

CU'S 1990 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The 1990 edition of the University of Colorado football team accomplished two of the biggest “firsts” in its storied history. The Buffaloes played the nation’s toughest schedule and posted an 11-1-1 record overall, with the win over Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl cementing the school’s first national championship. For the second straight year, CU logged a 7-0 record in league play, marking the first time that the Buffs had claimed the Big Eight Conference title in back-to-back years.

Colorado had flirted with the national championship just one season earlier, owning an 11-0 regular season record and entering the Orange Bowl ranked as the nation’s No. 1 team. A 21-6 loss to Notre Dame, however, ended CU’s dream season and the Buffs finished No. 4 in the national polls. Little did anyone know at the time that the Buffaloes would have the chance to redeem themselves.

Questions prior to the start of the 1990 season included, “What do you do for an encore?” and “Is Colorado for real or was last season a fluke?” Coach Bill McCartney didn’t set winning the national championship as the team goal; winning back-to-back Big Eight titles was what he wanted his men to aim for. Shooting for all the marbles includes too many variables that are out of a team’s control, while one holds its own destiny in pursuit of a league title. McCartney was not the kind to set a national title as a goal, anyway.



Joe Garten

In the Associated Press preseason poll, the Buffs were ranked No. 5; its first opponent, Tennessee in the Disneyland Pigskin Classic, was ranked No. 8.

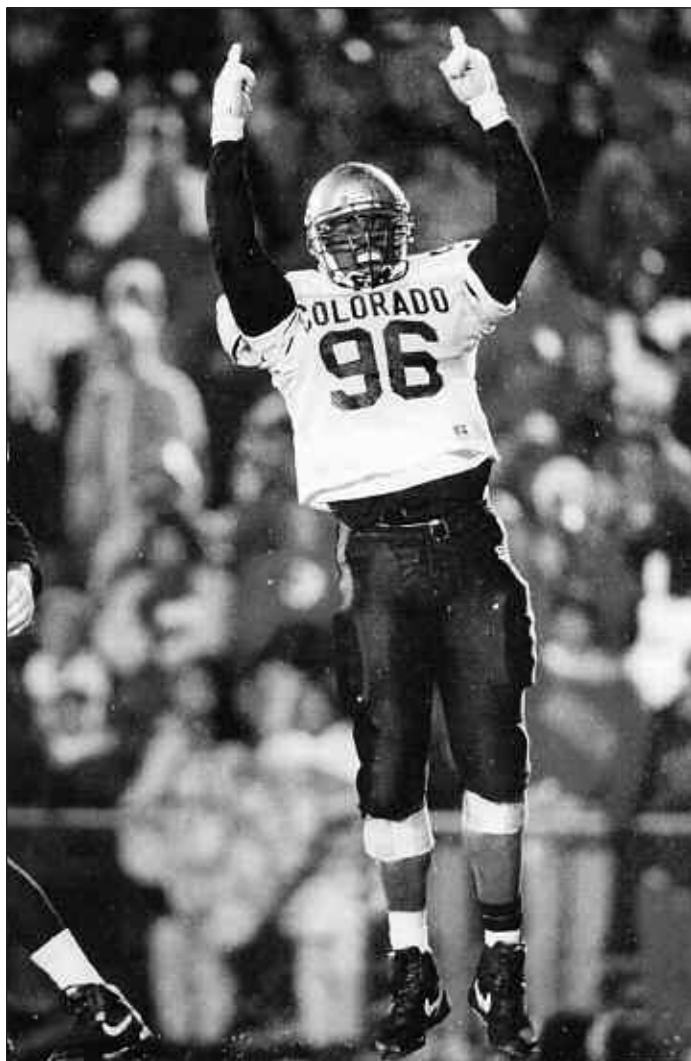
Colorado overcame three first-quarter turnovers against the Volunteers (that was almost one-fourth of the entire turnover total of the season before) to lead 24-10 early in the fourth quarter. The Buffs couldn’t sustain the lead, and Tennessee caught CU with the game ending in a 31-31 tie.

In game two, Eric Bieniemy scored on fourth-and-goal from the one with 12 seconds remaining to give CU a 21-17 win over Stanford. This was alarming in that Stanford had the worst record in 1989 of the five non-league teams on CU’s schedule, along with the fact that the Cardinal led 14-0 at halftime and had stifled the high-powered CU offense.

Illinois dealt CU what proved to be its only loss of the season on Sept. 15, as the 23-22 defeat to the Illini sent the Buffs reeling to No. 20 in the polls. A game that Colorado should have won (CU led, 17-3, in the second quarter) turned into a loss and gave CU a 1-1-1 start. Talk of 1989 being a fluke started to surface, that CU had won only because of emotion in response to the death of quarterback Sal Aunese.

The next two games put the Buffaloes back on track, and ended talk that Colorado was not for real. A 29-22 win at No. 22 Texas, with CU rallying from a 22-14 deficit early in the fourth quarter, was the game that McCartney and the team pointed to as the turning point of the season. Then a 20-14 win over No. 12 Washington a week later reinforced the national opinion of the Buffaloes, as CU took over the No. 12 spot in the polls after its defeat of the Huskies.

Colorado came through the fierce non-league portion of its schedule with a 3-1-1 record and prepared to defend its Big Eight crown earned the season before. The Buffs topped Missouri, 33-31, in their league opener amid controversy of the now famous “fifth down.” CU’s Charles Johnson scored the game-winning touchdown as time expired on what turned out to be fifth down. The play, created through an incredible mistake by the officiating crew, and unnoticed by Missouri game administration and virtually everyone in the



Kanavis McGhee



Eric Bieniemy

stadium, tainted the CU win and hurt the Buffs' image. Even though the Buffs defeated Iowa State, 28-12, the following week, Colorado had dropped back to No. 14 in the rankings though it sported a 5-1-1 record.

Still, the Buffaloes were off to a 2-0 start in league play, and improved to 3-0 with a 41-10 drubbing of Kansas at Lawrence in week three of the Big Eight season. The win pushed CU back into the top 10 (No. 10), with the "Big Reds" next up on the schedule.

Colorado knocked off Oklahoma, ranked No. 22 nationally, 32-23 to deal the one-time fourth-ranked Sooners their third straight defeat. The Buffs trailed, 14-6, late in the first half, with OU in position to kick a field goal. Greg Thomas skied to block the attempt, and quarterback Darian Hagan took over to lead the Buffs to a touchdown right before the halftime gun. Bieniemy broke free for a 69-yard TD run in the third quarter, and the Buffs pulled away in the final 15 minutes to dispose of the first of the Big Reds.

A week later, Colorado, now No. 9, traveled to Lincoln and defeated No. 3 Nebraska, 27-12, in rainy, cold and windy conditions. Bieniemy overcame five fumbles to score four touchdowns in the fourth quarter to rally the Buffaloes to the win. The end result was that Colorado had defeated both Oklahoma and Nebraska for the second straight year, and in back-to-back weeks, no less. The Buffs, with an 8-1-1 record, zoomed to No. 4 in the nation in the polls, and needed just one win in their last two games to get back to the Orange Bowl.

The Buffs steamrolled both Oklahoma State (41-22) and Kansas State (64-3) to finish the regular season at 10-1-1. The wins also marked the second straight year that CU took the

Big Eight title with an undefeated 7-0 record in league play.

When Penn State knocked off Notre Dame hours after CU's win over K-State, the Buffs became the nation's new No. 1 team. Thus, as was the case in 1989, the Buffaloes entered the Orange Bowl to defend the nation's top ranking against Notre Dame, the team that lost to hand CU the No. 1 claim.

Colorado had the rare chance to play for the national championship a second straight year, and this time around, the Buffs made the most of their opportunity. Colorado overcame the loss of Hagan and Kanavis McGhee to injuries in the first half, taking the lead for good in the third quarter in defeating the Irish, 10-9. The win kicked off a wild celebration by some 20,000-plus CU fans in Miami and hundreds of thousands back home in Colorado.

McCartney's ninth Colorado team attained its goals of claiming the Big Eight title in back-to-back years, and surpassed it by winning the national championship. In the process, CU established itself among the elite in college football.



Alfred Williams

FINAL ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL

	Record	Points
1. Colorado (39)	11-1-1	1,475
2. Georgia Tech (20)	11-0-1	1,441
3. Miami, Fla. (1)	10-2-0	1,388
4. Florida State	10-2-0	1,303
5. Washington	10-2-0	1,246
6. Notre Dame	9-3-0	1,179
7. Michigan	9-3-0	1,025
8. Tennessee	9-2-2	993
9. Clemson	10-2-0	950
10. Houston	10-1-0	940
11. Penn State	9-3-0	907
12. Texas	10-2-0	887
13. Florida	9-2-0	863
14. Louisville	10-1-1	775
15. Texas A&M	9-3-1	627
16. Michigan State	8-3-1	610
17. Oklahoma	8-3-0	452
18. Iowa	8-4-0	370
19. Auburn	8-3-1	288
20. Southern Cal	8-4-1	266
21. Mississippi	9-3-0	253
22. Brigham Young	10-3-0	246
23. Virginia	8-4-0	188
24. Nebraska	9-3-0	185
25. Illinois	8-4-0	146



CU's National Title Display at the College Hall of Fame

CU IN THE BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP

2001 COLORADO 39, Texas 37 December 1, 2001 (Irving, Texas)

IRVING, Texas — Texas Stadium just north of Dallas was supposed to be a neutral site for the sixth annual Big 12 Championship game, but it was the 7,000 or so Colorado fans who left happy as the No. 9 Buffaloes claimed their first Big 12 crown with a 39-37 win over the No. 3 Texas Longhorns.

A hostile environment was taken up a notch before the game when it was announced that No. 2 Florida had lost to Tennessee, paving the way to the national championship game in the Rose Bowl for the 10-1 Longhorns if they could beat the Buffs. And UT came out inspired, stifling the CU offense on the game's first possession and then scoring on its first drive, marching 85 yards in just six plays to take a 7-0 lead with 9:56 left in the first quarter.

Two series later, Texas was again driving and had reached the CU 22, but linebacker Aaron Killion picked off a Chris Simms pass and raced 73 yards to the UT 12. Chris Brown scored on a 10-yard run three plays later, and it ignited a 29-3 scoring spree for the Buffaloes over the next 15 minutes as the Buffs used four Longhorn turnovers to take control of the game.

On CU's next possession, Brown got things going with a 24-yard run to get the Buffs into field goal range, enabling Jeremy Flores to make good on a 39-yard kick on the second play of the second quarter. The Buffs took a 10-7 lead, one it would never relinquish, and following a Joey Johnson interception of Simms, CU was back in business at its own 36. Bobby Purify's 51-yard run to the UT 3 set up Brown's second touchdown, but Flores' PAT kick sailed left to leave CU up, 16-7. Dusty Mangum answered for the Longhorns on the very next drive with a 50-yard field goal, but on the first play of UT's next possession, DeAndre Fluellen sacked Simms and forced a fumble that Matt McChesney recovered at the Texas 22.

Bobby Pesavento hit tight end Daniel Graham on the very next play to pad the lead to 22-10, but the two point try failed. CU finished the scoring blitz when Medford Moorer picked off his first career pass three plays later and returned it 64 yards for a touchdown and a 29-10 Colorado advantage. Major Applewhite replaced Simms at quarterback for UT and hooked up with B.J. Johnson on a 79-yard scoring play on a busted coverage to slice the Buff lead to 29-17 at halftime.

Roman Hollowell, the nation's leading punt returner, brought a short UT punt back to the Texas 40 after the Buff defense forced the Longhorns into a three-and-out to open the second half. Derek McCoy made an acrobatic 33-yard catch of a Pesavento pass to get CU to the UT 13, and two plays later, Brown used an Andre Gurode block to spring free for an 11-yard touchdown run and a 36-17 score in favor of CU.

Texas added a couple of Mangum field goals to get to within 36-23 with 13:42 left in the game, and a CU fake punt that went awry saw Roderick Babers return an interception 54 yards for a touchdown to narrow the lead to 36-30 just four minutes later. But the Buffs came back with a 16-play, 51-yard drive that produced a 43-yard field goal by Flores to again make it a two-score game, but with only 1:58 remaining. Texas didn't give up the fight, as Applewhite and Johnson hooked up a 1-yard score with 31 seconds left, but Graham recovered the onside kick try to seal the Big 12 title for the Buffaloes.

Brown was the individual star with 182 yards and three TDs to lead CU, while Johnson caught four balls for 107 yards, including the two touchdowns. CU became the fifth different school in six years at the time to win the Big 12 crown, joining Nebraska (twice), Oklahoma, Texas and Texas A&M.

Texas	7	10	3	17	—	37
COLORADO	7	22	7	3	—	39

Texas—Benson 5 run (Mangum kick)	0-7	9:56	1Q
COLORADO—Brown 10 run (Flores kick)	7-7	2:21	1Q
COLORADO—Flores 39 FG	10-7	14:24	2Q
COLORADO—Brown 1 run (kick failed)	16-7	11:36	2Q
Texas—Mangum 50 FG	16-10	5:49	2Q
COLORADO—Graham 22 pass from Pesavento (pass failed)	22-10	3:48	2Q
COLORADO—Moorer 64 interception return (Flores kick)	29-10	2:32	2Q
Texas—Johnson 79 pass from Applewhite (Mangum kick)	29-17	1:47	2Q
COLORADO—Brown 11 run (Flores kick)	36-17	11:32	3Q
Texas—Mangum 26 FG	36-20	7:32	3Q
Texas—Mangum 38 FG	36-23	13:42	4Q
Texas—Babers 54 interception return (Mangum kick)	36-30	9:10	4Q
COLORADO—Flores 43 FG	39-30	1:58	4Q
Texas—Johnson 1 pass from Applewhite (Mangum kick)	39-37	0:31	4Q

Attendance: 65,675 Time: 3:31 Weather: 61 degrees, partly cloudy, 8 mph winds from the south

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Colorado: Brown 33-182, Purify 7-62, C.Johnson 7-13, Pesavento 5-minus 32, Team 1-minus 2. **Texas:** Benson 13-79, Williams 1-27, Ike 3-14, Robin 1-0, Jeffery 1-minus 2, Thomas 1-minus 3, Applewhite 2-minus 7, Simms 1-minus 16.

Passing—Colorado: Pesavento 18-81, 111, 1 td; Hodge 1-0-1, 0. **Texas:** Applewhite 25-150, 240, 2 td; Simms 17-9-3, 130, 0 td.

Receiving—Colorado: McCoy 2-44, Drumm 2-11, Graham 1-22, C.Johnson 1-14, Brown 1-10, M.Brunson 1-10. **Texas:** Williams 5-83, Johnson 4-107, Thomas 4-64, Ike 4-52, Scaife 2-29, Benson 2-23, Robin 2-10, Trissel 1-2.

Punting—Colorado: Mariscal 5-234, 46.8 (50 long, 1 In20). **Texas:** Bradford 3-101, 33.7 (37 long, 1 In20).

Punt Returns—Colorado: Hollowell 2-15. **Texas:** Vasher 4-54.

Kickoff Returns—Colorado: Hollowell 6-111, Surrell 1-11. **Texas:** Ike 4-117.

Interceptions—Colorado: Killion 1-73, Moorer 1-64, Johnson 1-8. **Texas:** Babers 1-54, Vasher 1-40.

Tackle Leaders—Colorado: Lewis 11,1—12; Robinson 5,3—8; Strickland 5,2—7; Wahlroos 4,2—6; Sneed 5,0—5; J.Johnson 2,3—5; Tufts 4,0—4; McChesney 3,1—4. **Texas:** Brooks 14,8—22; Vasher 10,2—12; Gordon 6,4—10; Lewis 4,4—8; D.Johnson 5,2—7; Rawls 3,4—7.

Quarterback Sacks—Colorado: Fluellen 1-16, Robinson 1-9. **Texas:** Tubbs 2-16, Lewis 1-15, Anderson 1-3.

Passes Broken Up—Colorado: Strickland 3, Sneed. **Texas:** Jammer.

TEAM STATISTICS	COLO	TEXAS
First Downs	18	22
Third Down Efficiency	6-17	4-11
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-2	0-0
Rushes—Net Yards	53-223	23-92
Passing Yards	111	370
Passes (Att-Comp-Int)	19-8-2	43-24-3
Total Offense	334	462
Return Yards	160	108
Punts: No-Average	5-46.8	3-33.7
Fumbles: No-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties/Yards	10/60	5/35
Quarterback Sacks—Yards	2-25	4-34
Time of Possession	35:09	24:51

2002 Oklahoma 29, COLORADO 7 December 7, 2002 (Houston, Texas)

HOUSTON — Quentin Griffin rushed for 188 yards and two touchdowns and Nate Hybl passed for two more as No. 8 Oklahoma wrestled the crown away from defending champion Colorado, as the Sooners downed the No. 12 Buffaloes, 29-7, to win the 2002 Big 12 Conference title.

Some say it's hard to beat a team twice in the same season, but Oklahoma pulled it off in defeating CU for the second time in five weeks. The first time, turnovers helped do the Buffs in, but this time around, Colorado never got untracked offensively.

It looked good for CU out of the gate, as freshman running back sensation Brian Calhoun scooted around the right side for a 37-yard gain on the first play of the game. The Buffs drove to the Sooner 23 before the drive stalled, and it ended without points when Pat Brougham's 41-yard field goal try sailed wide right.

Oklahoma answered with a 13-play, 77-yard drive with Hybl throwing a touchdown pass to Trent Smith on a 3rd-and-goal from the CU 3. OU made it 13-0 after a 21-yard TD pass from Hybl to Mark Clayton five minutes into the second quarter; it culminated a 12-play, 80-yard drive, but Phil Jackson snuck through to block Trey DiCarlo's extra point kick.

Two series later, CU used runs of 25 and 23 yards by Calhoun to work to the OU 14, but again was stopped by a buckling down Sooner defense. Brougham's 32-yard field goal matched his first in missing wide right, and the half would end with Oklahoma up by 13.

Colorado got back in the game and had momentum on its side for the first half of the third quarter. The defense came out of the lockerroom and held the Sooners to three-and-out on their first series. Blake Ferguson hit a 51-yard punt, fielded by Jeremy Bloom at the Buff 20; the freshman slash Olympian raced up the gut and sprinted 80 yards for a touchdown, his second punt return score of the year, and Brougham's extra point cut the deficit to 13-7.

The Buffs held the Sooners again, and on their next possession, Brandon Drumm's 44-yard run on a third-and-2 set CU up in the red zone. But once again the drive sputtered, and Brougham's 33-yard field goal just missed wide right. The Buffs were a bit deflated after that point, and OU seized the opportunity to drive 80 yards in 11 plays, with Griffin scoring from 36 yards out. The Sooners missed the deuce and took a 19-7 lead into the fourth quarter.

Any hopes of a comeback were all but dashed when Oklahoma drove from its 5 to the CU 5 over the course of a 16-play, seven-plus minute drive. Though CU kept OU out of the end zone, DiCarlo made a 28-yard field goal to extend the Sooner lead to 22-7. Griffin's 27-yard touchdown run late in the game closed the night's scoring.

Calhoun finished with 122 yards, a sterling effort since CU was without the services of Doak Walker finalist Chris Brown and sidekick Bobby Purify, who played a few snaps in special third down situations. The Buffs managed only 67 passing yards and 193 overall, while OU piled up 401 in the turnover free game.

Oklahoma	7	6	6	10	—	29
COLORADO	0	0	7	0	—	7

Oklahoma—Smith 3 pass from Hybl (DiCarlo kick)	0-7	5:29	1Q
Oklahoma—Clayton 21 pass from Hybl (kick blocked)	0-13	9:38	2Q
COLORADO—Bloom 80 punt return (Brougham kick)	7-13	13:03	3Q
Oklahoma—Griffin 36 run (pass failed)	7-19	2:54	3Q
Oklahoma—DiCarlo 28 FG	7-22	7:53	4Q
Oklahoma—Griffin 27 run (DiCarlo kick)	7-29	3:49	4Q

Attendance: 63,332 Time: 3:05 Weather: 54 degrees, cloudy skies, no wind

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Colorado: Calhoun 20-122, Drumm 1-44, Houston 1-2, Bloom 1-minus 7, Hodge 9-minus 35. **Oklahoma:** Griffin 29-188, Jones 23-79, Hybl 3-11, Clayton 1-9.

Passing—Colorado: Hodge 15-6-0, 67, 0 td. **Oklahoma:** Hybl 25-14-0, 114, 2 td.

Receiving—Colorado: McCoy 4-51, Monteilh 2-16. **Oklahoma:** Griffin 4-28, Smith 4-19, Clayton 2-32, Fagan 2-19, Peoples 1-11, Savage 1-5.

Punting—Colorado: Mariscal 6-287, 47.8 (55 long, 2 In20); Team 1-38, 38.0. **Oklahoma:** Ferguson 5-208, 41.6 (51 long, 0 In20).

Punt Returns—Colorado: Bloom 3-90. **Oklahoma:** Perkins 5-70.

Kickoff Returns—Colorado: Sneed 3-80. **Oklahoma:** Savage 1-24.

Interceptions—Colorado: none. **Oklahoma:** none.

Tackle Leaders—Colorado: Wahlroos 11,4—15; Mossoni 8,6—14; Iwuh 7,7—14; Moorer 10,3—13; Strickland 8,2—10; Harris 5,0—5; Tufts 2,3—5; Jackson 4,0—4; Fluellen 3,1—4. **Oklahoma:** Mitchell 4,2—6; Strait 5,0—5; Wilkerson 5,0—5; Everage 2,3—5; Bassey 3,1—4; Lehman 2,2—4.

Quarterback Sacks—Colorado: none. **Oklahoma:** Bassey 1-14, Wilkerson 1-13, Mitchell 1-9.

Passes Broken Up—Colorado: Sneed 3, Strickland 2, Iwuh 1. **Oklahoma:** Bassey 2, Strait, Woolfork.

TEAM STATISTICS	COLO	OKLA
First Downs	9	25
Third Down Efficiency	2-12	10-18
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	0-1
Rushes—Net Yards	32-126	56-287
Passing Yards	67	114
Passes (Att-Comp-Int)	15-6-0	25-14-0
Total Offense	193	401
Return Yards	90	70
Punts: No-Average	7-46.4	5-41.6
Fumbles: No-Lost	3-0	1-0
Penalties/Yards	7/58	5/35
Quarterback Sacks—Yards	0-0	3-36
Time of Possession	21:57	38:03

2004 Oklahoma 42, COLORADO 3

December 4, 2004 (Kansas City, Mo.)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Colorado came into the 9th annual Big 12 Championship with no less intention than to win the game, but No. 2 Oklahoma came in on a mission to avenge its bad memories from the year before and in the end, the Sooners' will was overwhelming as OU defeated the Buffaloes in Arrowhead Stadium, 42-3.

The Buffs, who won their third North Division title in four years, were a surprise entrant in the game to many, though several also felt CU was the best team in the division despite claiming it with only a 4-4 mark. Oklahoma, on the other hand, was the No. 2 team in the nation from wire-to-wire and was out for redemption after losing 35-7 to Kansas State in the same venue in 2003.

The Sooners methodically dismantled the Buffaloes, using the run (15 plays) and pass (10) to score touchdowns on its first three possessions in taking a 21-0 lead just seven seconds into the second quarter. Fab freshman Adrian Peterson and senior quarterback Jason White, both Heisman candidates, were the stars of the Sooner Show but both had plenty of support.

Peterson had runs of 18 and 24 yards on OU's first drive, which featured three third down conversions, with White getting Oklahoma on the board with a 5-yard TD pass to Will Peoples, the fifth time CU allowed a touchdown on the game's first possession.

The Buffs' response to the opening score likely could dictate the way the game would play out. CU picked up a first down by penalty on its second play when quarterback Joel Klatt was the victim of a late hit, but two straight penalties against Colorado linemen (holding and a false start) set up a first-and-25 that the Buffs could not get out of. A 55-yard punt by John Torp, who was one of few bright spots on the night, got the Buffs out of trouble, or so it seemed.

The Sooners countered with a quick 6-play, 63-yard effort topped off by a 22-yard pass for a score from White to Mark Clayton. After the Buffs lost 10 yards on three plays when they got the ball back, the duo repeated the feat on OU's next drive in building a 21-0 lead. Peterson scored on a 1-yard after an Antonio Perkins interception of a Klatt pass put the Sooners in business at the CU 40. The 28-0 score held at intermission, and extended to 35-0 after Peterson scored on a 3-yard run to cap a 41-yard drive that ensued following a failed fourth down punt fake by the Buffaloes.

Late in the third quarter, Colorado enjoyed its best moments of the game. Lorenzo Sims picked off his fifth pass of the season and returned it 40 yards to the Oklahoma 32. The Sooner D stiffened, but the Buffs averted a shutout when Mason Crosby made good on a 34-yard field goal. Peterson added a 32-yard TD run early in the fourth to close the game's scoring.

Oklahoma gained 498 yards on offense, though CU had 10 tackles for loss, but the Sooners limited CU to its third fewest yards in history, as the Buffs netted 46 on just 44 plays from scrimmage.

COLORADO	0	0	3	0	—	3
Oklahoma	14	14	7	7	—	42

Oklahoma — Peoples 5 pass from White (Hartley kick).....	0-7	10:21	1Q
Oklahoma — Clayton 22 pass from White (Hartley kick).....	0-14	5:29	1Q
Oklahoma — Clayton 22 pass from White (Hartley kick).....	0-21	14:53	2Q
Oklahoma — Peterson 1 run (Hartley kick).....	0-28	6:06	2Q
Oklahoma — Peterson 1 run (Hartley kick).....	0-35	9:53	2Q
COLORADO — Crosby 34 FG.....	3-35	2:01	3Q
Oklahoma — Peterson 32 run (Hartley kick).....	3-42	12:53	4Q

Attendance: 62,130 Time: 3:10 Weather: 54 degrees, clear skies, 9 mph winds from the southwest

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Colorado: Purify 12-7, Ellis 1-3, Klatt 3-minus 14. **Oklahoma:** Peterson 28-172, Hickson 8-33, K.Jones 7-16, Clayton 2-9, Bradley 1-6.

Passing—Colorado: Klatt 26-8-1, 52; Torp 1-1-0, minus-2; Cox 1-0-0, 0. **Oklahoma:** White 29-22-2, 254, 3 td; Grady 3-2-0, 8.

Receiving—Colorado: Mackey 2-14, Judge 1-10, Littlehales 1-8, Purify 1-7, Sprague 1-6, Duren 1-4, Monteilh 1-3, Brooks 1-minus 2. **Oklahoma:** Clayton 8-106, Wilson 5-72, Bradley 4-46, K.Jones 3-12, Runnels 1-13, B.Jones 1-6, Peoples 1-5, Finley 1-2.

Punting—Colorado: Torp 9-43.6 (55 long, 0 In20). **Oklahoma:** Ferguson 4-38.8 (52 long, 2 In20).

Punt Returns—Colorado: Robinson 2-2. **Oklahoma:** Perkins 4-16.

Kickoff Returns—Colorado: Robinson 5-92, Wheatley 1-13. **Oklahoma:** Bradley 1-33.

Interceptions—Colorado: Sims 1-34, Wheatley 1-0. **Oklahoma:** Perkins 1-0.

Tackle Leaders—Colorado: Iwuh 8.4—12; T.Washington 10.1—11; Henderson 5.3—8; Hubbard 2.5—7; Brooks 6.0—6; Garee 4.2—6; Sims 5.0—5; Dawn 3.1—5; Manupuna 3.1—4; Wheatley 3.1—4. **Oklahoma:** Latimer 4.0—4; Allen 3.1—4; Alexander 3.0—3; Nicholson 2.1—3; seven tied with 2.0—2.

Quarterback Sacks—Colorado: none. **Oklahoma:** Alexander 1-7, Shelby 1-6, Latimer 1-1.

2005 Texas 70, COLORADO 3

December 3, 2005 (Houston, Texas)

HOUSTON — Three turnovers and a blocked punt fueled a 56-point scoring spree in just over 19 minutes as No. 2 Texas ran away from Colorado in defeating the Buffaloes, 70-3, to win the Big 12 Conference championship game.

The Longhorns, on a mission to win their first league title since the conference's inaugural season in 1996, scored on nine of their first 10 possessions in finishing the regular season with a 12-0 record, earning a spot against USC for the national championship in the Rose Bowl.

Colorado came out of the gates decent enough, actually outgained Texas 120-101 in the first quarter, but saw two long drives end with a fumble and a blocked field goal. The 'Horns turned that first miscue, a Hugh Charles fumble, into a quick score, marching 65 yards in seven plays (and in just 116 seconds) to set the tone for the day after a -yard run by Henry Melton. UT scored again on its next possession, a 3-yard run by Jamaal Charles, to go up 14-0 just over nine minutes into the game.

Mason Crosby scored CU's only points on the afternoon with a 25-yard field goal to open the second quarter, pulling the Buffs to within 14-3. That's when Texas countered with eight unanswered touchdowns, which included three TD passes by Heisman Trophy runner-up Vince Young, with two more Jamaal Charles' scoring runs, one each by both Youngs, Vince and Selvin and a blocked punt return for a score. When the smoke cleared, the Longhorns turned an insurmountable 42-3 halftime lead into a 70-3 advantage with 7:36 left in the third quarter.

Leading by 67 and still blitzing, the Longhorns' Drew Kelson ended CU quarterback Joel Klatt's career with an illegal vicious cheap shot to the head in the third quarter. Klatt sustained a concussion, and spent the night in a Houston hospital for observation. He would miss CU's bowl game but still set 44 school records.

Five of the Texas scoring drives fell between 16 and 46 yards, as turnovers and other miscues set the Longhorns up with a short field much of the game. Texas finished with 486 total yards, including a season-high 268 yards rushing against CU's No. 2 ranked defense against the run. Colorado could not muster much offense after the first quarter, gaining just 71 yards in the final three quarters to finish with 191 on the day.

Texas	14	28	28	0	—	70
COLORADO	0	3	0	0	—	3

Texas— Melton 1 run (Pino kick).....	0-7	9:44	1Q
Texas— Charles 3 pass from Young (Pino kick).....	0-14	5:59	1Q
COLORADO— Crosby 25 FG.....	3-14	14:48	2Q
Texas— Young 2 run (Pino kick).....	3-21	12:00	2Q
Texas— Sweed 31 pass from Young (Pino kick).....	3-28	11:37	2Q
Texas— Thomas 8 pass from Young (Pino kick).....	3-35	7:20	2Q
Texas— Charles 2 run (Pino kick).....	3-42	0:25	2Q
Texas— Young 4 run (Pino kick).....	3-49	11:26	3Q
Texas— Foster recovered blocked punt in end zone (Pino kick).....	3-56	10:21	3Q
Texas— Charles 26 run (Pino kick).....	3-63	9:59	3Q
Texas— Melton 1 run (Pino kick).....	3-70	7:36	3Q

Attendance: 71,107 Time: 3:23 Weather: 80 degrees, partly cloudy, no wind

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Colorado: Charles 12-36, Klatt 4-26, Robinson 1-9, Cox 2-6, Ellis 5-3, Vickers 2-2. **Texas:** Charles 7-62, V.Young 8-57, S.Young 3-42, Taylor 1-41, Melton 13-34, McCoy 3-11, Ogbonnaya 5-11, Nordgren 2-9, Myers 2-1.

Passing—Colorado: Klatt 24-14-1, 100, 0 td; Cox 8-1-0, 9. **Texas:** V. Young 17-14-1, 193, 3 td; Nordgren 2-20, 25.

Receiving—Colorado: Klopfenstein 4-23, Sypniewski 2-15, Barnett 2-14, Charles 2-5, Judge 1-24, Sprague 1-22, Williams 1-5, Vickers 1-2, Ellis 1-minus 1. **Texas:** Sweed 5-102, Cosby 4-52, Thomas 3-31, Walker 1-22, S. Young 1-5, Ogbonnaya 1-3, Charles 1-3.

Punting—Colorado: Torp 6-38.0 (55 long, 0 In20, 1 blk). **Texas:** McGee 2-34.0 (39 long, 0 In20).

Punt Returns—Colorado: Robinson 1-3. **Texas:** M.Griffin 1-21, Ross 3-21.

Kickoff Returns—Colorado: Te.Washington 2-40, Robinson 3-56. **Texas:** Taylor 2-83.

Interceptions—Colorado: Hubbard 1-21. **Texas:** Brown 1-11.

Tackle Leaders—Colorado: Th.Washington 6.4—10; Garee 6.3—9; Billingsley 8.0—8; Iwuh 5.2—7; Burl 6.0—6; Dizon 6.0—6; Barrett 3.2—5; Sims 2.3—5. **Texas:** C. Griffin 4.3—7; Killebrew 4.3—7; Huff 4.2—6; Bobino 2.4—6; M.Griffin 4.1—5.

Quarterback Sacks—Colorado: none. **Texas:** none.