

2004 OUTLOOK

Looking back to last fall and the day after Thanksgiving, when Colorado saw Nebraska rally with 10 fourth quarter points and post a 31-22 win, ending CU's hopes of becoming bowl eligible, the expected disappointment and frustration was there as the Buffs finished with just their third losing record (5-7) in the past 19 seasons.

What has transpired in the off-season has made the above a distant memory. Allegations raised about the CU football program's recruiting practices in conjunction with three Title IX lawsuits eventually led to head coach **Gary Barnett** being placed on paid administrative leave for three months.

In his absence, Barnett could not direct any aspect of the program, thus university officials named assistant head coach **Brian Cabral** as the interim head coach on February 20. Cabral considered himself on "administrative assignment" and did a great job in taking over the reins of a program that is excited to get back on the field and prove that the 2003 season was an aberration following the school's 2001 Big 12 Conference title and 2002 North Division crown.

"There was a lot of excitement," Cabral said of spring drills. "They came in very excited about the gains made through the winter, and as a result, we're farther ahead than they were at this time last year. That, and the desire to go practice, get away from everything and play some ball. We can say that we have got a really solid foundation right now, on both offense and defense. We needed to do that; we needed to get back to basics. For a young team we needed to do a lot of things better, and we did that."

CU returns 39 lettermen and 12 starters from last season, which started off well enough with an exciting 42-35 win over rival Colorado State. It was a coming out party for sophomore quarterback **Joel Klatt**, who was named the national player of the week for his 402-yard, 4-TD effort in the game, which saw **Bobby Purify** score the game winning score on a 9-yard run in the game's final minute. The Buffs followed that win with a 16-14 triumph over UCLA in Boulder to go to 2-0 on the season.

But things went sour shortly thereafter, as CU struggled on defense, allowing 42 or more points in five straight games as the Buffs dropped six of their next seven games. A late-season turnaround produced convincing wins over Missouri and Iowa State, after battling No. 1 Oklahoma and then Texas Tech to the wire, but the year came to a sudden close with the loss to Nebraska.

Barnett has made two changes in his coaching staff. He brought back former CU assistant **Mike Hankwitz** in his old role of defensive coordinator, one he held for seven years in Boulder between 1988 and 1994. When Vance Joseph left for Bowling Green in April, veteran secondary coach **Chris Bray** was hired.

The biggest change for the Buffs in 2004 will be the return to a 4-3 base defense (pro style), as CU had been running a 4-2-5 the last two seasons, one that had success at times but overall didn't produce the results Barnett & Co. desired.

The biggest test might well lie on the offensive side of the ball. "The challenge for us is to get back to the identity that we want to have, and that's to be an efficient, effective rushing team," offensive coordinator **Shawn Watson** said. "At the same time, we want to maintain the efficiency we created and have as a passing team. Last year at this time, we set out to become a better passing team and we accomplished that goal. We want to improve on that level because you never want to stay the same, but most importantly, we want to get our running game back to where it has been."

Colorado has the nucleus for an explosive offense, based on the depth at quarterback, running back and tight end. Klatt has five talented players behind him who all want his job, raising the ante at the position as Watson has stated, and coaches love that kind of competition, especially for the most important position on the team. Quarterback is the deepest position on the team, with tight end right there with the likes of junior **Joe Klopfenstein** and seniors **Quinn Sypniewski** and **Jesse Wallace**. But what might prove to be the most intriguing situation is how the roles at tailback and fullback play out.

Purify, a senior, is back after being granted a medical redshirt for 2003, as he suffered a nasty high ankle sprain in the third game of the year against Washington State, one that eventually required surgery. Junior **Lawrence Vickers** and sophomore **Daniel Jolly** will line up 1-2 at fullback, with the twist being that both can and will play some tailback as well. Add to that mix a talented redshirt freshman in **Isaiah Crawford** and two incoming recruits, there's almost no end to the creativity the offensive coaches can employ this fall. On one condition, that is.

The graduation of receivers D.J. Hackett and Derek McCoy, who combined for 141 catches, 1,896 yards and 18 touchdowns last fall, combined with the unknown status of junior **Jeremy Bloom**, has left a void at the position. (Bloom has started accepting endorsements to finance his pursuit of a medal in moguls skiing in the 2006 Olympics, at present not allowed by the NCAA but an appeal has been filed in his behalf.) While the coaches know they have a lot of raw talent at receiver, experience is lacking for most, other than senior **Ron Monteilh**, who will likely become a go-to guy for the quarterbacks and be called upon to provide leadership for the younger guys. If the group can develop as hoped, the coaching staff will have what it needs to incorporate the creativity they want for a bevy of multiple sets and formations.

The offensive line will of course play an integral role if the offense is to succeed, and it had its struggles a year ago as the Buffs battled through a nasty schedule with just one returning starter from its two-year run of dominating the nation in rushing yards gained out of the tailback position. The difference this time around is that three starters are back, along with a total of 2,851 snaps of experience, almost four times the figure at this time last year.

Senior **Sam Wilder**, who switched from defense to offense just two weeks before the season opener in 2003, and super soph **Brian Daniels** figure to anchor a maturing group of linemen who are looking to become the force they were as recent as two years ago.

Defensively, the switch to the 4-3 produced only some short-term growing pains in the spring, as much of what the players were asked to do resembled what was installed late last year, when the Buffs started to play some pretty good defense, beginning in a 34-20 loss to top-ranked Oklahoma. By the end of spring, most everyone was comfortable in their new roles and assignments.

"Overall, I don't think it will be a drastic change for the majority of people," Hankwitz said. "At the end of the (2003) season, they were playing more zone coverage and did some zone blitzes, played some two deep things, so what they evolved into is closer to what we're going to be, and that will provide some carryover from what they did. I think the biggest change will be going from a predominantly three-deep to a four-deep secondary look."

The look up front is promising with the likes of junior end **James Garee** and senior tackles **Matt McChesney** and **Brandon Dabdoub**. But much needs to be determined as far as the depth chart is concerned on defense, especially at inside linebacker, where the graduation of Sean Tufts creates an opportunity for one of the younger guys to step up.

The secondary also has the potential to be loaded. Sophomore cornerback **Terrence Wheatley** is now seasoned, and the talent is pretty deep at safety, with junior **J.J. Billingsley** and sophomore **Dominique Brooks** leading the way. Bolstering the group is the return of a pair of former Buffs, as sophomores **Gerett Burl** and **Tyrone Henderson** are back in good standing and will figure prominently this fall.

Special teams had bright spots as well as low spots in 2003. Several long returns, including two for scores, missed PAT kicks and four blocked punts overshadowed Bloom's efforts in leading the conference in kick return yards, a solid gross punting average by junior **John Torp**, and a freshman scoring record for kicker **Mason Crosby**. If Bloom returns, there is a distinct possibility that all three could be in the hunt for postseason honors, as CU's special team efforts should reach a greater level this fall.

The schedule was a bear in 2003, but the Buffs have been used to that for a while, playing one of the nation's top 15 toughest for four straight years. As to if it will be easier in 2004, perhaps only because college football returns to an 11-game schedule instead of a dozen. North Texas is in and UCLA and Florida State out in the non-conference portion, but in league play, it's time for the bi-yearly swap of South Division opponents as Oklahoma State, Texas and Texas A&M replace Baylor, Oklahoma and Texas Tech.

And now, the annual refresher: when Barnett returned to CU as head coach in 1999, he coined the phrase, "Return to Dominance" (or RTD). The proclamation included a list of things he felt would accomplish the mission. CU came very close to fulfilling all of them in its run to the 2001 Big 12 championship, as well as in defending its North Division title the following year. The "report card" for 2003:

- ◆ **Install a balanced offense and bringing back the constant threat of the big play.** The offense was fairly well balanced the first three of the Barnett years, especially in play selection. In 2002, the scales tipped to rushing mainly because of injuries and what CU felt it could do in the passing game, and in 2003, it swung the other way. CU rushed 45% of the time for 31% of its yards, meaning passing accounted for 55% of the calls for 69% of the yards. The long plays were there for the most part with 47 of 20 yards or longer, but 42 of those came through the air.
- ◆ **Being able to run the football for a first down on third-and-short.** The Buffs converted at a 40 percent clip on third downs, actually better than '02 (38%), and were 67 percent (34-of-51) on third-and-short (one, two or three yards). On rushing tries alone, CU was 25-of-50 overall on third downs (50%, in line with the average the two previous seasons). And the Buffs have converted on 61 percent of its fourth down tries in the last 54 games (53-of-87), many of which were good, old-fashioned smashmouth power running plays.
- ◆ **Inspiring awe and fear into the opponent.** Always hard to gauge, but with a running game that was inconsistent and the run of five 40-plus 40-point games allowed, the Buffs had enough of their own concerns before instilling the aforementioned into their opponent on most occasions.

- ◆ **Game day discipline, as in cutting down on the number of penalties and correctable mistakes.** Many of the penalties could be traced to youthful mistakes, as for example, there were 42 offensive penalties compared to just 23 the previous year. CU allowed 15 opponent plays (all passes) of 40 yards or longer, but has allowed exactly that many in the previous 27 games prior to 2003. Opponents blocked seven kicks last year, after CU allowed just four to be swatted away the prior 38 games.
- ◆ **Dictating the game against unranked and lesser opponents.** From start to finish, CU dictated the action three, perhaps four times in 2003, with the most dominant outing against Iowa State. But the schedule didn't provide for much opportunity for that to happen.
- ◆ **Returning as a mainstay in the national polls, similar to CU's consecutive 143-week run between 1989 and 1997.** The Buffs opened the year unranked, and appeared briefly for two weeks, with a high ranking of No. 17 after opening 2-0.
- ◆ **Playing games in November, December and January that have significant meaning.** CU only was fortunate enough to play in November, and the Buffs went 2-1 in pursuit of becoming bowl eligible. But it wasn't the kind of meaningful that is desired.

The Big 12 remains as tough as ever. The North might be wide open, especially with the charging Missouri Tigers, and the South Division has wrestled dominance away from the North, at least during the regular season until Kansas State's dramatic and convincing title game win over OU.



S J.J. Billingsley

IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE BUFFS

Offense

Quarterback A year ago, this was the position with the most question marks and the least experience; but fast-forward to 2004, and it may very well be the deepest single position on the team. Junior **Joel Klatt**, who entered 2003 with all of eight snaps as a collegiate quarterback, had a breakthrough season in passing for 2,614 yards and 21 touchdowns with a 140.2 rating, all top five marks in CU history. Junior **Erik Greenberg** saw action in six games, starting two (his first career start came at Florida State), and threw for 737 yards and six scores in proving he was a solid backup. Sophomore **James Cox** got into a couple of games but was in the hunt for the starting job with Klatt and Greenberg and is now a seasoned veteran (and ended the spring second on the depth chart). The Buffs have three talented youngsters in the mix, redshirt freshmen **Bernard Jackson** and **Brian White**, and true frosh **Ryan Walters**, who graduated early and enrolled at CU in January (though missed spring drills due to illness). Thus, the Buffs have six scholarship players all with differing talents as the Buffs are well stocked with signal callers.

Running Back The Buffs remain fairly loaded at the position, boasting two career 1,000-yard runners at the position. Senior **Bobby Purify**, who suffered a nasty high ankle sprain three games into the 2003 season, was awarded a medical redshirt for the injury that required postseason surgery. He brings 1,999 career yards to the table, and is also an excellent receiver. Sophomore **Brandon Caesar** saw some playing time a year ago and thus brings some experience to the position, while redshirt frosh **Isaiah Crawford** turned heads in practice both last fall and this spring and slipped ahead of Caesar on the post-spring depth, and Caesar had a solid spring himself. Another redshirt freshman, walk-on **Ryan Enright**, fills out depth at the position.

Fullback The beauty of this position is that the top two on the spring depth, junior **Lawrence Vickers** and sophomore **Daniel Jolly**, are combo tailback-fullback type players who can get the job done at either position. Vickers blossomed his sophomore year, and also emerged as a solid option in the passing game, while Jolly found himself the go-to guy in many short yard situations his true freshman year. Both lined up at both spots in the spring with quite a bit of success. Sophomore **Paul Creighton** and junior transfer **Brendan Schaub** are both converted tight ends who will lineup at fullback; Creighton, a former walk-on, impressed the coaches to earn a scholarship and played several scrimmage snaps at tight end in 2003, while Schaub was moved to the position during practices while he sat out the season after transferring from Whittier.

Offensive Line The line experienced growing pains in 2003, but it was expected as the previous two seasons produced four NFL draft picks and only two seniors dotted the offensive line roster. The difference this year is that while players who took only 22 percent of the snaps returned for last fall, that figure increases to 64 percent in 2004 (or 2,851 snaps of experience). Three starters return, led by senior **Sam Wilder** and sophomore **Brian Daniels**. Wilder, who was moved to the offensive line midway through fall drills, had some of the expected struggles in making the conversion but held his own and the end result is that he's a likely all-star candidate this season. Daniels was thrust into a starting role for the first time at Florida State (of all places), and would go on to make nine starts in all, the most ever at Colorado on the offensive line by a true frosh. Wilder will man split tackle and Daniels tight guard, while the third returning starter, **Derek Stemrich**, missed spring drills

recovering from knee surgery and could line up practically anywhere in fall camp. O-line coach **Dave Borbely** figures to try a lot of people in different places to come up with the proper chemistry he desires, but senior **Terrance Barreau** (a one-time starter at Air Force), sophomore **Mark Fenton** and junior college transfer **John Guydon** figure to continue to duke it out in August for the top spot at center. Fenton got some game experience in last fall, while Guydon practiced as a defensive tackle, his JUCO position, before agreeing to switch to offense after the season. Occasional regulars **Clint O'Neal** and **Gary Moore**, both juniors, figure heavily on the tight side of the line, as O'Neal is atop the depth at tackle and Moore is behind Daniels at guard. Those who should compete for spots high on the depth chart, if not starting roles, includes a wide array of potentials: sophomore **Jack Tipton** and redshirt freshmen **Edwin Harrison** and **Tyler Polumbus**. But the two-deep across the board is anything but settled and look for some players to swing between positions, including Barreau, Guydon, Moore and Tipton.

Receiver The strongest position on the Buffs in 2003, there is still a bevy of talent here, but experience is what's missing from a group that has to try to replace 141 combined receptions by graduates D.J. Hackett and Derek McCoy... and that's not including 22 more by junior **Jeremy Bloom**, as CU is awaiting the results of appeals filed with both the courts and the NCAA to allow him to accept endorsement deals to support his bid to ski in the 2006 Winter Olympics. The only other returning receiver who caught a pass last fall is senior **Ron Monteilh** (18 for 153 yards); he has the talent to replace Hackett or McCoy, and the leadership to help bring along others at the position. Sophomores **Blake Mackey** and **Tyler Littlehales** and redshirt freshmen **Stephone Robinson** and **Dusty Sprague** are the lead candidates to work their way into the rotation, which last year basically featured five receivers (including the four aforemen-



TB Bobby Purify



tioned plus grad John Donahoe). There are others who could break through, though, including senior **Mike Duren**, selected as the spring's Most Improved Offensive Player, juniors **Evan Judge** and **Marcus Gonzales** and sophomore **Nick Holz**; all are former or current walk-ons.

Tight End Junior **Joe Klopfenstein** enjoyed a fine 2003 season, proving a threat as a receiver (20 catches, four touchdowns) while improving as a blocker as the season progressed. Two seniors will also fit into the rotation, as **Quinn Sypniewski** earned a medical redshirt after toe surgery (he returned to have a fine spring), and **Jesse Wallace** (12 catches, solid blocker) will combine with Klopfenstein to form a most formidable trio. Sophomore walk-on **Dan Goettsch** is the only other tight end on the roster and will provide depth.

Defense

Defensive Front The unit returns players who have seen action in 130 games combined in their Buffalo days, with 40 starts. It all adds up to a group that should be one of CU's strengths. Junior **James Garee**, who really came on the second half of the '03 campaign, and sophomore **Alex Ligon** emerged as the post-spring starters at defensive end; Harris competed on a limited contact basis and it's apparent that JC transfer **Abraham Wright** (a sophomore) will bid for playing time after a fine spring. Redshirt frosh **Chadd Evans** and true freshman **Alonzo Barrett** also stock CU well at end; Garee and Evans manned the rush end slot in spring drills. On the inside, seniors **Brandon Dabdoub** (who missed the spring with a town pec muscle) and **Matt McChesney**, with 29 career starts between them, are expected to anchor the trenches, with junior **Vaka Manupuna**, senior **McKenzie Tilmon** and sophomore **Marcus Jones** looking to find their spot in the regular rotation. Line coach **Chris Wilson** prefers to utilize a six-to-eight man rotation among the ends and tackles to keep his players fresh, as well as play off on other aspects of the Buff defense, so there's plenty of room for players to crack the rotation. Junior **Nick Clement**, a walk-on, is also capable of doing just that.

Inside Linebacker There's not a single senior listed inside on the CU roster, but the talent and experience is plentiful as juniors **Akarika Dawn** and **Chris Hollis** and sophomores **Thaddaeus Washington** and **Walter Boye-Doe** made 10 starts among them in 2003. The regulars will likely emerge out of this foursome, though sophomore **Jason Ackermann** could bid for playing time as well. All five are the kind of linebackers veteran coach **Brian Cabral** loves to have play on the inside: good run stoppers who have fared well when they drop into coverage. It's also a versatile group, as Dawn has bounced between linebacker and safety in his Buff career, while Hollis has played some defensive end. Redshirt frosh **Joe Sanders** moved to ILB from tight end two weeks into the spring and looked pretty good in his transition there. Junior **Kyle Griffith**, a key special teams performer, and redshirt freshman **John Martin**, both walk-ons, round out the position (Martin aspires to be like his father, Rocky, a dominant middle linebacker for the Buffs in the late 1960s). Boye-Doe (personal reasons) and Griffith (illness) both did not practice in the spring.

Outside Linebacker Officially called the "Buff Linebacker" position, the return of an outside linebacker in CU's defense will usually lineup on the strong side, but also might be asked to play some as a low safety. Junior **Brian Iwuh** shined in the spring at the new position; at 6-1, 220, he's closer to a line-

backer in size but has played primarily strong and weak safety in his CU career to date. Sophomores **Ben Carpenter**, a former quarterback, and **Chad Cusworth**, who moved over from safety, also practiced at the position in the spring with success.

Secondary The return to a 4-3 base defense means the elimination of one of the safety positions that has occupied the depth chart the last two seasons (the weak side slot). Three regulars depart, and their absence creates some openings, as the trio of Medford Moorer, Phil Jackson and Clyde Surrell accounted for 28 starts, 206 tackles, 15 pass deflections, 16 third down stops and five forced fumbles a year ago. However, this is the area of the team that has quite a bit of young talent, with some already experienced and can entrench themselves for several years. Junior **J.J. Billingsley** (free safety), sophomore **Terrence Wheatley** (cornerback) and **Dominique Brooks** (strong safety) are the players returning with the most quality game experience. Billingsley is a two-year starter, while the soph trio sewed their oats so-to-speak by playing 1,442 snaps last year. Wheatley sports a team 4.37 best in the 40-yard dash so there is some speed in the secondary. At cornerback, add into the mix junior **Vance Washington**, mainly a special teams performer to date but a burner (4.48), and sophomore **Lorenzo Sims**, who did see some game action as a true frosh in 2003. Also back is sophomore **Gerett Burl**, who attended Garden City CC last year after his freshman season at Colorado; the coaches were high on him then and remain excited about his prospects now as he had an excellent spring. Two redshirt freshmen, **Chris Russell** and **Lionel Harris**, figure to work their way into the strong safety rotation and other pass coverage packages, as does sophomore **Tyrone Henderson**, who attended Front Range Community College while serving a suspension for violating team rules. Junior **A.J. Anderson** rounds out the depth at cornerback, while at free safety, junior **Tom Hubbard** does the same. Hubbard saw special teams action last fall, and the others stand a good chance of participating in the same manner.

Kicking Game/Special Teams

Special teams more often than not have been a strong suit for the Buffaloes, but in 2003, the Buffs were all over the map. Ranging from **Jeremy Bloom** ranking in the top 30 in both punt and kick-off returns to six missed PAT kicks and an 82nd rank nationally in net punting, life was at the very least always interesting when the offense and defense were off the field. The good news is that the Buffs have a solid corps of returning kickers with a lot of experience under their belts and could make the kicking game one of the bread-and-butter portions of the game in 2004. Junior **John Torp** averaged a healthy 42.5 yards per punt last fall, but four blocked kicks (two for touchdowns) and another returned for a score soured the unit as a whole. Sophomore placekickers **Mason Crosby** and **Kevin Eberhart** both played as true freshmen, a rarity at their position in college ball, with Crosby handling the bulk of the chores (31-37 PAT, 7-9 FG). Both kicked off, with 26 of Crosby's 37 going for touchbacks (and nine of 24 by Eberhart). Crosby also is the backup punter, with sophomore **J.P. Heaton** providing depth, with senior **J.T. Eberly** the third kicker on the roster. Bloom's eligibility pending NCAA and court rulings will greatly affect the return game; others in the mix will include **Ron Monteilh**, **Mike Duren**, **J.J. Billingsley**, **Terrence Wheatley**, **Stephone Robinson** and **Dusty Sprague**. Sprague and **Nick Holz** will vie for holder duties, with short snapper **Greg Pace** back and **Matt Hammond** and **John Guydon** also working out at the position.

KNOW COLORADO FOOTBALL

2003 Summary Colorado opened the season with a 42-35 win over Colorado State, followed that up with a 16-14 win over UCLA to open 2-0 for the first time since 1998, but the success would be short-lived as the Buffs dropped six of their next seven to fall to 3-6 after nine games. Within that was a 50-47 overtime win over Kansas, and a hard fought, 34-20 loss to No. 1 Oklahoma, when the Buff defense started to come around a bit. CU played its best ball in mid-November, when the Buffs toppled No. 22 Missouri, 21-16, then went on the road and easily defeated an outmanned Iowa State team, 44-10. At 5-6, Colorado needed a win over No. 25 Nebraska to move to .500 for the year, and become bowl eligible. In a nip-and-tuck game, the Buffs pulled ahead 22-21 in the third quarter, only to see the Huskers rally for a 31-22 win, thus ending CU's season.

Historically Colorado is in its second century of intercollegiate football, as the Buffaloes have concluded their 114th season of competition with an all-time record of **635-391-36** in **1,062** games. CU currently stands 15th on the all-time win list and is 21st in all-time winning percentage (.615). Only Texas, Oklahoma and Nebraska from the Big 12 rank ahead of CU on each list, and only 12 Division I schools have played more seasons of intercollegiate football than Colorado. In Boulder, the Buffs are **271-129-10** in 79 seasons on the "hilltop" (Folsom Field). Against Big 12 opposition, CU is **234-198-13** against the other 11 members of the conference, formed in 1996.

In-The-Polls CU was unranked in both the final *Associated Press* (media) and *USA Today/ESPN* (coaches) polls of Sunday, January 4. The Buffs had climbed to No. 17 in both after opening 2-0, and prior to the 47-26 loss to Washington State. CU opened the year unranked and received votes in each, but entered the rankings after the win over CSU in the opener. So, dating back to the preseason 1989 polls, CU has been ranked in **182** of the last **247** polls (*AP*; 74%), which includes a tremendous run of 143 consecutive between 1989 and 1997 (the 10th longest streak of all-time). Since 1989, CU has played the fourth most ranked teams in the nation (79), trailing Florida (85), Florida State (84) and Michigan (83).

Eighth Best Since 1989 Colorado has the nation's eighth best record over the last 15 seasons, or since the start of 1989, CU has posted a **125-53-4** record. Over the last 18-plus years, Colorado's **153-72-4** mark is 14th nationally, from the time then-coach Bill McCartney reversed CU's fortunes by switching to the wishbone on offense (CU had the 10th best record in the 1990s, 87-29-4, .742, for teams that were Division I-A the entire decade). The best Division I-A records from the start of the 1989 season through all games of 2003:

| Rk | School | vs. AP Ranked Teams | | | | | G | W-L-T | 2003 |
|----------|-----------------|---------------------|------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| | | G | W | L | T | Pct. | | | |
| 1 | Florida State | 187 | 157 | 29 | 1 | .842 | 84 | 60-23-1 | 10-3 |
| 2 | Nebraska | 188 | 155 | 32 | 1 | .827 | 57 | 32-24-1 | 10-3 |
| 3 | Miami, Fla. | 181 | 149 | 32 | 0 | .823 | 66 | 41-25-0 | 11-2 |
| 4 | Tennessee | 186 | 146 | 37 | 3 | .793 | 70 | 41-26-3 | 10-3 |
| 5 | Florida | 188 | 145 | 42 | 1 | .774 | 85 | 49-35-1 | 8-5 |
| 6 | Michigan | 183 | 139 | 41 | 3 | .768 | 83 | 50-31-2 | 10-3 |
| 7 | Ohio State | 186 | 139 | 44 | 3 | .755 | 76 | 40-33-3 | 11-2 |
| 8 | COLORADO | 182 | 125 | 53 | 4 | .698 | 79 | 40-37-2 | 5-7 |
| 9 | Kansas State | 183 | 127 | 55 | 1 | .697 | 45 | 17-27-1 | 11-4 |
| 9 | Penn State | 183 | 127 | 55 | 1 | .697 | 66 | 32-34-0 | 3-9 |
| (11) | Texas A & M | 184 | 127 | 55 | 2 | .696 | 57 | 25-31-1 | 4-8 |

Bufs Played Second Most Frosh In Big 12

Colorado had eight true freshmen seeing regular action (two-deep and specialists), the second highest total in the Big 12 Conference in 2003. Baylor led the way with nine, followed by CU (8), Oklahoma State (6), Texas, Texas A&M and Texas Tech (all 5), Iowa State and Nebraska (both with 4), Kansas and Missouri (2 apiece) and Kansas State and Oklahoma (1 each). CU, Baylor, ISU, OSU and Tech are starting the most true frosh—two players.

The Schedule CU again played one of the nation's toughest schedules in 2003, as according to the NCAA formula through all regular season games (Dec. 6), CU's slate ranked eighth among the 117 Division I-A schools. CU's opponents, not counting games against the Buffs, were 76-52 combined (.594). Five Big 12 schools were in the top 20: No. 4 Texas A & M (79-46, .632), No. 5 Iowa State (73-45, .619); CU; Kansas State (No. 10, 74-52, .587); and Oklahoma (No. 18; 78-62, .557). Four others were in the top 50: Baylor (no. 30), Texas (No. 34), Texas Tech (No. 46) and Oklahoma State (No. 48). (*This is not the BCS' formula for schedule strength.*)

Road-Sweet-Road The Buffs have enjoyed more a lot of success on the road over the last 15 seasons. CU has been victorious 53 of the last 79 times in enemy stadiums and is **61-31-1** dating back to the 1985 season (a 66.1 winning clip). During this time frame, CU won a school record 10 straight road games (between 1994 and 1996), before the streak ended in the '96 regular season finale at Nebraska, 17-12 (it bested the old mark of eight straight set between 1922 and 1924). Over the last 15 seasons, Colorado is **52-25-1** away from home (a 67.3 winning percentage), which stands eighth nationally and second among Big 12 Conference teams in this span. The Buffaloes own a **42-18-1** mark in their last 61 road conference games (Big 8 & Big 12—five losses at Nebraska, two at Kansas, Kansas State, Oklahoma and Texas Tech; and one each at Baylor, Oklahoma State, Missouri and

ON THE ROAD (1988-current)

| School | W | L | T | Pct. |
|---------------|----|----|---|-------|
| Miami, Fla. | 65 | 18 | 0 | 0.783 |
| Florida State | 59 | 17 | 0 | 0.776 |
| Tennessee | 54 | 18 | 2 | 0.743 |
| Nebraska | 53 | 21 | 1 | 0.713 |
| Michigan | 54 | 21 | 3 | 0.712 |
| Ohio State | 51 | 22 | 2 | 0.693 |
| Florida | 44 | 20 | 1 | 0.685 |
| Colorado | 52 | 25 | 1 | 0.673 |
| Alabama | 50 | 25 | 0 | 0.667 |
| Notre Dame | 47 | 26 | 2 | 0.640 |
| Penn State | 47 | 30 | 1 | 0.609 |

(road only; neutral sites not included)

Texas; the tie was at K-State in 1993). CU is **17-15** on the Big 12 road since 1996. (The Buffs were 1-4 on the road in 2003.) This does not include neutral site games, some of which were anything but neutral (i.e., Texas at Irving for the Big 12 title).

Chart Watch Here's where several Buffs rank on some of CU's all-time statistical charts through the 2003 season (note Colorado does not count bowl stats into career totals to protect past history):

- ⇒ **WR JEREMY BLOOM** is eighth in punt return yards (625), is tied for fifth in punt return touchdowns (2), is 11th in kick-off return yards (627), is 57th in receiving yards (458) and is 48th in all-purpose yards (1,792).
- ⇒ **TB BRIAN CALHOUN** is 41st in rushing yards (1,108), and is tied for 48th in receptions (36).
- ⇒ **QB ERIK GREENBERG** is for 31st in passing yards (737), and is tied for 24th in touchdown passes (6).



- ⇒ **QB JOEL KLATT** is 10th in passing yards (2,614), is eighth in completions (233), is 13th in attempts (359), is seventh in touchdown passes (21), is third in efficiency rating (140.0) and is 23rd in total offense (2,523).
- ⇒ **TB BOBBY PURIFY** is tied for 15th in rushing yards (1,999), is 48th in receptions (36), and is 26th in all-purpose yards (2,362).
- ⇒ **HC GARY BARNETT** is sixth in games coached (62), eighth in wins (34) and is sixth in league wins (25).

Trends I Since 1985, when the Buffs returned to their traditional winning ways after six frustrating years, Colorado is 153-72-4, the 14th best record nationally in this span). In these 229 games, CU has posted the following records (including bowls):

- with 400-plus yards total offense 95-14-2
- with 500-plus yards total offense 48- 4-0
- when leading in time of possession 101-18-3
- when making 20-plus first downs 97-24-1
- when converting 50 percent or better on 3rd down 61- 6-1
- when punting three or fewer times 56-10-1
- when scoring first 96-18-1
- with two or fewer turnovers (26-6-2 with zero) 110-32-2
- when holding opponent to 17 points or less 94-14-1
- when holding opponent under 100 yards rushing 73- 6-1
- when holding opponent under 300 yards total offense 78-11-1
- when leading after three quarters (125-9-3 in last 137) 129-11-3
- when leading at halftime (111-11-2 in last 124) 127-13-2
- when scoring 24 or more points 124-16-2
- when scoring 14 or more points 150-46-4
- when held to 13 points or less 3-26-0
- when passing for more yards than rushing 58-45-2
- when holding edge in 1st downs & possession time 86-12-2

Trends II Since 1989, when the Buffs became a regular in the national rankings, Colorado has posted the nation's ninth best overall record at 125-53-4. Here's are some trends during this time frame (182 games, including bowls):

- when running more plays than the opponent 73-20-3
- with 400-plus yards total offense (42-4 with 500-plus) 81-14-2
- when scoring 30 or more points 82- 5-1
- when leading in possession time (45-37-1 when not) 80-16-3
- when making 20-plus first downs 84-21-1
- when converting 50 percent or better on 3rd down 47- 5-1
- when scoring first (63-9-1 the last 73 times) 74-12-1
- with two or fewer turnovers (20-6-2 with zero) 92-26-2
- when holding opponent to 17 points or less 70- 7-1
- when holding opponent under 100 yards rushing 57- 6-1
- when holding opponent under 300 yards total off. 57- 6-1
- when average field position is CU 30+ (23-2 40+) 89-22-2
- when play selection is 50 percent rushing calls 107-18-2
- when rushing for 200-plus yards 69- 4-1
- when rushing for 250-plus yards 49- 1-1
- when rushing for 300-plus yards 30- 0-1
- when rushing and passing for at least 200 yards 29- 2-0
- when passing for 200-plus yards 64-29-2
- when passing for 300-plus yards (9-0-1 400-plus) 22- 9-1
- when passing for more yards than rushing 58-45-2
- when holding edge in 1st downs & possession time 68-11-2
- when holding edge in field position 97-15-1
- when out-rushing the opponent (62-3 the last 65) 101- 5-3
- when owning the edge in return yards 97-19-2

Trends III Gary Barnett took over the reins of the CU program in 1999. CU has a 34-28 overall record with him as mentor, and here are some trends during his tenure (62 games, including bowls):

- ◆ when scoring 30 or more points 25-3
- ◆ when taking a lead after trailing (15-4 last 19) 20-10
- ◆ when leading in possession time (11-17 when not) 23-11
- ◆ with two or fewer turnovers (3-3 with zero) 11-7
- ◆ when turnover margin for CU is plus or even 29-12
- last 23 games when plus or even 20-3
- ◆ when converting 50 percent or better on 3rd down 10-3
- ◆ when scoring first (9-23 when not) 25-5
- ◆ when leading at halftime 27-5
- ◆ when trailing at halftime (1-2 when tied) 6-21
- ◆ when holding opponent to 17 points or less 15-2
- ◆ when holding opponent under 100 yards rushing 15-5
- ◆ when holding opponent under 300 yards total offense 10-2
- ◆ when play selection is 50 percent rushing calls 29-10
- ◆ when rushing for 200-plus yards 17-2
- ◆ when rushing for 250-plus yards 15-0
- ◆ when rushing for 300-plus yards 8-0
- ◆ when rushing for more yards than passing 17-4
- ◆ with a 100-yard rusher (17-3 last 20) 20-8
- ◆ when rushing and passing for at least 200 yards 7-1
- ◆ with 400-plus yards total offense 22-9
- ◆ with 500-plus yards total offense 14-2
- ◆ when out-rushing the opponent 28-3
- ◆ when owning the edge in return yards 25-10
- ◆ with 75 or more return yards in a game 11-7



QB Joel Klatt



Experience Analysis CU started all upperclassmen in almost every game in 2002, and for the season, juniors and seniors started 93% of the time; **in 12 games in '03, that percentage dropped to 58.3%**. The 2003 numbers are close to those in 2000, which set up CU's '01 Big 12 title run. Going into 2004, 56 players on the roster had seen previous game experience in their careers, with 32 making at least one start (21 had made at least three starts). It's a cyclical pattern, and that shows up when looking at the breakdown of the starters over the course of the season.

- **2003 starters (12 games):** Seniors (105), Juniors (49), Sophomores (78), Freshmen (32; redshirts 14, true 18).
- **2002 starters (14 games):** Seniors (155), Juniors (130), Sophomores (14), Freshmen (9; redshirts 0, true 9).
- **2001 starters (13 games):** Seniors (102), Juniors (95), Sophomores (83), Freshmen (7; redshirts 7, true 0).
- **2000 starters (11 games):** Seniors (55), Juniors (116), Sophomores (39), Freshmen (32; redshirts 15, true 17).
- **1999 starters (12 games):** Seniors (115), Juniors (42), Sophomores (84), Freshmen (23; redshirts 23, true 0)

Twenty Four Get First Taste A total of 24 players saw their first taste of action in a CU football uniform in 2003. Nine played for the first time in the season opener against Colorado State, with four more getting their first play in each of the next three games (UCLA, Washington State and Florida State). Three scholarship freshmen played in the opener versus CSU, including two scholarship kickers; the Buffs are likely the first team in the nation in a very long time that had two freshmen scholarship kickers play in the first game of the year. The complete list (*—special teams duty only to date):

TRUE FRESHMEN (8): ILB *Walter Boye-Doe, S Dominique Brooks, PK *Mason Crosby, OT Brian Daniels, PK *Kevin Eberhart, TB Daniel Jolly, S Lorenzo Sims, CB Terrence Wheatley.

REDSHIRT FRESHMEN (13): ILB Jason Ackermann, TB Brandon Caesar, QB James Cox, TE *Paul Creighton, C Mark Fenton, DT Marcus Jones, CB Sammy Joseph, DE Alex Ligon, WR Tyler Littlehales, WR Blake Mackey, OG Del Scales, OT Jack Tipton, ILB Thaddaeus Washington.

SOPHOMORES (2): DT Nick Clement, FS *Tom Hubbard

JUNIORS (1): DT McKenzie Tilmon

Nineteen First Starts The fourth most players in the last 20 seasons made their first career starts in a CU uniform in 2003. Nineteen started for the first time, including eight out of the gates in the opener against CSU: **WR D.J. Hackett, ILB Chris Hollis, CB Sammy Joseph, QB Joel Klatt, TE Joe Klopfenstein, OT Clint O'Neal, C Derek Stemrich and FB Lawrence Vickers. DB Lorenzo Sims** followed suit, starting against Washington State, also his first collegiate action. Three players made their first start at Florida State, **OG Brian Daniels, QB Erik Greenberg and ILB Thaddaeus Washington**, while three more did at Baylor: **S Dominique Brooks, ILB Akarika Dawn and DE James Garee**. Against Kansas State, three more started for the first time: **ILB Walter Boye-Doe, DT Vaka Manupuna and WR Ron Monteilh; DE Alex Ligon** made his first start at Texas Tech; and **WR Jeremy Bloom** started for the first time at Iowa State. In 2002, 16 players made their first career starts, and

the most first starts in recent memory came in 1998, when there were 27 first-time starters for the Buffaloes, 17 on offense and 10 on defense. It was the most since 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) and 2003 (20).

Graduation Status There are 12 seniors on the Colorado roster, one of whom is on schedule to graduate in August: **TE Quinn Sypniewski** (journalism/news-editorial). Six others are on the course for this December: **DT Brandon Dabdoub** (communication), **WR Mike Duren** (communication), **PK J.T. Eberly** (business/double major in finance and marketing), **TB Bobby Purify** (sociology), **OL Derek Stemrich** (architecture) and **OT Sam Wilder** (economics). Four others are set to march next May: **OL Terrance Barreau** (business/finance), **WR Ron Monteilh** (economics), **DT Matt McChesney** (history) and **TE Jesse Wallace** (double major in communication and political science). The 12th, **DT McKenzie Tilmon** (ethnic studies), will likely be done in December '05.

NOTE: Over the last two years, Colorado has had 51 of its 56 seniors, including medicals, graduate; that translates to a 91.1 percent rate (with three of the five non-grads still in school and looking to all graduate by next May). The 2002 and 2003 rates won't be calculated by the NCAA for a couple of years yet, but don't look for the same numbers; the NCAA doesn't allow a school to count transfers who graduate (i.e., Wayne Lucier in '02), 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 a tougher academic schools like Colorado. **Take for example the most recent figure released, for the '96 freshmen class:** CU's figure was 53 percent (10 of 19; four transferred, while four others pursued professional football starting their last semesters. Six of the nine left in good academic standing, meaning they were on course to graduate; and six transfers into the program, five of which graduated, do not count at all. Simply allowing for transfers to count both ways, CU's rate rises to 76 percent).

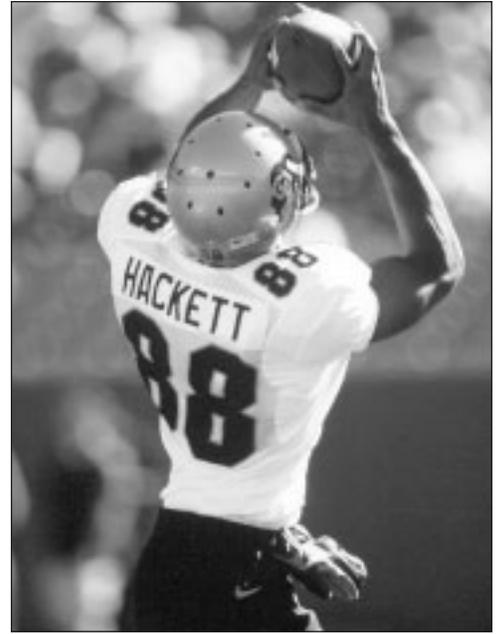
Scoring Streaks The school record **184** consecutive games in which Colorado has scored is the **eighth** longest active streak in the nation; Utah's 3-0 win over BYU on Nov. 22 ended the Cougars' NCAA record streak at 361 games. The list of the 11 Division I-A schools that have scored in every game over at least the last 13 seasons, through all games of 2003:

| School | Streak | Last Shutout |
|------------------|------------|--|
| Texas | 278 | Nov. 22, 1980 at Baylor (0-16) |
| Washington | 264 | Nov. 7, 1981 at UCLA (0-31) |
| Michigan | 228 | Oct. 20, 1984 at Iowa (0-26) |
| Washington State | 227 | Sept. 15, 1984 at Ohio State (0-44) |
| Oregon | 221 | Sept. 28, 1985 at Nebraska (0-63) |
| Florida State | 197 | Sept. 3, 1988 at Miami (0-31) |
| Florida | 196 | Oct. 29, 1988 vs. Auburn (0-16) |
| Colorado | 184 | Nov. 12, 1988 at Nebraska (0-7) |
| Nevada | 139 | All games: joined Div I-A in 1993 |
| Texas Christian | 139 | Nov. 16, 1991 at Texas (0-32) |
| Air Force | 134 | *Dec. 31, 1992 vs. Mississippi (0-13) |

(*—Liberty Bowl)



Bufs & College Football Hardware Colorado is in an elite group when it comes to claiming college football's prestigious trophies dating back to the 1990 season. A proliferation of awards have emerged since the late 1980s, and the Buffs are near the top of the list when it comes to collecting these statues. CU has had seven different players win nine trophies over the last 14 seasons, which is the seventh most nationally when it comes to trophies. But when it comes to different players who have been honored, only Miami (9), Nebraska (8) and Oklahoma (8) top the Buffs' seven. The postseason "hardware" includes the Heisman Trophy and the Lombardi, Maxwell, Walter Camp, Butkus, Thorpe, O'Brien, Unitas, Groza, Biletnikoff, Doak Walker, Nagurski, Bednarik, Mackey, Tatupu, Ray Guy, Rimington and Hendricks awards. The list of schools that have had winners between 1990 and 2003 (players only):



WR D.J. Hackett

| School | Player | Trophies | School | Player | Trophies | School | Player | Trophies |
|-----------------|--------|----------|---------------|--------|----------|-----------------|--------|----------|
| Florida State | | 7 | Texas | | 1 | USC | | 2 |
| Miami, Fla. | | 9 | Iowa | | 5 | Washington | | 2 |
| Oklahoma | | 8 | Tennessee | | 2 | Illinois | | 2 |
| Ohio State | | 7 | Northwestern | | 1 | Mississippi | | 2 |
| Nebraska | | 8 | Alabama | | 3 | Texas A&M | | 2 |
| Michigan | | 4 | Georgia | | 3 | TCU | | 2 |
| Colorado | | 7 | Kansas State | | 3 | Texas Tech | | 2 |
| Penn State | | 4 | Notre Dame | | 3 | Arizona State | | 1 |
| Florida | | 3 | Purdue | | 3 | Maryland | | 1 |
| Wisconsin | | 3 | UCLA | | 3 | North Carolina | | 1 |
| Arizona | | 4 | Pittsburgh | | 2 | 19 schools tied | | 1 |
| Brigham Young | | 2 | Virginia Tech | | 2 | | | 1 |

Statistically Speaking Here's where the Buffs ranked statistically in some select categories in the Big 12 and the NCAA through all games of 2003 (bowl games included):

| B12 | NCAA | Category | Stat | B12 | NCAA | Category | Stat | B12 | NCAA | Category | Stat |
|------|-------|-----------------------|-------|------|-------|-----------------------|-------|------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| 12th | 113th | RUSHING OFFENSE | 93.3 | 4th | 53rd | RUSHING DEFENSE | 150.8 | 7th | 24th | PUNT RETURNS | 11.7 |
| 3rd | 18th | PASSING OFFENSE..... | 279.3 | 12th | 114th | PASSING DEFENSE..... | 281.2 | 6th | 32nd | KICKOFF RETURNS..... | 22.4 |
| 9th | 66th | TOTAL OFFENSE | 372.8 | 9th | 97th | TOTAL DEFENSE | 432.1 | 10th | 82nd | NET PUNTING | 34.3 |
| 8th | 63rd | SCORING OFFENSE | 26.6 | 8th | 98th | SCORING DEFENSE | 33.2 | 10th | 100th | TURNOVER MARGIN | -0.58 |

- ◆ **WR Jeremy Bloom:** 12.0 yards per punt return (6th/Big 12, 21st/NCAA); 24.5 yards per kickoff return (5th/Big 12, 30th NCAA); 107.2 all-purpose yards (11th/Big 12, 76th/NCAA); 878 kick return yards (P/KO; 1st/Big 12).
- ◆ **TB Brian Calhoun:** 67.5 rushing yards per game (13th/Big 12; 79th/NCAA); 89.7 all-purpose yards per game (18th/Big 12); 2.7 receptions per game (3rd/Big 12 among running backs); 22.2 receiving yards per game (3rd/Big 12 among running backs).
- ◆ **PK Mason Crosby:** 4.3 points per game kick scoring (10th/Big 12); 0.58 field goals per game (11th/Big 12; 100th/NCAA).
- ◆ **WR D.J. Hackett:** 84.4 receiving yards per game (5th/Big 12; 28th/NCAA); 6.5 receptions per game (2nd/Big 12, 16th/NCAA); 84.4 all-purpose yards per game (22nd/Big 12).
- ◆ **QB Joel Klatt:** 140.2 rating (5th/Big 12, 29th/NCAA); 237.6 passing yards per game (4th/Big 12); 21.2 completions per game (2nd/Big 12, 14th/NCAA); 229.4 total offense per game (6th/Big 12, 40th/NCAA); 12.2 points responsible for per game (6th/Big 12, 30th/NCAA).
- ◆ **WR Derek McCoy:** 73.6 receiving yards per game (10th/Big 12, 54th NCAA); 5.3 receptions per game (10th/Big 12, 54th/NCAA); 11 receiving touchdowns (5th/Big 12, 11th/NCAA); 74.7 all-purpose yards (31st/Big12); 5.5 points per game (24th/Big 12).
- ◆ **FS Medford Moorer:** 9.2 tackles per game (11th/Big 12).
- ◆ **SS Clyde Surrell:** 0.33 fumbles forced per game (t-1st/Big 12), 0.33 fumbles recovered per game (t-1st/Big 12).
- ◆ **P John Torp:** 42.5 punting average (4th/Big 12; 31st/NCAA).

Chart City 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 | | | | Inter-Division (North vs. South) | | | | Network TV Appearances (2003) | | | | vs. Ranked Non-League Teams (Since 1990; by games played) | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---|-----------|----------|-------------|--|----------|----------|----------|---|----------------|----|----|----|---|------|
| School | W | L | Pct. | School | W | L | Pct. | School | Tot | ABC | Fox | Oth | School | G | W | L | T | Pct. |
| Kansas State | 22 | 10 | .688 | Nebraska | 17 | 7 | .708 | Oklahoma | 11 | 6 | 1 | 4 | Colorado | 24 | 13 | 10 | 1 | .563 |
| Texas | 19 | 9 | .679 | Kansas State | 16 | 8 | .667 | Nebraska | 11 | 6 | 3 | 2 | Texas | 20 | 6 | 12 | 2 | .350 |
| Nebraska | 20 | 11 | .645 | Colorado | 15 | 9 | .625 | Texas | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | Nebraska | 12 | 8 | 4 | 0 | .667 |
| Oklahoma | 16 | 12 | .571 | Missouri | 14 | 10 | .583 | Texas A&M | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | Oklahoma | 12 | 6 | 6 | 0 | .500 |
| Colorado | 17 | 15 | .531 | Iowa State | 6 | 18 | .250 | Colorado | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | Texas A&M | 11 | 4 | 7 | 0 | .364 |
| Texas A&M | 16 | 16 | .500 | Kansas | 5 | 19 | .208 | Missouri | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | Texas Tech | 11 | 0 | 11 | 0 | .000 |
| Texas Tech | 14 | 18 | .438 | Inter-Division (South vs. North) | | | | Kansas State | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | Oklahoma State | 7 | 4 | 3 | 0 | .000 |
| Oklahoma State | 10 | 21 | .323 | School | W | L | Pct. | Oklahoma State | 7 | 4 | 3 | 0 | Baylor | 9 | 2 | 7 | 0 | .222 |
| Missouri | 9 | 23 | .281 | Texas | 19 | 5 | .792 | Texas Tech | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | Missouri | 9 | 1 | 8 | 0 | .111 |
| Iowa State | 7 | 25 | .219 | Oklahoma | 14 | 10 | .583 | Iowa State | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Iowa State | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | .000 |
| Kansas | 4 | 28 | .125 | Texas A&M | 14 | 10 | .583 | Kansas | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | Kansas | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | .000 |
| Baylor | 0 | 32 | .000 | Oklahoma State | 10 | 14 | .417 | Oklahoma State | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | Oklahoma State | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | .000 |
| Does not include neutral site games | | | | Texas Tech | 10 | 14 | .417 | Baylor | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | Kansas State | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | .500 |
| OU-UT, '96 OSU-TTU or '98 NU-OSU. | | | | Baylor | 4 | 20 | .167 | Does not include pay-per-view; includes other packages (TBS, ESPN, etc). | | | | (does not include bowls) | | | | | | |
| | | | | (does not include title games) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |