head coach and 13 as a collegiate head coach. He owns an **8-17** record at Colorado, along with a **61-28** record in the Division I-A ranks (53-11 at Boise State) and an overall career mark of **100-40-1** including five years at NAIA Willamette (Ore.) College. In his final year at Willamette (1997), his team posted a 13-1 record, falling in the NAIA Championship game, before he moved on to Boise State where he was assistant head coach under Dirk Koetter, coaching the tight ends and special teams while coordinating recruiting. When Koetter left BSU for Arizona State after the 2000 season, Hawkins was promoted to head coach. He took the Broncos to four bowl games in five years, with his 2004 team compiling an 11-0 regular season mark and ascending to No. 10 in the national polls; in the most anticipated non-BCS bowl game to date, Boise dropped a thriller to No. 7 Louisville, 44-40. In the modern history of Division I-A football, only three coaches won more games in their first five seasons than Hawkins (53: bested by Bob Pruett, Marshall; Bob Stoops, Oklahoma; and Pete Carroll, USC). **Hawk's Handiwork:**



| | Overall | Home | Road | Neutral | Ranked | Unranked | Non-league | Big 12 | Bowls |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Hawkins at Colorado | 8-17 | 5- 7 | 2- 8 | 1- 2 | 1- 7 | 7-109 | 2- 7 | 6-10 | 0- 1 |
| Career (NCAA I-A) | 61-28 | 36- 9 | 23-16 | 2- 3 | 3-12 | 58-16 | 18-15 | 7-10 | 2- 3 |

- ◆ **Hawkins** has been a head coach for **141** games (100-40-1), with that record and 71.3 winning percentage 10th in the nation for active coaches with 100 or more games coached for their career.
- ◆ In 13 seasons as a head coach, Hawkins' teams have never been shutout, had never dropped more than two games in a row in the same season (which happened just three times) until his first season at Colorado and had won at least eight games seven times (10-plus four times).
- ◆ A sample of what **Hawkins** tells his players: "You're in America, you're going to college, you live in Colorado. You have it better than 90 percent of the people in the world."
- ◆ Hawkins has used the term "conflama" when referring to some people's desire for conflict and drama (i.e., the reason someone like Jerry Springer and that lot is even on the air). He references the term when people on the outside of a program choose to look at the negative without choosing to understand why something may very well be the way it is.
- ◆ Hawk on depth charts: "To be honest, we really don't pay too much attention to depth charts, we run a lot of personnel in and out of there at several positions. For example, I view the defensive line like hockey; they're playing in shifts as we want them fresh." As a result, especially on offense at receiver, tight end and in the backfield, CU utilizes different "groupings" as opposed to following a depth chart.
- ◆ Hawk on the vertical passing game: "I love the long pass. As I've come along in this game, I've learned you've got to pound it and launch it."
- ◆ Hawk's philosophy on big wins, like CU's 27-24 win over No. 3 Oklahoma: "You enjoy it on Saturday, but come Sunday, it's in the vapor trail."
- ◆ One of his beliefs is, "Once is a mistake; twice is a behavior." He applies it to football, whether for things on or off the field, and to life.
- ◆ Hawk's response about potential for disaster after the 0-3 start in 2006: "There's always potential. When you get in your car and get out on the freeway, there's potential for disaster. I knew when I left Boise State there was potential for disaster. That doesn't scare me... there's also the potential for greatness. So you can hide behind the shadow if you want, but that's not living."
- ◆ Versus' **Ron Thulin** on Hawkins' optimism: "His glass isn't half-full, it's overflowing. He's not going to change. He said they are going to keep fighting and doing the little things everyday. I think everyone on our crew was ready to put on a football helmet after talking to this man yesterday. He is excitable and he cares." Chimed in analyst **Charles Davis**: "I was looking to get taped and get out to practice that day. If you're around him long enough you can't help but be positive."
- ◆ As with many coaches, at the end of practice, the team will run for turnovers, mistakes, missed field goals, etc. One day in 2006 after **PK Mason Crosby** missed a kick within his range, Hawk felt a little bad as he wondered to himself, "How many coaches are making their kids run for a missed 64-yard field goal?"
- ◆ **Hawkins** is one of the 60 Division I-A coaches voting in the *USA Today*/ESPN Coaches poll in 2007 (the seventh straight year he is a voter and the 21st straight year CU's head coach has participated).

Dan Hawkins Year-By-Year Coaching Record

| Season | School | Overall | | | | | | Conference | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|---------|----|---|-------|-----|------|------------|----|-------|-------|------|------------------------|--------------|
| | | W | L | T | Pct. | Pts | Opp | W | L | T | Pct. | Pts | Opp | Finish/Conf. |
| 1993 | Willamette | ..5 | 4 | 0 | .556 | 293 | 281 | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 179 | 143t-2nd / Mt. Hood | |
| 1994 | Willamette | ..6 | 3 | 0 | .667 | 218 | 214 | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 111 | 108 2nd / Mt. Hood | |
| 1995 | Willamette | ..6 | 2 | 1 | .722 | 314 | 171 | 4 | 0 | 1 | .900 | 195 | 103t-1st / Mt. Hood | |
| 1996 | Willamette | ..9 | 2 | 0 | .818 | 374 | 246 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 158 | 100 1st / NWC (a) | |
| 1997 | Willamette | ..13 | 1 | 0 | .929 | 470 | 187 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 200 | 47 1st / NWC (b) | |
| 2001 | Boise State | ..8 | 4 | - | .667 | 411 | 280 | 6 | 2 | - | .750 | 307 | 184t-2nd / WAC | |
| 2002 | Boise State | ..12 | 1 | - | .923 | 593 | 240 | 8 | 0 | - | 1.000 | 409 | 111 1st / WAC | |
| 2003 | Boise State | ..13 | 1 | - | .929 | 602 | 239 | 8 | 0 | - | 1.000 | 375 | 143 1st / WAC | |
| 2004 | Boise State | ..11 | 1 | - | .917 | 587 | 308 | 8 | 0 | - | 1.000 | 401 | 196 1st / WAC | |
| 2005 | Boise State | ..9 | 4 | - | .692 | 469 | 317 | 7 | 1 | - | .875 | 339 | 178t-1st / WAC | |
| 2006 | Colorado | ..2 | 10 | - | .167 | 196 | 267 | 2 | 6 | - | .250 | 160 | 199 5th / Big 12 North | |
| 2007 | Colorado | ..6 | 7 | - | .462 | 355 | 383 | 4 | 4 | - | .500 | 238 | 276 3rd / Big 12 North | |
| Colorado Totals | | 8 | 17 | - | .320 | 551 | 650 | 6 | 10 | - | .375 | 398 | 475 | |
| Division I-A Totals | | .6128 | | - | .6853 | 213 | 2034 | 43 | 13 | - | .768 | 2229 | 1287 | |
| Career Totals | | .10040 | 1 | | .7134 | 582 | 3133 | 64 | 16 | 1.807 | 3072 | 1788 | | |

KEY: (a)—NAIA National Quarterfinalist; (b)—NAIA National Runner-up.

ROAD-SWEET-ROAD: BUFFS 12TH BEST IN ENEMY STADIUMS SINCE '88

The Buffaloes have enjoyed a lot of success on the road over the last 20 seasons. CU has been victorious 59 of the last 98 times in enemy stadiums with a **59-38-1** overall road record (a 60.7 winning percentage) since the start of the 1988 season. That stands 12th nationally (ninth in raw wins) and third among Big 12 Conference teams in this span; only 11 schools have won 60 percent of their away games in this time frame. During this time frame, CU won a school record 10 straight road games between 1994 and 1996. The Buffaloes own a **48-26-1** mark in their last 74 road conference games (Big 8 & Big 12—six losses at Nebraska, three at Kansas State, two at Iowa State, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and Texas Tech; and one each at Baylor, Oklahoma State and Texas A&M; the tie was at K-State in 1993). CU is **23-25** on the Big 12 road since 1996 (**2-2** in 2007). The chart to the right does not include neutral site games, despite some being anything but (i.e., Colorado vs. Texas at Irving for the '01 Big 12 title.)

ON THE ROAD (1988-2007)

| School | G | W | L | T | Pct. |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Miami, Fla. | 103 | 75 | 28 | 0 | .728 |
| Tennessee | 93 | 66 | 25 | 2 | .720 |
| Florida State | 96 | 68 | 28 | 0 | .708 |
| Michigan | 96 | 67 | 26 | 3 | .714 |
| Ohio State | 94 | 66 | 26 | 2 | .713 |
| Nebraska | 97 | 63 | 31 | 3 | .665 |
| Florida | 81 | 53 | 27 | 1 | .660 |
| Notre Dame | 94 | 60 | 32 | 2 | .649 |
| Texas | 96 | 61 | 35 | 0 | .635 |
| Southern Cal | 109 | 68 | 39 | 2 | .633 |
| Alabama | 92 | 56 | 36 | 0 | .609 |
| COLORADO | 98 | 59 | 38 | 1 | .607 |

20TH BEST IN THE NATION SINCE 1989

Colorado has the nation's 20th best record over the last 19 seasons, or since the start of 1989, CU has posted a **148-81-4** record. From opening 1-0 in '89, through the 10th game of the 2005 season, the Buffs owned one of the top 10 overall records in the nation (**247** consecutive weeks); that was snapped with a loss to Nebraska late in 2005. The best Division I-A records from the start of 1989 through all games of 2007:

| Rk | School | G | W | L | T | Pct. | vs. AP Ranked Teams | | |
|----|-----------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|-------------|---------------------|----------------|------------|
| | | | | | | | G | W-L-T | 2007 |
| 1 | Florida State | 238 | 188 | 49 | 1 | .792 | 99 | 67-31-1 | 7-6 |
| 2 | Miami, Fla. | 230 | 179 | 51 | 0 | .778 | 88 | 51-37-0 | 5-7 |
| 3 | Nebraska | 237 | 182 | 54 | 1 | .770 | 71 | 36-34-1 | 5-7 |
| 4 | Ohio State | 236 | 180 | 53 | 3 | .769 | 95 | 54-38-3 | 11-2 |
| 5 | Florida | 239 | 183 | 55 | 1 | .768 | 105 | 59-45-1 | 9-4 |
| 6 | Tennessee | 237 | 180 | 54 | 3 | .766 | 92 | 51-38-3 | 10-4 |
| 7 | Michigan | 233 | 175 | 55 | 3 | .758 | 98 | 59-37-2 | 9-4 |
| 8 | Texas | 233 | 164 | 67 | 2 | .708 | 78 | 37-39-2 | 10-3 |
| 9 | Virginia Tech | 232 | 162 | 68 | 2 | .703 | 64 | 30-33-1 | 11-3 |
| 10 | Auburn | 229 | 157 | 69 | 3 | .692 | 76 | 33-42-1 | 9-4 |
| 11 | Penn State | 232 | 160 | 71 | 1 | .692 | 85 | 40-45-0 | 8-4 |
| 12 | Georgia | 230 | 158 | 71 | 1 | .689 | 84 | 36-47-1 | 11-2 |
| 13 | Oklahoma | 233 | 158 | 72 | 3 | .685 | 75 | 34-40-1 | 11-3 |
| 14 | Southern Cal | 234 | 158 | 72 | 4 | .684 | 86 | 46-39-1 | 11-2 |
| 15 | Texas A & M | 233 | 155 | 76 | 2 | .670 | 74 | 29-44-1 | 7-6 |
| 16 | Notre Dame | 231 | 153 | 76 | 2 | .667 | 88 | 40-46-2 | 3-9 |
| 17 | Alabama | 234 | 154 | 79 | 1 | .660 | 82 | 36-45-1 | 7-6 |
| 18 | Brigham Young | 238 | 156 | 80 | 2 | .660 | 38 | 11-26-1 | 11-2 |
| 19 | Toledo | 222 | 143 | 76 | 3 | .651 | 10 | 5- 5-0 | 5-7 |
| 20 | COLORADO | 233 | 148 | 81 | 4 | .644 | 95 | 41-52-2 | 6-7 |

THE BUFFALOES IN THE BIG 12

The Big 12 Conference has wrapped its 12th season, and the Buffaloes are tied for the second most division titles won with four, trailing only Oklahoma's six. Just seven of the schools in the conference have won a division title, with Missouri the first "newbie" to do so in six years. A closer look:

- ➔ **Big 12 Division Titles (including 2007):** Oklahoma 6, **Colorado 4**, Nebraska 4, Texas 4, Kansas State 3, Texas A & M 2, Missouri 1.
- ➔ **Big 12 Championship Game Records:** Oklahoma 5-1, Nebraska 2-2, Texas 2-2, Texas A & M 1-1, Kansas State 1-2, **Colorado 1-3**, Missouri 0-1.

CU VS. THE BIG 12 NORTH: Colorado owns the best record in intra-division competition going back to the start of the 2001 season against Big 12 North Division rivals, as the Buffaloes are **22-13**; other records: Nebraska 21-14, Kansas State 19-16, Missouri 16-19, Kansas 14-21 and Iowa State 13-22. Colorado is **13-5** at home in this stretch versus the North, the only losses to NU (2003, 2005), KSU (2006) and KU and MU (2007).

FINAL 2007 BIG 12 CONFERENCE STANDINGS

| North Division (+2) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------|-------------|------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| conference----- | | | | | | overall----- | | | | | |
| School (AP/Coaches) | W | L | Pct. | Pts | Opp | W | L | Pct. | Pts | Opp | Next Up (Bowl) |
| Missouri (#4/#5) | 7 | 1 | .875 | 335 | 181 | 12 | 2 | .857 | 558 | 326 | A30 Illinois (St. Louis) |
| Kansas (#7/#7) | 7 | 1 | .875 | 318 | 169 | 12 | 1 | .923 | 556 | 213 | A30 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL |
| COLORADO | 4 | 4 | .500 | 238 | 275 | 6 | 7 | .462 | 355 | 383 | A30 Colorado State (Denver) |
| Kansas State | 3 | 5 | .375 | 285 | 278 | 5 | 7 | .417 | 422 | 370 | A30 LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE |
| Nebraska | 2 | 6 | .250 | 257 | 339 | 5 | 7 | .417 | 401 | 455 | A30 WESTERN MICHIGAN |
| Iowa State | 2 | 6 | .250 | 141 | 285 | 3 | 9 | .250 | 218 | 381 | A28 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE |
| South Division (-2) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| conference----- | | | | | | overall----- | | | | | |
| School (AP/Coaches) | W | L | Pct. | Pts | Opp | W | L | Pct. | Pts | Opp | Next Up (Bowl) |
| Oklahoma (#8/#8) | 6 | 2 | .750 | 280 | 172 | 11 | 3 | .786 | 592 | 284 | A30 UT-CHATTANOOGA |
| Texas (#10/#10) | 5 | 3 | .625 | 284 | 223 | 10 | 3 | .769 | 484 | 329 | A30 FLORIDA ATLANTIC |
| Texas Tech (#22/#23) | 4 | 4 | .500 | 273 | 238 | 9 | 4 | .692 | 532 | 337 | S 3 at Southern Methodist |
| Texas A & M | 4 | 4 | .500 | 190 | 213 | 7 | 6 | .538 | 361 | 337 | A30 ARKANSAS STATE |
| Oklahoma State | 4 | 4 | .500 | 283 | 266 | 7 | 6 | .538 | 450 | 384 | A30 Washington State (Seattle) |
| Baylor | 0 | 8 | .000 | 108 | 352 | 3 | 9 | .250 | 218 | 444 | A30 WAKE FOREST |

FIFTY-NINE PLAYERS LETTER

Colorado had **59** players earn letters in 2007, **30** offensive players, **25** defensive players and **4** special team performers. There are four ways a player can letter: participate in 100 plays (scrimmage snaps plus special teams); possess a special skill—punter/kicker/special teams; be a true freshman (or JUCO) who gave up his redshirt year for the benefit of the team (unless injured and can get a medical redshirt); or be a senior in good academic standing. The 2007 lettermen (15 seniors listed in **bold**; number of letters follows name):

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|
| ADAMS, Joel | 2L | DIZON, Jordan | 4L | KAYNOR, Taj | 1L | ROBINSON, Stephone | 4L |
| BARRETT, Alonzo | 4L | DRESCHER, Justin | 2L | LOCKRIDGE, Brian | 1L | SANDERS, Daniel | 3L |
| BEHRENS, Jake | 1L | DUREN, Jake | 1L | LUCAS, Maurice | 3L | SANDERS, Joe | 3L |
| BRACE, Jason | 2L | DYKES, D.J. | 1L | MAIABA, Kai | 1L | SMART, Jeff | 2L |
| BROWN, Cha'pelle | 2L | EBERHART, Kevin | 2L | McBRIDE, Chase | 2L | SMITH, Bret | 1L |
| BROWN, Jalil | 1L | ELLIS, Byron | 4L | McKAY, Gardner | 3L | SMITH, Jimmy | 1L |
| BROWN, R.J. | 2L | GEER, Riar | 2L | McKNIGHT, Scotty | 1L | SMITH, Josh | 1L |
| BURNEY, Benjamin | 3L | HARRIS, Lionel | 3L | MILLER, Ryan | 1L | SOLDER, Nate | 1L |
| CANTRELL, Maurice | 2L | HARRISON, Edwin | 4L | MOYD, Kevin | 2L | SPRAGUE, Dusty | 4L |
| CHARLES, Hugh | 4L | HAWKINS, Cody | 1L | NABORS, Cory | 1L | SUMLER, Demetrius | 1L |
| CELESTINE, Kendrick | 1L | HEAD, Devin | 2L | NELSON, Nick | 1L | VAIOMOUNGA, Nate | 1L |
| COPE, Tyler | 1L | HERROD, Marquez | 1L | NICOLAS, Brandon | 2L | WALTERS, Ryan | 3L |
| CRAWFORD, Cody | 2L | HYPOLITE, George | 3L | PALAZZI, Wes | 1L | WHEATLEY, Terrence | 4L |
| DeVREE, Tyson | 2L | JAGORAS, Samson | 2L | PERRI, Chris | 1L | WILLIAMS, Patrick | 3L |
| DiLALLO, Matthew | 2L | JONES, Brad | 3L | POLUMBUS, Tyler | 4L | | |

2008 COLORADO FOOTBALL LETTERMEN PICTURE

Colorado has **42** lettermen scheduled to return for 2008, including 19 on offense, 21 on defense and two specialists; the Buffs lose **22** lettermen off the 2007 squad (14 offense, six defense, two specialists). CU returns 15 starters from last season (seven offense, eight defense) and loses seven (four offense, three defense); several positions had multiple personnel shuttle in and out, so these numbers aren't truly reflective of the experience returning. The 2007 starters are listed in bold, and (**) denotes letters earned primarily on special teams. The breakdown:

OFFENSE

| Position | Returning (19) | Lost (14) |
|----------|--|--|
| WR (x) | Patrick Williams , Josh Smith, Cody Crawford | Stephone Robinson, **Chase McBride, Jarrell Yates (<i>from 2006</i>) |
| WR (z) | Scotty McKnight , Kendrick Celestine | Dusty Sprague, Alvin Barnett (<i>from 2006</i>) |
| LT | | Tyler Polumbus |
| LG | Kai Maiava | Wes Palazzi |
| C | Daniel Sanders | |
| RG | Devin Head | Edwin Harrison |
| RT | Ryan Miller | |
| TE | Riar Geer , Nate Solder | Tyson DeVree, Joe Sanders |
| QB | Cody Hawkins , Nick Nelson | Bernard Jackson (<i>from 2006</i>) |
| TB | Brian Lockridge, Demetrius Sumler, **Kevin Moyd, **Cory Nabors | Hugh Charles , Byron Ellis |
| FB | Jake Behrens, Maurice Cantrell | Samson Jagoras |

DEFENSE

| Position | Returning (21) | Lost (6) |
|----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| DE | Maurice Lucas , Marquez Herrod | |
| DT | George Hypolite , Jason Brace | |
| NT | Brandon Nicolas , Taj Kaynor | |
| DE | | Alonzo Barrett , Chris Perri |
| MLB | Jeff Smart , Michael Sipili (<i>from 2006</i>), Jake Duren | R.J. Brown |
| WLB | Marcus Burton (<i>from 2006</i>) | Jordon Dizon |
| SLB | Brad Jones , Nate Vaiomounga | |
| CB | Gardner McKay, Jimmy Smith | Terrence Wheatley |
| SS | D.J. Dykes , **Joel Adams | Lionel Harris |
| FS | Ryan Walters , Jalil Brown, **Bret Smith | |
| CB | Benjamin Burney , Cha'pelle Brown | |

SPECIALISTS

| Position | Returning (2) | Lost (2) |
|----------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| P | Matthew DiLallo | |
| PK | | Kevin Eberhart, Tyler Cope |
| SN | Justin Drescher | |

Colorado will have **83** players out for spring practice (compared to 75 in 2007), **61** of whom are on scholarship. That includes **18** seniors (14 of whom have lettered), with **15** on scholarship (FS Joel Adams, WR Steve Melton, P Tom Suazo are the senior walk-ons).

2007 SEASON HONORS**ALL-AMERICAN**

ILB JORDON DIZON (first-team: *Associated Press, Sporting News*, Walter Camp, collegefootballnews.com, ESPN, Rivals.com, *Phil Steele's CFB*; second-team: SI.com)
 CB TERRENCE WHEATLEY (third-team: Rivals.com; honorable mention: collegefootballnews.com)

FRESHMAN ALL-AMERICAN

QB CODY HAWKINS (honorable mention: *The Sporting News*, collegefootballnews.com)
 OG KAI MAIAVA (first-team: Scout.com; honorable mention: *The Sporting News*, collegefootballnews.com)
 WR SCOTTY MCKNIGHT (honorable mention: *The Sporting News*, collegefootballnews.com)
 OT RYAN MILLER (first-team: *The Sporting News*; second-team: Scout.com; third-team: collegefootballnews.com)

ALL-BIG 12 CONFERENCE

DE ALONZO BARRETT (honorable mention: *Associated Press*)
 TB HUGH CHARLES (second-team: *Rivals.com, *Phil Steele's College Football*; honorable mention: *Associated Press*, Big 12 Coaches)
 TE TYSON DeVREE (honorable mention: *Associated Press*)
 ILB JORDON DIZON (first-team: *Associated Press*, Big 12 Coaches, *Austin American-Statesman*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Rivals.com, *Phil Steele's College Football*)
 PK KEVIN EBERHART (second-team: Rivals.com, *Phil Steele's College Football*; honorable mention: Big 12 Coaches)
 OT EDWIN HARRISON (honorable mention: *Associated Press*, Big 12 Coaches)
 DT GEORGE HYPOLITE (first-team: *Associated Press*, Big 12 Coaches, *Austin American-Statesman*; second-team: *Dallas Morning News*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Rivals.com, *Phil Steele's College Football*)
 OG KAI MAIAVA (honorable mention: *Phil Steele's College Football*)
 PR CHASE MCBRIDE (honorable mention: *Phil Steele's College Football*)
 NT BRANDON NICOLAS (honorable mention: *Associated Press*, Big 12 Coaches, *Phil Steele's College Football*)
 OT TYLER POLUMBUS (second-team: Big 12 Coaches, *Austin American-Statesman*; third-team: *Phil Steele's College Football*)
 CB TERRENCE WHEATLEY (first-team: *Associated Press*, Big 12 Coaches, *Austin American-Statesman*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Rivals.com; second-team: *Phil Steele's College Football* honorable mention at KR by Big 12 Coaches, *Phil Steele's College Football*)
 DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: ILB JORDON DIZON (Big 12 Coaches, Fox Sports Net)
 *—as all-purpose performer.

FRESHMAN ALL-BIG 12

OG KAI MAIAVA (first-team: *The Sporting News*)
 WR SCOTTY MCKNIGHT (first-team: *The Sporting News*)
 OT RYAN MILLER (first-team: *The Sporting News*)

AFCA GOOD WORKS TEAM

DT GEORGE HYPOLITE (one of 11 I-A/FBS players selected)

NATIONAL PLAYERS-OF-THE-WEEK

CB TERRENCE WHEATLEY (FWAA/Nagurski, Walter Camp Defensive: October 27 vs. Texas Tech: 3 interceptions, 7 tackles (7,0), 1 PBU)

BIG 12 CONFERENCE PLAYERS-OF-THE-WEEK

PK KEVIN EBERHART (Special Teams—Sept. 1 vs. Colorado State: 3-3 PAT, 3-4 FG, 11 points; included game-tying and game-winning field goals)
 WR CHASE MCBRIDE (Special Teams—Sept. 29 vs. Oklahoma: returned 4 punts for 87 yards, with his long of 31 setting up CU's game winning field goal)
 PK KEVIN EBERHART (Special Teams—Oct. 6 vs. Baylor: 4-4 PAT, 5-6 FG, 19 points; tied CU record for field goals made and attempted and kick points in a game)
 CB TERRENCE WHEATLEY (Defensive—October 27 vs. Texas Tech: 3 interceptions, 7 tackles (7,0), 1 PBU)

CU ATHLETES-OF-THE-WEEK

ILB JORDON DIZON (Sept. 1 vs. Colorado State: 22 tackles, 17 solo; one TFL, one TFZ, FF, PBU; one caused INT, 4th down stop, one special teams tackle)
 ILB JORDON DIZON (Sept. 8 vs. Arizona State: 17 tackles, 14 solo; three TFL, one sack, four third down stops, one hurry)
 DT GEORGE HYPOLITE (Sept. 15 vs. Florida State: 10 tackles, eight solo; three TFLs, two sacks, two third down stops)
 OLB BRAD JONES (Sept. 22 vs. Miami-Ohio: 6 tackles, four solo; one TFL, two hurries, two third down stops, one tackle for zero)
 PK KEVIN EBERHART (Oct. 6 vs. Baylor: 5-6 field goal, 4-4 PAT, 19 points; tied school records for field goals made and attempted and points scored by kicking)
 TB HUGH CHARLES (Oct. 13 vs. Kansas State: 22-171, 1 TD rushing, 1-9 receiving)
 TB HUGH CHARLES (Nov. 23 vs. Nebraska: 327 all-purpose yards, 33-169, 3 TD rushing, 1-33 receiving, 5-125 kickoff returns)

COLORADO CHAPTER/NFF COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME PLAYERS-OF-THE-WEEK

PK KEVIN EBERHART (September 1 vs. Colorado State: 3-3 PAT, 3-4 FG, 11 points; included game-tying and game-winning field goals)
 TB HUGH CHARLES (September 29 vs. Oklahoma: 24-110, 1 TD rushing, 5-48 receiving)
 CB TERRENCE WHEATLEY (October 27 vs. Texas Tech: 3 interceptions, 7 tackles (7,0), 1 PBU)

2007 SEASON HONORS, CONTINUED**COLORADO CHAPTER/NFF COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME ALL-COLORADO TEAM**

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| TB HUGH CHARLES (first-team) | QB CODY HAWKINS (second-team) | NT BRANDON NICOLAS (second-team) |
| ILB JORDON DIZON (first-team) | DT GEORGE HYPOLITE (first-team) | OT TYLER POLUMBUS (first-team) |
| PK KEVIN EBERHART (first-team) | OG KAI MAIABA (second-team) | C DANIEL SANDERS (honorable mention) |
| OG EDWIN HARRISON (honorable mention) | OT RYAN MILLER (second-team) | CB TERRENCE WHEATLEY (first-team) |

PLAYER-OF-THE-YEAR: **ILB JORDON DIZON**DEFENSIVE PLAYER-OF-THE-YEAR: **ILB JORDON DIZON****OTHER IN-SEASON HONORS**PK KEVIN EBERHART (*Lou Groza Award Top Three Stars of the Week vs. Colorado State & Oklahoma*)DC RON COLLINS (*Rivals.com Coordinator of the Week: Sept. 29 vs. Oklahoma*)

ESPN HELMET STICKERS: PK Kevin Eberhart (vs. Oklahoma); CB Terrence Wheatley (vs. Texas Tech)

COLORADO: Best Intros On ABC/ESPN (*performed by South Park's Eric Cartman*)COLORADO TEAM (*Collegesportsreport.com Team-of-the-Week: Sept. 22 vs. Miami-Ohio*)**BUFFALOES ON NATIONAL LISTS****(SEMIFINALIST, FINALIST, WATCH)**Chuck Bednarik Award (defensive player of the year): **ILB Jordon Dizon** (one of 15 semifinalists)Dick Butkus Award (top linebacker): **ILB Jordon Dizon** (runner-up)Vincent Draddy Trophy (academic "Heisman"): **PK Kevin Eberhart** (one of 153 semifinalists)Ronnie Lott Award (top defensive impact player): **ILB Jordon Dizon** (one of eight semifinalists)Bronko Nagurski Award (top defensive player): **CB Terrence Wheatley** (one of 54 candidates on official watch list)Dave Rimington Award (top center): **C Daniel Sanders** (one of 54 candidates on official watch list)Jim Thorpe Award (top defensive back): **CB Terrence Wheatley** (one of 35 candidates on official watch list)Doak Walker Award (top running back): **TB Hugh Charles** (one of 51 candidates on official watch list)**POSTSEASON ALL-STAR GAMES**TE TYSON DeVREE (*Texas vs. the Nation Game*)ILB JORDON DIZON (*Hula Bowl, Senior Bowl*)OT TYLER POLUMBUS (*East-West Shrine Game*)CB TERRENCE WHEATLEY (*Senior Bowl*)**ACADEMIC ALL-BIG 12 CONFERENCE**

S BENJAMIN BURNEY (first-team: Film Studies, 3.30 GPA)
 PK KEVIN EBERHART (first-team: Aerospace Engineering, 3.34 GPA)
 TB BYRON ELLIS (first-team: Integrative Physiology, 3.54 GPA)
 DT GEORGE HYPOLITE (first-team: Ethnic Studies, 3.33 GPA)
 DB BRET SMITH (first-team: Civil Engineering, 3.98 GPA)
 TE NATE SOLDER (first-team: Biology, 3.20 GPA)
 WR DUSTY SPRAGUE (first-team: Business-Management, 3.50 GPA)

FB JAKE BEHRENS (second-team: Business-Finance, 3.17 GPA)
 TE TYSON DeVREE (second-team: Education, 3.00 GPA)
 P MATT DiLALLO (second-team: Integrative Physiology, 3.00 GPA)
 ILB JORDON DIZON (second-team: Economics, 3.03 GPA)
 DE MARQUEZ HERROD (second-team: Psychology, 3.06 GPA)
 OT TYLER POLUMBUS (second-team: Business-Management, 3.01 GPA)

BIG 12 COMMISSIONER'S HONOR ROLL**(3.0 or greater GPA)**

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| FB JAKE BEHRENS | PK KEVIN EBERHART | OT TYLER POLUMBUS | TE NATE SOLDER |
| SN AUSTIN BISNOW | OL JOE FRUECHTEL | DT TONY PAREMBA | WR DUSTY SPRAGUE |
| ILB R.J. BROWN | OL EDWIN HARRISON | DB TRAVIS SANDERSFIELD | WR PATRICK WILLIAMS |
| CB BENJAMIN BURNEY | DT GEORGE HYPOLITE | TE DEVIN SHANAHAN | CB ANTHONY WRIGHT |
| FB MAURICE CANTRELL | DT ERIC LAWSON | PK JUSTIN SIMMONS | |
| TE PATRICK DEVENNY | NT BRANDON NICOLAS | DB BRET SMITH | |

COLORADO COACHES' WEEKLY AWARD WINNERS

A look at Colorado's weekly award winners for each game as selected by the coaching staff (#—chosen if a linemen does not win offensive or defensive; *—denotes nominated for Big 12 player-of-the-week):

| Opponent | Offensive | Defensive | Special Teams | #Lineman (Off or Def) | Scout Team (Offense, Defense, Special Teams) | | |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Colorado State | WR Scotty McKnight* | ILB Jordon Dizon | PK Kevin Eberhart* | DT George Hypolite | TB Brian Lockridge | ILB Michael Sipili | S Jason Espinoza |
| Miami-Ohio | C Daniel Sanders | DT Brandon Nicolas | CB Gardner McKay | ..... | OL Shawn Daniels | DE Conrad Obi | S Bret Smith |
| | | | | | OL Joe Fruechtel | | |
| Oklahoma | TB Hugh Charles* | SS Daniel Dykes* | WR Chase McBride* | OT Edwin Harrison | WR Steve Melton | DE Conrad Obi | S Joel Adams |
| Baylor | TB Hugh Charles | ILB Jordon Dizon* | P Matt DiLallo* | C Daniel Sanders | TB Cory Nabors | DT Eugene Goree | SN Justin Drescher |
| | WR Dusty Sprague* | | | | OL Joe Fruechtel | | |
| Texas Tech | OG Edwin Harrison | CB Terrence Wheatley* | CB Jalil Brown | ..... | WR Marques Simas | ILB Josh Hartigan | SN Austin Bisnow |
| Nebraska | WR Dusty Sprague | CB Chappelle Brown | DE Alonzo Barrett | OT Tyler Polumbus | Offensive Line | ILB Marcus Burton | S Kyle Black |

None awarded in losses (Arizona State, Florida State, Kansas State, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa State)

2007 SEASON HONORS, CONTINUED**COLORADO TEAM AWARDS***(Selected by players unless otherwise indicated)*

Hang Tough Award (overcame the most adversity): CB Terrence Wheatley
Lee Willard Award (outstanding freshman): OG Kai Maiava
Tyronee "Tiger" Bussey Award (perseverance over adversity, injury and/or illness): FS Ryan Walters
Best Interview (selected by team beat media): DT George Hypolite
Buffalo Heart Award (selected by "the fans behind the bench"): ILB Jordon Dizon
Dean Jacob Van Ek Award (academic excellence): TB Byron Ellis
Bill McCartney Award (special teams achievement): CB Jalil Brown
Regiment Award (greatest contribution with least recognition): DT Brandon Nicolas
Derek Singleton Award (spirit, dedication, enthusiasm): QB Cody Hawkins
Tom McMahon Award (dedication and work ethic): WR Dusty Sprague
Eddie Crowder Award (leadership): OT Tyler Polumbus
Offensive Scout Award: FS Jason Espinoza
Defensive Scout Award: DE Conrad Obi
Special Teams Scout Award: SS Bret Smith
Dave Jones Award (outstanding defensive player): ILB Jordon Dizon
John Mack Award (outstanding offensive player): TB Hugh Charles
Zack Jordan Award (most valuable player, selected by teammates): ILB Jordon Dizon

GAME-BY-GAME STARTERS

Here were CU's starters for the 2007 season (**bold** indicates first career start); this list often does not reflect who might "listed" first at a position, as especially on offense, the first play selected often involves a particular grouping:

| OFFENSE | WR | WR | LT | LG | C | RG | RT | TE | QB | TB | FB / Other |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Colorado State | Williams | McKnight | Polumbus | Palazzi | D.Sanders | Head | Harrison | Sumler (WR) | C.Hawkins | Ellis | Sprague (WR) |
| Arizona State | Williams | Robinson | Polumbus | Palazzi | D.Sanders | Head | Harrison | Geer | C.Hawkins | Sumler | Sprague (WR) |
| Florida State | Jo. Smith | McKnight | Polumbus | Palazzi | D.Sanders | Head | Harrison | Geer | C.Hawkins | Ellis | J.Sanders (TE) |
| Miami-Ohio | Williams | Sprague | Polumbus | Palazzi | D.Sanders | Head | Harrison | DeVree | C.Hawkins | Ellis | Jagoras |
| OklahomaJo. Smith | McKnight | Polumbus | Maiava | D.Sanders | Head | Harrison | Celestine (WR) | | C.Hawkins | Ellis | Sprague (WR) |
| Baylor | Williams | Solder (TE) | Polumbus | Maiava | D.Sanders | Head | Harrison | Geer | C.Hawkins | Sumler | Cantrell |
| Kansas State | Williams | McKnight | Polumbus | Maiava | D.Sanders | Harrison | Miller | DeVree | C.Hawkins | Lockridge | J.Behrens |
| Kansas | Jo. Smith | McKnight | Polumbus | Maiava | D.Sanders | Harrison | Miller | Geer | C.Hawkins | Charles | J.Behrens |
| Texas Tech | Williams | Sprague | Polumbus | Maiava | D.Sanders | Harrison | Miller | Geer | C.Hawkins | Ellis | Solder (TE) |
| Missouri | Jo. Smith | McKnight | Polumbus | Maiava | D.Sanders | Harrison | Miller | Geer | C.Hawkins | Charles | Solder (TE) |
| Iowa State | Robinson | Crawford | Polumbus | Maiava | D.Sanders | Harrison | Miller | Geer | C.Hawkins | Charles | Solder (TE) |
| Nebraska | Williams | Sprague | Polumbus | Maiava | D.Sanders | Harrison | Miller | Geer | C.Hawkins | Charles | J.Behrens |
| Alabama | Jo. Smith | Celestine | Polumbus | Maiava | D.Sanders | Harrison | Miller | DeVree | C.Hawkins | Charles | Cantrell |

| DEFENSE | LE | DT | NT | RE | MLB | WLB | SLB | LCB | FS | SS | RCB |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|-------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|--------|
| Colorado State | Lucas | Hypolite | Nicolas | Barrett | C.Brown (N) | Dizon | B.Jones | Wheatley | Walters | Dykes | Burney |
| Arizona State | Lucas | Hypolite | Nicolas | Barrett | Duren | Dizon | B.Jones | Wheatley | Walters | Dykes | Burney |
| Florida State | Lucas | Hypolite | Nicolas | Barrett | R.Brown | Dizon | B.Jones | Wheatley | Walters | Dykes | Burney |
| Miami-Ohio | C.Brown (N) | Hypolite | Nicolas | Barrett | Smart | Dizon | B.Jones | Wheatley | Walters | Dykes | Burney |
| Oklahoma | C.Brown (N) | Hypolite | Nicolas | Barrett | Smart | Dizon | B.Jones | Wheatley | Walters | Dykes | Burney |
| Baylor | Lucas | Hypolite | Nicolas | Barrett | Smart | Dizon | B.Jones | Wheatley | Walters | Dykes | Burney |
| Kansas State | Lucas | Hypolite | Nicolas | Barrett | Smart | Dizon | B.Jones | Wheatley | Walters | Dykes | Burney |
| Kansas | C.Brown (N) | Hypolite | Nicolas | Barrett | Smart | Dizon | B.Jones | Wheatley | Walters | Dykes | Burney |
| Texas Tech | C.Brown (N) | Hypolite | Nicolas | Barrett | Smart | Dizon | B.Jones | Wheatley | Walters | Dykes | Burney |
| Missouri | Lucas | Hypolite | Nicolas | C.Brown (N) | Smart | Dizon | B.Jones | Wheatley | Walters | Dykes | Burney |
| Iowa State | Perri | Hypolite | Nicolas | Barrett | Smart | Dizon | B.Jones | McKay | Harris | Dykes | Burney |
| Nebraska | Lucas | C.Brown (N) | Nicolas | Barrett | Smart | Dizon | B.Jones | McKay | Walters | Dykes | Burney |
| Alabama | C.Brown (N) | Hypolite | Nicolas | Barrett | Smart | Dizon | B.Jones | Wheatley | Walters | Harris | Burney |

(N)—Nickel back. CONSECUTIVE STARTS—Polumbus 25, D.Sanders 23, Dizon 19, Jones 17. **CAREER STARTS**—Dizon 47, Wheatley 30, Harrison 29, Polumbus 28, D.Sanders 28.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION (dressed/played): Colorado State 89/49; Arizona State 69/52; Florida State 93/50; Miami-Ohio 97/62; Oklahoma 95/54; Baylor 70/56; Kansas State 70/55; Kansas 95/59; Texas Tech 70/54; Missouri 95/58; Iowa State 70/51; Nebraska 93/55; Alabama 94/55.

TV LAND

Colorado has had **148** of its last **221** games dating back to 1990 broadcast nationally or regionally (67 percent). That included 11 games in 2007, seven in 2006, 10 in 2005, nine in 2004, seven in 2003, 12 in 2002, 10 in 2001, plus 7 in 2000, 9 in both 1998 and 1999, 10 in 1996 and 1997. Since 1996, when the Big 12 began, **111** of CU's **148** games have been either nationally or regionally televised, an impressive 75 percent (the second most in the Big 12 Conference in that time frame). In addition, CU has had **24** of its last **29** non-conference games televised on a national or regional basis.

CAREER GAMES PLAYED/STARTED CHART

Listed below is the career games played/started, including bowls, for the players on the 2007 Colorado Buffaloes. The players on this year's opening roster collectively had played in 1,053 games, with 273 starts. Recent past numbers entering the year: **1,080/314** (2005), **761/182** (2004), **845/239** (2003), **883/278** (2002), **694/223** (2000) and **790/229** (1999). The list (includes bowls):

| Player | G | GS | Player | G | GS | Player | G | GS | Player | G | GS | Player | G | GS |
|-------------|----|----|-----------|----|----|-------------|----|----|--------------|----|----|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| ADAMS | 22 | 0 | CLARK | 0 | 0 | HARRISON | 47 | 29 | MELTON | 3 | 0 | SIPILI | 12 | 2 |
| ADKINS | 0 | 0 | COONEY | 0 | 0 | HARTIGAN | 0 | 0 | MEYER | 0 | 0 | SMART | 24 | 10 |
| AHLES | 0 | 0 | COPE | 13 | — | HAWKINS, C. | 13 | 13 | MILLER | 10 | 7 | SMITH, B. | 10 | 0 |
| BARR | 0 | 0 | CRAWFORD | 25 | 4 | HAWKINS, J. | 0 | 0 | MODROVSKY | 0 | 0 | SMITH, Jm. | 13 | 0 |
| BALLENGER | 0 | 0 | DANIELS | 0 | 0 | HEAD | 16 | 7 | MOYD | 18 | 0 | SMITH, Jo. | 11 | 5 |
| BARNETT | 25 | 9 | DEVENNY | 6 | 0 | HERROD | 13 | 0 | NABORS | 7 | 0 | SMITH, L. | 0 | 0 |
| BARRETT | 42 | 14 | DeVREE | 23 | 6 | HUDGINS | 0 | 0 | NELSON | 3 | 0 | SOLDER | 13 | 4 |
| BEATTY | 4 | 0 | DILALLO | 25 | — | HYPOLITE | 37 | 20 | NICOLAS | 25 | 24 | SPRAGUE | 48 | 21 |
| BEHRENS, B. | 0 | 0 | DIZON | 51 | 47 | ILTIS | 0 | 0 | OBI | 0 | 0 | STENGEL | 0 | 0 |
| BEHRENS, J. | 10 | 3 | DRESCHER | 25 | 0 | JACKSON | 24 | 11 | PALAZZI | 8 | 4 | STEVENS | 1 | 0 |
| BISNOW | 0 | 0 | DUREN | 11 | 1 | JAFFEE | 0 | 0 | PERKINS | 0 | 0 | SUAZO | 1 | — |
| BLACK | 0 | 0 | DYKES | 13 | 12 | JAGORAS | 25 | 3 | PERRI | 10 | 1 | SUMLER | 12 | 2 |
| BRACE | 21 | 0 | EBERHART | 20 | — | JONES | 38 | 24 | POLUMBUS | 48 | 28 | TAU | 0 | 0 |
| BROWN, C. | 25 | 12 | ELLIS | 47 | 10 | KAYNOR | 18 | 0 | POREMBIA | 0 | 0 | VAIOMOUNGA | 7 | 0 |
| BROWN, J. | 13 | 0 | ESPINOZA | 0 | 0 | LAWSON | 4 | 0 | ROBINSON | 50 | 3 | WALTERS | 36 | 22 |
| BROWN, R. | 20 | 1 | FAATAGI | 0 | 0 | LOCKRIDGE | 9 | 1 | SANDERS, D. | 34 | 28 | WHEATLEY | 48 | 30 |
| BURNEY | 36 | 15 | FRUECHTEL | 0 | 0 | LUCAS | 32 | 14 | SANDERS, J. | 48 | 1 | WILLIAMS | 40 | 14 |
| BURTON | 22 | 1 | GEER | 25 | 17 | MAIAVA | 10 | 9 | SANDERSFIELD | 0 | 0 | WRIGHT | 0 | 0 |
| CANTRELL | 29 | 7 | GOREE | 0 | 0 | McBRIDE | 17 | 0 | SHANAHAN | 0 | 0 | YATES | 12 | 0 |
| CELESTINE | 12 | 2 | HAM | 0 | 0 | McKAY | 34 | 2 | SHIELDS | 0 | 0 | TEAM | 1563 | 537 |
| CHARLES | 49 | 24 | HARRIS | 47 | 8 | McKNIGHT | 13 | 5 | SIMAS | 0 | 0 | 2006 Final | 1675 | 538 |

LAST TRUE FRESHMEN TO START: TB Brian Lockridge, OG Kai Maiava, OT Ryan Miller, WR Josh Smith (2007); CB Cha'pelle Brown, ILB Michael Sipili (2006); Maurice Lucas (2005);

ILB Jordon Dizon (2004); ILB Walter Boye-Doe, CB Terrence Wheatley, S Dominique Brooks, OG Brian Daniels, DB Lorenzo Sims (2003).

LAST TRUE FRESHMEN TO START AT QUARTERBACK: Craig Ochs (2000), Koy Detmer (1992). **IN A SEASON OPENER:** Has not occurred.

LAST TRUE FRESHMEN TO START AT RUNNING BACK: Brian Lockridge (2007), Brian Calhoun (2002), Marcus Houston (2000). **IN A SEASON OPENER:** Kent Kahl (1991).

LAST REDSHIRT FRESHMEN TO START: QB Cody Hawkins, WR Scotty McKnight, OG Wes Palazzi, TE Nate Solder, TB Demetrius Sumler (2007); OT Paul Backowski, TE Riar Geer, OG Devin Head (2006); OG Daniel Sanders (2005); DE Alex Ligon, LB Thaddeus Washington (2003).

LAST PLAYERS TO START FOR THE FIRST TIME AS A SENIOR: TE Joe Sanders (2007); Paul Creighton, TE Dan Goettsch, C Bryce MacMartin, TB Mell Holliday, WR Nick Holz (2006); WR Mike Duren, OG Terrance Barreau (2004); WR D.J. Hackett (2003); DE Dylan Bird, WR Jason Burianek, OT Josh Foster, QB Robert Hodge, DB Lovell Houston, OT Rawle King (2002).

TWENTY-EIGHT SEE FIRST CU ACTION IN 2007

A total of 28 players stepped on to the field wearing a Colorado Buffalo uniform for the first time in 2007. Twelve players had their first taste of collegiate action in the opener against Colorado State, with three more hitting the field for the first time at Arizona State and two others in game three against Florida State. In game four, the floodgates opened again with seven players making their first appearance. In 2006, 19 players saw their first action, with 14 taking the field for the first time in the opener; 16 saw their first action in 2005 while 24 did so in both 2004 and 2003. The list of Buffs to hit the field for the first time in 2007 (*—mainly special teams duty):

TRUE FRESHMEN (7): WR Kendrick Celestine, *PK Tyler Cope, TB Brian Lockridge, OL Kai Maiava, OL Ryan Miller, WR Josh Smith, *OLB Nate Vaimounga

REDSHIRT FRESHMEN (13): *ILB B.J. Beatty, *CB Jalil Brown, QB Cody Hawkins, *DE Marquez Herrod, DT Eric Lawson, WR Scotty McKnight, *TB Cory Nabors, OG Wes Palazzi, *S Bret Smith, CB Jimmy Smith, TE Nate Solder, OL Keenan Stevens, TB Demetrius Sumler

SOPHOMORES (4): FB Jake Behrens, *TE Patrick Devenny, ILB Jake Duren, DE Chris Perri

JUNIORS (4): SS Daniel Dykes, *WR Steve Melton, QB Nick Nelson, *P Tom Suazo

SENIORS (0).

EIGHTEEN PLAYERS MAKE FIRST CAREER START IN 2007

Eighteen players made their first CU career starts in 2007 (12 offense, 6 defense). Five came in the opener: **QB Cody Hawkins**, **WR Scotty McKnight**, **OG Wes Palazzi** and **TB Demetrius Sumler** and one on defense, **SS Daniel Dykes**. At Arizona State in game two, **ILB Jake Duren** was in for the first play, and against Florida State in CU's home opener, **ILB R.J. Brown**, **TE Joe Sanders** and **WR Josh Smith** were out there for the first play. **ILB Jeff Smart** made his first start against Miami-Ohio in game four, just days after he was awarded a scholarship. **WR Kendrick Celestine** and **OG Kai Maiava** trotted out there for the first play against Oklahoma in game five, while **TE Nate Solder** did the same at Baylor. **FB Jake Behrens**, **TB Brian Lockridge** and **OT Ryan Miller** made their first starts at Kansas State. Later in the year, **CB Gardner McKay** and **DE Chris Perri** got the opening nods in the Iowa State game. Twenty-four players made their first career starts in 2006, the third-most over the last 23 seasons (15 offense, nine defense). The 24 first-time starters in 2006 were the third-most over the last 23 seasons and were the most since 1998, when there were 27 first-time starters for the Buffaloes, 17 on offense and 10 on defense. The high came in 1984, when 29 made their first starts (15 on offense). The annual number of first-time starters since 1984:

ANNUAL FIRST-TIME STARTERS: 1984 (29), 1985 (9), 1986 (15), 1987 (14), 1988 (16), 1989 (7), 1990 (16), 1991 (23), 1992 (15), 1993 (7), 1994 (6), 1995 (11), 1996 (8), 1997 (14), 1998 (27), 1999 (14), 2000 (16), 2001 (12), 2002 (16), 2003 (20), 2004 (12), 2005 (11), 2006 (24), 2007 (18).

SCORING STREAKS

The Buffs have scored in a school record **235** consecutive games, last being shutout on November 12, 1988 by Nebraska in Lincoln (7-0). CU has scored in **124** straight games at home (last shutout: a 28-0 loss to Oklahoma on Nov. 15, 1986 in a game where the Sooners did not *attempt* a single pass). The Buffs have scored in **92** consecutive road games (**120** including neutral sites). The Buffs have scored in **150** straight league games (all **100** in Big 12 play, including the four title games, and their final 50 in Big Eight competition, dating back to the '88 shutout at Nebraska). CU has scored in **125** straight games against non-conference opponents (last shutout: a 44-0 loss at home to LSU on September 15, 1979). The home shutout losses to Oklahoma in '86 and LSU in '79 are the only two times CU has not scored at Folsom Field over the course of the last **263** games (all the way back to 1963). CU has been shutout just seven times in its last **466** games (dating to October 5, 1968), but only four schools have administered them: Oklahoma (three times), Nebraska (twice), Louisiana State and Michigan. **Big 12 Conference Consecutive Game Scoring Streaks (through 2007): Colorado 235**, Nebraska 151, Kansas State 140, Texas Tech 130, Oklahoma 121, Kansas 63, Missouri 63, Iowa State 51, Texas A&M 51, Texas 46, Oklahoma State 33, Baylor 11. CU is the last team to shutout both Kansas State (12-0 in 1996) and Oklahoma State (34-0 in 2005).

SCORING STREAKS II

The school record **235** consecutive games in which Colorado has scored is the **fourth** longest active streak in the nation. Since the start of the 1993 season, just six Division I-A/FBS schools have scored in every game. The list, through all games of the 2007 season:

| School | Streak | Last Shutout | School | Streak | Last Shutout |
|------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--|
| Michigan | 288 | Oct. 20, 1984 at Iowa (0-26) | Colorado | 235 | Nov. 12, 1988 at Nebraska (0-7) |
| Washington State | 273 | Sept. 15, 1984 at Ohio State (0-44) | TCU | 190 | Nov. 16, 1991 at Texas (0-32) |
| Florida | 243 | Oct. 29, 1988 vs. Auburn (0-16) | Air Force | 181 | #—Dec. 31, 1992 vs. Mississippi (0-13) |

234 AND COUNTING

Colorado's **235**-game scoring streak is now the ninth longest in Division I-A college history; of the top 16 all-time, nine were started in the 1980s while the other five began in the 1970s. Here's that list: (*—329 games including I-AA games prior to joining I-A in 1992):

| School | Streak | Dates | Ended By | School | Streak | Dates | Ended By |
|------------------|--------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Brigham Young | 361 | 9/27/1975 - 11/15/2003 | Utah | Colorado | 235 | 11/19/1988 - present | ..... |
| Michigan | 288 | 10/27/1984 - present | ..... | Nebraska | 233 | 1/01/1974 - 11/29/1991 | Miami, Fla. |
| Texas | 281 | 11/29/1980 - 10/02/2004 | Oklahoma | Florida State | 232 | 9/10/1988 - 11/11/2006 | Wake Forest |
| Washington State | 273 | 10/22/1984 - present | ..... | Hawaii | 219 | 12/04/1976 - 11/04/1995 | Colorado State |
| Washington | 272 | 11/14/1981 - 10/16/2004 | USC | Arizona | 214 | 9/09/1972 - 12/15/1990 | Syracuse |
| Oregon | 267 | 10/05/1985 - 11/15/2007 | UCLA | Virginia | 195 | 9/15/1984 - 10/28/2000 | Georgia Tech |
| UCLA | 245 | 10/02/1971 - 10/17/1992 | Arizona State | TCU | 190 | 11/23/1991 - present | ..... |
| Florida | 243 | 11/05/1988 - present | ..... | *Nevada | 187 | 9/05/1992 - 12/01/2007 | New Mexico |

ANATOMY OF THE SCORING STREAK

Colorado has more often than not extended its scoring streak rather quickly. In the **235**-game run, CU has scored on its first possession **94** times, plus another three occasions where it scored on returns on its first touch of the game. The Buffs have scored in the first quarter **163** times during the streak, and had it extended by halftime **213** times. A closer look (*—includes score on a kickoff return to start the 1998 Aloha Bowl; an interception return prior to the first offensive possession in the 2002 Alamo Bowl; and an interception return for a score on the first touch against Arizona State in 2007):

| | | Scored On/In: | | | | Points Scored----- | | | | | | Scored On/In: | | | | Points Scored----- | | | |
|--------|-------|---------------|----|----|----|--------------------|------|--------|------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Season | Games | 1st Poss. | 1Q | 2Q | 3Q | 4Q | Wins | Losses | Ties | Season | Games | 1st Poss. | 1Q | 2Q | 3Q | 4Q | Wins | Losses | Ties |
| 1988 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 73 | — | — | 1999 | 12 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 313 | 92 | — |
| 1989 | 12 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 452 | 6 | — | 2000 | 11 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 91 | 161 | — |
| 1990 | 13 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 346 | 22 | 31 | 2001 | 13 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 367 | 45 | — |
| 1991 | 12 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 250 | 60 | 19 | 2002 | 14 | 8* | 10 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 335 | 63 | — |
| 1992 | 12 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 287 | 29 | 24 | 2003 | 12 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 173 | 146 | — |
| 1993 | 12 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 269 | 83 | 16 | 2004 | 13 | 3 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 245 | 59 | — |
| 1994 | 12 | 7 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 432 | 7 | — | 2005 | 13 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 253 | 52 | — |
| 1995 | 12 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 399 | 45 | — | 2006 | 12 | 7 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 63 | 133 | — |
| 1996 | 12 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 327 | 25 | — | 2007 | 13 | 6* | 8 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 239 | 92 | — |
| 1997 | 11 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 183 | 117 | — | Totals | 235 | 97 | 163 | 50 | 13 | 9 | 5345 | 1315 | 90 |
| 1998 | 12 | 3* | 9 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 248 | 54 | — | | | | | | | | | | |

Colorado has a **150-81-4** record during the scoring streak, averaging **35.6** points in the wins and **16.2** points in the losses (and 23.5 the four tied games). The Buffs have had only nine occasions where they were delayed extending the streak in the fourth quarter.

SCORING DUEL JUST 25 MILES APART

Colorado has scored in **235** straight games dating back to 1988; down the road, the NFL **Denver Broncos** have scored in **245** consecutive contests, the longest active streak in the professional ranks, one which dates back to 1992. Their fiercest rivals inflicted the last shutouts of each: Nebraska and the Raiders (then in L.A.). Combined, the pair has scored in **480** straight games. Many traits are eerily similar; the Broncos have extended it on their first possession **96** times, in the first quarter **161** times and by halftime on **233** occasions, although have had to wait to extend it in the fourth quarter just twice.

➤ And if you add in **Air Force's** streak of **181** games, the Front Range trio has a **661**-game streak going among them through games of the 2007 season.

TRENDS**1985-2007**

Since 1985, when the Buffs returned to their traditional winning ways after six frustrating years, Colorado is **176-100-4**, the 21st best record nationally in this span). In these 280 games, CU has posted the following records (including bowls):

| | | | |
|--|----------|--|----------|
| ◆ with 400-plus yards total offense | 104-18-2 | ◆ when holding opponent under 300 yards total offense | 85-17-1 |
| ◆ with 500-plus yards total offense | 52- 5-0 | ◆ when leading at halftime | 143-18-2 |
| ◆ when leading in time of possession | 116-27-3 | ◆ when leading after three quarters (143-12-3 in last 158) | 147-14-3 |
| ◆ when making 20-plus first downs | 106-30-1 | ◆ when scoring 24 or more points | 144-20-2 |
| ◆ when converting 50 percent or better on 3rd down | 68- 8-1 | ◆ when scoring 14 or more points | 173-58-4 |
| ◆ when punting three or fewer times | 65-13-1 | ◆ when held to 13 points or less | 3-40-0 |
| ◆ when scoring first | 115-30-1 | ◆ when not committing a turnover or allowing a sack | 14- 0-0 |
| ◆ with zero turnovers (126-46-2 with two or fewer) | 33-10-2 | ◆ when rushing for more yards than passing | 103-35-2 |
| ◆ when holding opponent to 17 points or less | 103-18-1 | ◆ when passing for more yards than rushing | 73-65-2 |
| ◆ when holding opponent under 100 yards rushing | 89-11-1 | ◆ when holding edge in 1st downs & possession time | 95-19-2 |

TRENDS II**1989-2007**

Since 1989, when the Buffs became a regular in the national rankings, Colorado has posted the nation's 20th best overall record at **148-81-4**. Here are some trends during this time frame (232 games, including bowls):

| | | | |
|--|----------|---|----------|
| ➤ when running more plays than the opponent | 82-30-3 | ➤ when rushing for 200-plus yards | 78- 5-1 |
| ➤ with 400-plus yards total offense (47-5 with 500-plus) | 90-18-2 | ➤ when rushing for 250-plus yards | 53- 2-1 |
| ➤ when scoring 30 or more points | 99- 6-1 | ➤ when rushing for 300-plus yards | 31- 0-1 |
| ➤ when leading in possession time (53-56-1 when not) | 95-25-3 | ➤ when rushing and passing for at least 200 yards | 34- 2-0 |
| ➤ when making 20-plus first downs | 93-27-1 | ➤ when passing for 200-plus yards | 80-38-2 |
| ➤ when converting 50 percent or better on 3rd down | 54- 7-1 | ➤ when passing for 300-plus yards (10-0-1 400-plus) | 25-13-1 |
| ➤ when scoring first (83-20-1 the last 104 times) | 94-23-1 | ➤ when passing for more yards than rushing | 73-65-2 |
| ➤ with zero turnovers (109-43-2 with two or fewer) | 27-10-2 | ➤ when holding edge in 1st downs & possession time | 77-18-2 |
| ➤ when holding opponent to 17 points or less | 79-11-1 | ➤ when holding edge in field position | 118-21-1 |
| ➤ when holding opponent under 100 yards rushing | 73-11-1 | ➤ when not committing a turnover or allowing a sack | 13- 0-0 |
| ➤ when holding opponent under 300 yards total offense | 63-12-1 | ➤ when out-rushing the opponent | 120-13-3 |
| ➤ when average field position is CU 30+ (26-2 40+) | 109-34-2 | ➤ when owning the edge in return yards | 112-29-2 |
| ➤ when play selection is 50 percent rushing calls | 124-28-2 | | |

TRENDS III**HAWKINS**

Some trends of Colorado coach **Dan Hawkins** both overall and at his former school, Boise State; totals are for **89** games including bowls (**61-28**; the Broncos were 53-11 under his guidance in five seasons):

| Category | At CU | Overall | Category | At CU | Overall |
|--|-------|---------|---|-------|---------|
| ➤ when scoring 20 or more points (0-17 when not) | 8- 5 | 61-11 | ➤ when leading after three (8-21 trailing, 2-2 tied) | 6- 2 | 51- 3 |
| ➤ when scoring 30 or more points | 7- 1 | 54- 3 | ➤ when holding opponent under 100 yards rushing | 4- 4 | 36- 6 |
| ➤ when scoring 40 or more points | 3- 0 | 38- 2 | ➤ when holding opponent under 300 yards offense | 2- 5 | 26- 5 |
| ➤ when scoring 50 or more points | 1- 0 | 20- 0 | ➤ when rushing for 200-plus yards | 5- 1 | 37- 1 |
| ➤ when holding opponent to 17 points or less | 3- 3 | 32- 3 | ➤ when rushing for 250-plus yards (7-0 300-plus) | 3- 1 | 25- 1 |
| ➤ in games decided by 7 points or less | 3- 7 | 13-12 | ➤ when rushing for more yards than passing | 5- 6 | 23- 7 |
| ➤ with two or fewer turnovers (10-2 with zero) | 6-12 | 44-20 | ➤ with a 100-yard rusher | 6- 3 | 33- 3 |
| ➤ when turnover margin was plus or even | 6-10 | 45-17 | ➤ when rushing and passing for at least 200 yards | 3- 0 | 28- 0 |
| ➤ when scoring first (18-16 when not) | 7- 9 | 43-12 | ➤ with 400-plus yards total offense (44-2 last 46) | 4- 2 | 48- 4 |
| ➤ when leading at halftime | 6- 4 | 49- 7 | ➤ with 500-plus yards total offense (6-0 with 600-plus) | 2- 0 | 25- 1 |
| ➤ when trailing at halftime (4-0 when tied) | 2-12 | 8-20 | | | |

TURNOVERS ARE INDEED COSTLY

Dan Hawkins falls in line with most, if not all, head coaches when it comes to turnovers, and that they are one of the single most important factors in winning or losing ball games. He has penalties and rewards daily in the practice dependent on the number of turnovers committed or forced. Gary Barnett drilled home to his teams the importance of taking care of the football, which he learned from the legendary Bill McCartney. Statistics back up the argument, as the below will show that it is definitely better to take than to give over the last 19 seasons, in which CU owns the nation's 20th best overall record:

| | Turnovers Committed | Turnovers Forced | +/- | Scoring Off Turnovers PF | PA | +/- |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------|-----------------------------|-------|------|
| 148 WINS | 247 | 376 | +129 | 1,257 | 490 | +767 |
| HAWKINS ERA (8 WINS) | 12 | 19 | + 7 | 59 | 34 | + 25 |
| 81 LOSSES (& 4 TIES) | 208 | 139 | - 69 | 322 | 683 | -361 |
| HAWKINS ERA (17 LOSSES) | 31 | 28 | - 3 | 60 | 101 | - 41 |
| 19-SEASON TOTALS (233 Games) | 455 | 515 | +60 | 1,579 | 1,173 | +404 |
| HAWKINS ERA (25 Games) | 43 | 47 | + 4 | 119 | 135 | - 16 |

COLORADO BY THE NUMBERS IN 2007

- 0:00** The amount of time CU led against Oklahoma, as the Buffs won on the final play of the game.
- 1-4** Colorado's record against the North Division, opening 0-4 for the first time against North foes.
- 3-0** Colorado's record against the South Division, its first undefeated run against the division since 1998.
- 3** The number of seasons **TB Hugh Charles** led CU in rushing, just the seventh player to do so in school history.
- 3 & 115** The number of points and yards CU held Alabama to in the final 35 minutes after falling behind 27-0 in the Independence Bowl.
- 16** The number of tackles **FS Ryan Walters** had in the season opener, the third highest total in school history that did not lead the team in a game.
- 22-13** Colorado owns the best intra-division mark over the last five seasons against fellow Big 12 North teams at 22-13.
- 22** The number of tackles in 83 defensive plays by **ILB Jordon Dizon** against Colorado State, the most tackles by a Buff defender in 10 seasons.
- 23** The number of tackles Dizon had against CSU when adding in one he had on special teams.
- 25** The number of years in-between CU players intercepting three passes in a game (Terrence Wheatley 2007, Victor Scott 1982).
- 28** Colorado made its 28th bowl appearance when it took the field against Alabama in the PetroSun Independence Bowl.
- 31.3** The number of points below its average coming in (50.3) that the Buffs held Kansas to on the scoreboard.
- 34.4** The completion percentage for Miami-Ohio (11-of-32), the first CU opponent to complete less than 40 percent of its passes in 39 games.
- 45.0** Terrence Wheatley's kickoff return average for three returns against Colorado State.
- 53.3** The school record for average kickoff return for a single game (minimum 3), set by Walter Stanley versus Oklahoma in 1980.
- 62** The number of punt return yards Colorado had in the 2007 season opener against Colorado State (1 over half of the total—123—CU had in '06).
- 65** The number of points Colorado scored against Nebraska, bringing the total scored on Nov. 23 this decade against the Huskers to **127**.
- 66** The number of combined yards **WR Patrick Williams** gained on the first plays of the year for 2005 and 2006 (42 on a reception against Montana State in 2006, 24 on a reverse against CSU in 2007; both are CU records for the longest gains on the first play of the year for both disciplines).
- 92** The number of consecutive PAT kicks made by Buff kickers until a miss in the Nebraska game (second longest streak in CU history; record: 111).
- 100** Dan Hawkins picked up his 100th career victory as a college coach with the 65-51 win over Nebraska.
- 106** The number of receiving yards by **WR Scotty McKnight** against Colorado State, the most ever by any CU player in his first career game.
- 112** The number of points scored by Colorado in games 4 through 6, the most in a three-game span since 2002.
- 171** The number of rushing yards by **TB Hugh Charles** against Kansas State, a career-high and the most by a Buff since 2004.
- 235** Colorado has scored in 235 consecutive games, the fifth longest active streak in the nation (and the 11th longest of all-time).
- 291** The number of receiving yards by **WR Scotty McKnight** in the first four games in 2007, which was 30 more than CU's 2006 leader (Riar Geer).
- 327** The number of all-purpose yards by **TB Hugh Charles** against Nebraska, sixth most in school history (169 rush, 33 receiving 125 return).
- 720** The number of days between field goal attempts in a game for senior **PK Kevin Eberhart** (last was Sept. 10, 2005 before this year's opener).
- 1027** The number of additional yards in the regular season on offense CU gained in 2007 as compared to 2006 (just one of 20 teams to do so).

CAREER CHART WATCH

Here's where several Buffs from last year's team rank or ranked on some of CU's all-time statistical charts through the 2007 season (*Note: Colorado does not count bowl stats into career totals to protect past history*):

- ⇒ **TB HUGH CHARLES** ended his career sixth in rushing yards (**2,659**), second in all-purpose yards (**3,622**), fifth in yards from scrimmage (**3,211**), tied for 27th in receptions (**60**, tied for the second most by a RB), 49th in receiving yards (**552**, sixth most by an RB), and tied for 38th in scoring (**102** points).
- ⇒ **ILB JORDON DIZON** finished fourth in total tackles (**440**), first in solo stops (**293**), first in third down stops (**48**), 11th in TFL's (**35**), 21st in sacks (**12**).
- ⇒ **PK KEVIN EBERHART** tied for 11th in field goals made (**16**), tied for 13th in field goals attempted (**26**) and tied for 48th in scoring (**87** points).
- ⇒ **TB BYRON ELLIS** finished 81st in rushing yards (**534**).
- ⇒ **QB CODY HAWKINS** is 11th in passing yards (**2,693**), is ninth in completions (**239**), is tied for 10th in attempts (**424**), is eighth in touchdown passes (**19**) and is tied for 17th in interceptions (**15**).
- ⇒ **WR SCOTTY MCKNIGHT** is 47th in receptions (**43**) and is 63rd in receiving yards (**488**).
- ⇒ **KR STEPHONE ROBINSON** finished seventh in punt return yards (**647**), fifth in punt returns (**79**), seventh in kickoff return yards (**867**), tied for fourth in kickoff returns (**49**) and fifth in combined kick return yards (**1,514**).
- ⇒ **WR JOSH SMITH** is 69th in receiving yards (**451**).
- ⇒ **WR DUSTY SPRAGUE** wrapped his career ninth in receptions (**103**) and ninth in receiving yards (**1,261**).
- ⇒ **CB TERRENCE WHEATLEY** tied for third in interceptions (**14**), tied for seventh in pass deflections (**29**), second in kickoff return yards (**1,350**) and kickoff returns (**56**).
- ⇒ **WR PATRICK WILLIAMS** is 20th in receptions (**74**) and is 28th in receiving yards (**748**).

3-0 VERSUS THE BIG BAD SOUTH

The North Division schools have taken their lumps, not only in games but also publicly, but perhaps things are changing; they are for Colorado. The 31-26 win at Texas Tech gave the Buffaloes a season-sweep against the South Division, the third time CU has done so. This was the eighth time in 12 years that CU won the season series with the South schools. Colorado is 21-15 all-time against the South in the regular season, the best mark of any North Division team. The Buffs also have won the season series against the South in 1996 (3-0), 1998 (3-0), 1999 (2-1), 2000 (2-1), 2001 (2-1), 2002 (2-1) and 2005 (2-1). Seems some had forgotten that the North was the dominant division in this league at the on-set, and these things are in fact cyclical; thanks to CU and Kansas (which also went 3-0), the North won the season series over the South by two games (10-8), its first claim on inter-division play since 2001.