

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

cu football

## Good because he's Smart

**Bufs' linebacker usually right — as in right place, right time**

**By Patrick Saunders**  
*The Denver Post*

Article Last Updated: 09/12/2008 01:32:59 AM MDT



Colorado's Jeff Smart sets his sights on Eastern Washington quarterback Matt Nichols. (Cliff Grassmick, The Daily Camera )

BOULDER — Chances are that dynamic West Virginia quarterback Pat White is going to run smack into Colorado linebacker Jeff Smart when the Buffaloes host the No. 25 Mountaineers on Thursday night.

If the junior linebacker has his way, they'll be having face-to-face encounters all night long at Folsom Field.

"We are going to have to get to him fast, because he's going to be a huge challenge," Smart said. "He's very athletic and very fast. He can stop on the dime, he can run and he can throw. So we are going to have to get 11 people to the ball, every time."

Leading the charge will be Smart, the 6-foot, 215-pound former walk-on from Boulder High School who has emerged as the Bufs' defensive leader, nicely filling the shoes

### Colorado Football

- [View](#) slide show of former CU coach and AD Eddie Crowder, who died Sept. 9
- [View](#) slide show of E. Washington-CU football
- [Watch](#) video of CU fans at the Rocky Mountain
- [Showdown](#)
- [Visit](#) the CU Stats Page for boxscores, Big 12 standings, team leaders and more
- [Visit](#) Tom Kensler's All Things Bufs blog for a behind-the-scenes look at
- [CU sports](#)
- [Play](#) Pick'em for the upcoming
- [CU football game](#)

Advertisement

## FACTORY OVERSTOCK BLOWOUT!

**Leather High-Back**  
**\$219**



**Leather Mid-Back**  
**\$199**



**Bookcases Various Sizes**  
**\$149-\$259**



**2-Drawer Lateral File**  
**\$399**





**OFFICE LIQUIDATORS**  
Profit From Our Experience

11111 W. 6th Ave/ LAKEWOOD  
Between Kipling & Simms

303-759-3375  
[www.OfficeLiquidators.com](http://www.OfficeLiquidators.com)

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

of departed All-American Jordon Dizon.

"Jeff is at the right place at the right time pretty much every play," linebackers coach Brian Cabral said.

That's not by happenstance.

"Jeff's not the biggest, he's not even the fastest and he's not even the strongest," Cabral said. "But he is one of the smartest players on the field. He is simply an opportunistic player who takes advantage of his opportunities. He takes advantage of what he knows and what he sees. And he's usually right."

In CU's season-opening 38-17 victory over Colorado State, Smart had 11 tackles, prompting head coach Dan Hawkins to say, "Jeff Smart made some plays out there that were reminiscent of Jordon Dizon."

In the Buffs' 31-24 comeback win over Eastern Washington on Saturday, Smart had nine tackles, helping shut down the Eagles in the second half.

Smart is fast becoming the kind of player who knows when to play with discipline and when to take a chance. It's a fine line, but he's walking it just fine so far.

"I definitely do fulfill my assignment, but when there is a play out there to be made, I try to make it," Smart said. "I learned that from playing next to Jordon last year. He was always where he needed to be, but if he saw a window to make a play, he went after it."

It will be interesting to see which assignment Smart draws Thursday night, and how he handles it. That's because White, a Heisman Trophy candidate, is a special talent who forces defenders to make decisions in a hurry. White threw for a career-high five touchdown passes in the Mountaineers' 48-21

opening-week victory over Villanova.

However, a tenacious East Carolina defense wrapped up White in its shocking 24-3 victory over the Mountaineers on Saturday. White managed just 72 yards through the air, though he did rush for 97.

He will no doubt be out for redemption when he comes to Boulder. It will be up to Smart and his defensive mates to make sure that doesn't happen.

Cabral, confident that Smart is growing into the role as the Buffs' defensive anchor, knows Smart's play will be a huge key.

"Shoot, he's playing really well," Cabral said. "He's overcoming the odds, and that's all to his credit. We are just very fortunate, because we needed him last year and we can't do without him now. His leadership is important, and his presence on the field is even more important."

Especially Thursday night, when Mr. White comes calling.

*Patrick Saunders: 303-954-1428 or  
psaunders@denverpost.com*

## Where there's a "Will," there's a way: CU walk-on making waves

*The lowdown on Buffs junior linebacker Jeff Smart:*

- 6-feet, 215 pounds, born and raised in Boulder
- Played for Boulder High, earning first-team all-Boulder County, second-team all-Centennial League and honorable mention all-state accolades.
- Passed on scholarship offers from Northern Colorado and San Jose State to walk on at CU.

Advertisement

## FACTORY OVERSTOCK BLOWOUT!

**Leather High-Back**  
\$219

**Leather Mid-Back**  
\$199

**Bookcases Various Sizes**  
\$149-\$259

**2-Drawer Lateral File**  
\$399



## OFFICE LIQUIDATORS

Profit From Our Experience

11111 W. 6th Ave/ LAKEWOOD  
Between Kipling & Simms

303-759-3375  
www.OfficeLiquidators.com

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

- In 2007, began the season as a third-string inside "Will" linebacker. Finished the season as CU's starting "Mike" inside linebacker.

- In 2008, Smart has practiced at both "Mike" and "Will" linebacker spots and can play either. Through two games, he leads the Buffs with 20 tackles (16 unassisted).

*Patrick Saunders, The Denver Post*

Advertisement



**FACTORY OVERSTOCK BLOWOUT!**

**Leather High-Back** \$219

**Leather Mid-Back** \$199

**Bookcases** Various Sizes \$149-\$259

**2-Drawer Lateral File** \$399

**OFFICE LIQUIDATORS**  
Profit From Our Experience

11111 W. 6th Ave/ LAKEWOOD  
Between Kipling & Simms

303-759-3375  
www.OfficeLiquidators.com

Print Powered By  **FormatDynamics™**

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

sports - CU Briefs

## Scott moves even with Sumler at RB

By The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 09/12/2008 01:35:47 AM MDT

### Colorado Football

- [View](#) slide show of former CU coach and AD Eddie Crowder, who died Sept. 9
- [View](#) slide show of E. Washington-CU football
- [Watch](#) video of CU fans at the Rocky Mountain Showdown
- [Visit](#) the CU Stats Page for boxscores, Big 12 standings, team leaders and more
- [Visit](#) Tom Kensler's All Things Buffs blog for a behind-the-scenes look at CU sports
- [Play](#) Pick'em for the upcoming CU football game

BOULDER — Although Darrell Scott struggled through a frustrating day against Eastern Washington, the Colorado freshman tailback has pulled even with sophomore Demetrius Sumler atop the depth chart, running backs coach Darian Hagan

said.

Call Scott and Sumler No. 1 and No. 1A in the pecking order?

"Pretty much," Hagan said. "Who starts depends on the play we call at the beginning of the game. But I'm confident in starting Darrell with the (first-string offense) now.

"Darrell has gotten better in pass protection, and I trust him in critical situations. But we can't wean him off the bottle yet. Twice, Eastern Washington was blitzing and he ran a (pass) route when he should have stayed in the backfield picking up a linebacker."

Scott had just 39 yards on 13 carries Saturday, and Colorado coaches expect more from the tailbacks Thursday night against No. 25 West Virginia. CU averaged 2.7 yards per rush against Eastern Washington.

At least Scott had one bright moment. If the game had been televised, Scott might have made the ESPN "plays of the day" highlights. While breaking into open field for a 22-yard gallop, he hurdled over a safety who was diving for his legs.

Scott said he had used that move countless times during his high school years in Southern California.

"I only do that when I know I can clear the guy," Scott said, grinning.

### Footnotes.

Speakers for the Eddie Crowder memorial service Saturday (2 p.m., Folsom Field) are expected to include former CU coach Bill McCartney, former CU All-American Bobby Anderson, former CU regent Jerry Rutledge and Eddie's daughter, Carol Jean. . . .

Advertisement

## FACTORY OVERSTOCK BLOWOUT!

**Leather High-Back**  
\$219



**Leather Mid-Back**  
\$199



**Bookcases**  
Various Sizes  
\$149-\$259



**2-Drawer Lateral File**  
\$399





**OFFICE LIQUIDATORS**  
Profit From Our Experience

11111 W. 6th Ave/ LAKEWOOD  
Between Kipling & Simms

303-759-3375  
www.OfficeLiquidators.com

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™



# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

In lieu of flowers, the Crowder family asks that donations be made to the CU Foundation, referencing the Crowder Football Scholarship. Checks can be mailed to The Buff Club, 369 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309-0369. . . . CU sophomore wideout Josh Smith leads the nation in kickoff returns, averaging 50 yards on four returns.

*Tom Kensler, The Denver Post*

Advertisement



**FACTORY OVERSTOCK BLOWOUT!**

<b>Leather High-Back</b> \$219		<b>Leather Mid-Back</b> \$199	
<b>Bookcases</b> Various Sizes \$149-\$259		<b>2-Drawer Lateral File</b> \$399	

**OFFICE LIQUIDATORS**  
Profit From Our Experience  
11111 W. 6th Ave/ LAKEWOOD  
Between Kipling & Simms  
303-759-3375  
www.OfficeLiquidators.com

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

## Switzer added to list of speakers at Crowder memorial

By The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 09/12/2008 11:28:34 AM MDT



Mike Bohn, left, shares a laugh with former Colorado football coach and athletic director Eddie Crowder at a news conference at the University of Colorado where Bohn was introduced as the new Athletic Director on Wednesday, April 13, 2005. (AP | ED ANDRIESKI)

Former Oklahoma and Dallas Cowboys coach Barry Switzer has been added to the list of speakers for the Eddie Crowder memorial service Saturday at Folsom Field, Colorado associate athletic director Dave Plati said today.

The memorial service is scheduled to begin at 2 p. m. and is open to the public, with free parking around the stadium. It will be held at the east side club rooms. To access the club level, take the elevators between Gates 8 and 9.

Crowder coached Colorado football for 11 seasons, beginning in 1963, returning the program to national prominence with five bowl games and a No. 3 final ranking in the 1971 national polls. He served as the school's athletic director from 1965-1984. Crowder died Tuesday night at age 77 of complications of leukemia.

Other speakers scheduled for the memorial service include former Colorado coach Bill McCartney, former CU All-American Bobby Anderson, former CU regent Jerry Rutledge and former Oklahoma broadcaster Lee Allan Smith. Eddie's daughter, Carol Jean, is scheduled to deliver the eulogy.

As a player, Crowder played on Oklahoma's first national championship team (1950) and earned all-conference honors as the Sooners' starting quarterback in 1951 and 1952. He led Muskogee (Okla.) High to a state championship in 1948.

"Eddie and I became great friends after both of us got out of coaching, with him being part of the Oklahoma family," Switzer told The Post on Wednesday. "I've always thought that if anybody could carry himself anywhere near what Coach (Bud) Wilkinson was, it was Eddie Crowder. He was part of the great Oklahoma football tradition as one of Bud's great players.

"But it was more about Eddie's demeanor. Anyone who knew Eddie knew that he was highly intelligent and carried himself with great dignity. Every time I was with Eddie, I left with something. I took away something from every one of our conversations."

Advertisement

## FACTORY OVERSTOCK BLOWOUT!

**Leather High-Back**  
\$219

**Leather Mid-Back**  
\$199

**Bookcases Various Sizes**  
\$149-\$259

**2-Drawer Lateral File**  
\$399

**OFFICE LIQUIDATORS**  
Profit From Our Experience

11111 W. 6th Ave/ LAKEWOOD  
Between Kipling & Simms

303-759-3375  
www.OfficeLiquidators.com

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

Crowder was inducted into the CU athletic hall of fame in 2004 and also is a member of the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame, which honors the state's athletic legends.

Plati said Crowder will be honored for the remainder of the 2008 football season with his name painted on the Folsom Field playing field. A moment of silence will be requested prior to CU's next home game, Thursday night against West Virginia, and a video tribute to Crowder will be shown, Plati said.

Advertisement



**FACTORY OVERSTOCK BLOWOUT!**

<b>Leather High-Back</b> \$219		<b>Leather Mid-Back</b> \$199	
<b>Bookcases</b> Various Sizes \$149-\$259		<b>2-Drawer Lateral File</b> \$399	

**OFFICE LIQUIDATORS**  
Profit From Our Experience  
11111 W. 6th Ave/ LAKEWOOD  
Between Kipling & Simms  
303-759-3375  
www.OfficeLiquidators.com

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™



# Bufs hope to halt WVU

## CU impressed with speed of Mountaineers

By Kyle Ringo  
Friday, September 12, 2008

Call it a very informal poll, and one with lopsided results.

A handful of Colorado football coaches and players have been asked over the past three days to give their first impressions of what they see from No. 25 West Virginia on film.

Some, such as head coach Dan Hawkins, answered more emphatically than others, but the answer was unanimous nonetheless.

"Speeeeeeed," Hawkins said in a raised voice following a Buffs' practice this week. "They're fun to watch. They do a lot of cool things on defense and run around and they're unconventional that way.

"On offense, they spread you out and get after you. A very talented group."

The Buffs host the Mountaineers at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Folsom Field in front of a national television audience on ESPN. Since taking over the program, Hawkins has closed the speed gap between his program and the most athletic teams in the nation, such as West Virginia. But there is still a gap to be sure.

The Buffs have had this problem on several occasions in Hawkins' first two seasons in Boulder. They have handled it well each time. The Buffs went on the road in 2006 and nearly beat a much faster Georgia team. They played an athletically superior Florida State team close a year ago this month in Boulder and felt they allowed a win to slip through their grasp that night.

The disappointment over the missed opportunity fed a win two weeks later over No. 3 Oklahoma. All those teams had a decisive speed advantage. The Buffs nullified it in their victory over the Sooners through gang tackling, running the ball well offensively and limiting mistakes.

CU must be good in those areas once again this time around. It's the formula East Carolina used in Week 2 to beat the Mountaineers and nearly knock them out of the top 25.

"They fly around a lot faster than anybody I've watched film on previously," cornerback Jalil Brown said. "We've really just got to do what we're supposed to do. If you're supposed to be in a gap, be in that gap, instead of giving up certain areas because they can get to that area and capitalize on it."

West Virginia quarterback Pat White will likely finish his career as the leading rusher in college football history from the quarterback position. He's fast and agile and has 10 runs in his career of 47 yards or longer.



White appears slow when compared with tailback Noel Devine, who is averaging seven yards per carry in the early going this fall.

CU coaches are using some of their faster players on the scout team offense in an attempt to simulate the Mountaineers' speed, but defensive coordinator Ron Collins said it's not like facing the real deal.

It's difficult enough to replicate the speed with which White and Devine have been blessed, but those players are also used to making decisions faster than anyone CU has to practice against.

"We just have to play fast ourselves," linebacker Jeff Smart said. "We have to get 11 guys running to the ball. If you get 11 guys running fast to the ball and someone misses a tackle, there is someone there to clean it up."

The West Virginia defense tempts opponents to run the ball at its 3-3-5 scheme, but the Mountaineers use the defense because they have the athletes to make it effective.

Over the past six seasons, the WVU defense has held opposing quarterbacks below a 60-percent completion rate. It has limited opponents to no more than 3.6 yards per carry on the ground, and it has allowed an average of no more than 23 points per game.

"They do an awesome job defending the run and the pass because they are so fast," CU quarterback Cody Hawkins said. "They can put five DBs in there and they're physical and fast enough to get up and support the run, and they can get back into pass coverage."



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.



# Bufs make plans to honor Crowder

## Switzer, McCartney to speak at memorial service

By Kyle Ringo

Friday, September 12, 2008

Former Big Eight Conference coaching legends Bill McCartney and Barry Switzer will be among seven speakers scheduled for a memorial service Saturday for Eddie Crowder.

The former Colorado football coach and athletic director died Tuesday at 77 from complications of Leukemia. Crowder's daughter Carol also will eulogize her dad.

Hundreds are expected to attend the 2 p.m. service in the east side club rooms at Folsom Field.

It is open to the public and parking around the stadium will be free.

The school also plans to honor Crowder by painting the name "Eddie" on both ends of the field at the 20-yard line for each of the remaining five home games this season. The next game is Sept. 18 against No. 25 West Virginia on national television (ESPN).

Athletic department officials said there will be a moment of silence in Crowder's honor prior to the WVU game along with a video tribute.

Crowder had deep ties to both CU and Oklahoma, where he starred at quarterback and led the Sooners to a national championship. Switzer became a legend coaching at OU after Crowder had left to coach in Boulder. Crowder later hired McCartney, who led the Bufs to a national championship.

In addition to Crowder's daughter and the two legendary coaches, College Hall of Fame running back Bobby Anderson, who played for Crowder at CU, and Lee Allan Smith, a member of the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame also will speak.

The memorial service will be hosted by one of Crowder's best players at CU and a friend of n early 40 years, John Stavely.



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.

[Print page](#)[Close window](#)

Longmont, Colorado  
Friday, September 12,  
2008

**TIMES-CALL**

Publish Date: 9/12/2008

## Lessons abound for young Buffs linemen

*By Patrick Ridgell*

*Longmont Times-Call*

BOULDER — Those wondering who'll man Colorado's starting offensive line Thursday when the Buffaloes host West Virginia will have to wait to find out. That goes for the players, too.

Offensive line coach Jeff Grimes said he won't announce a starting five until probably next Wednesday. He wants to see what unfolds before then.

Grimes called Saturday's performance against Eastern Washington poor. Head coach Dan Hawkins said West Virginia's defensive line is bigger and more explosive than the Eastern Washington group that gave CU problems. Grimes said this week's emphasis is on having good practices.

"We certainly are not where we need to be, or where I'd like to be," Grimes said.

Grimes said center Daniel Sanders is playing "way better than he did last year." Right tackle Ryan Miller is "much further along than he was last year," and left tackle Nate Solder "has progressed but still has a long ways to go."

The guard positions are the unknown and have been subjected to much attrition. It started last spring when coaches asked starter Kai Maiava to move to fullback. He went along with the move, then announced following spring drills plans to transfer. He cited the position change as one reason why.

The summer losses of Erick Faatagi (academics) and Mike Iltis (torn ACL) hurt. Devin Head's suspension last week forced Grimes to start freshmen at both guards. Head, a junior who's eligible to return Thursday, said Sunday he knows he has to earn his starting spot back. Grimes said the attrition is impacting the line's depth.

"Whether any of those guys would be playing any better than somebody that's playing now — I don't know, and it really is irrelevant," Grimes said.

"Are we feeling it? Sure. Any time you lose a guy on the team, particularly a guy that could be contributing, that affects you as a group. But what I told them as a group is when somebody goes down, whether it be to suspension or injury or academic ineligibility, somebody has to step up."

Said Sanders: "We still have a bunch of other young guys who have been here and have been doing everything the right way and trying to get as good as they can, and you can't really blame (the line's struggles) on that."

Grimes said the young guards still have "a long ways to go, but they're making progress."

Max Tuioiti-Mariner, a true freshman, made his first start Saturday. Redshirt freshman Blake Behrens made his second.

The main lesson they need to learn, Grimes said, is that they must approach their work in a different manner than does Sanders, a fifth-year senior.

"When young guys are playing, they have to step up and realize that they have to do a little bit more to get ready," Grimes said. "They can't prepare the same way that Girty (Sanders) does; they have to do a little bit more."

Sanders said there was some anger during film study of the Eastern Washington game.

He cited small mistakes that included technique and miscommunication that need attention. He said his inexperienced teammates will improve as time passes.

“You have to practice them every day and, when it comes to game time, make sure they’re playing and make sure they’re doing stuff right,” Sanders said. “And if they’re not doing stuff right, get it fixed and come back and practice it some more.”

**SPEAKERS SET:** CU announced John Stavely will host the memorial service for Eddie Crowder on Saturday. Stavely’s father, Dan, was an assistant at CU for 15 years, including 1958 and 1963-76.

Speakers include Crowder’s daughter, Carol Crowder; former CU coach Bill McCartney; former Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer; former CU Regent Jerry Rutledge; former Buff Bobby Anderson; and Lee Allan Smith, a fraternity brother of Crowder’s during his college years at Oklahoma.

Crowder, CU’s coach from 1963-73 and its athletic director from 1965-84, died Tuesday. The memorial service is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in Folsom Field’s east-side club rooms. It’s open to the public, and parking around the stadium will be free. To reach the club rooms, take the elevator between gates 8 and 9 to the fifth level.

**EXTRA POINTS:** CU is planning a moment of silence for Crowder before the West Virginia game. Other plans to honor the former coach are being made. ... CU coach Dan Hawkins did not address reporters following Thursday’s practice. He left the field saying he had a date with his wife.

Patrick Ridgell can be reached at [pridgell@times-call.com](mailto:pridgell@times-call.com).





## CU report: Buffs set to honor Crowder at game

By B.G. Brooks

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Former Buffaloes coach and athletic director **Eddie Crowder**, who died Tuesday night, will be honored with a moment of silence before Thursday night's game against West Virginia at Folsom Field (6:30 p.m., ESPN).

Also being discussed is painting Crowder's name on the turf in "script or another font," said **Dave Plati**, the school's director of athletic media relations. CU players likely will wear decals on their helmets honoring Crowder and coaches will wear patches on their game-day shirts.

But those decisions, said Plati, are forthcoming.

A memorial service, open to the public, will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday in Folsom's expanded east side.

Parking will be available around the stadium.

Scheduled to speak at the memorial service are (in order) **John Stavelly**, **Lee Allan Smith**, **Bobby Anderson**, **Jerry Rutledge**, **Barry Switzer**, **Carol Crowder** (his daughter) and **Bill McCartney**.

All except Smith and Switzer have CU ties; Smith was a fraternity brother of Crowder at Oklahoma, and Switzer is a former Sooners coach.

### LINE TALK

Offensive line coach **Jeff Grimes** expects to have at least two more bodies available against West Virginia - guard **Devin Head**, who is returning from a one-game suspension, and center/guard **Keenan Stevens**, who sat out last week with a shoulder injury.

Grimes said Thursday that Head still has not worked his way back into the starting lineup and a decision likely won't come until next week. After a mediocre performance against Eastern Washington, Grimes' unit has been served a heavy dose of technique and fundamentals work this week.

### WHAT THIN AIR?

Some members of the Buffaloes coaching staff believe their Mountaineers counterparts might be concerned about playing at altitude (5,430 feet). But even though West Virginia is traveling to Colorado two days before the game, leaving Morgantown on Tuesday rather than Wednesday, coach **Bill Stewart** is dismissing the altitude factor.

Stewart, who spent four seasons on former Air Force coach **Fisher DeBerry**'s staff (1990-93), told the

*Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette* " . . . a football play lasts about four seconds. The longest is six seconds. Think about it. By the time a kid throws a deep ball downfield and by the time a kid runs under it, it's maybe six seconds. Usually a play's about four seconds."

Stewart's point: There might be an adverse altitude factor for athletes in other sports, but not football.

However, West Virginia has a Hypoxico Chamber, a fairly new piece of equipment purchased under former coach **Rich Rodriguez** that aids training for competition at altitude. Stewart indicated his players could use it in the days leading up to the Colorado trip, but said it wasn't mandatory.

"I just don't think that's a big problem. I think it's kind of comical," he said. "I lived out there for four years at the Air Force Academy and we were at 6,800 feet. Now, when we went on our retreat with coach DeBerry, we went up to almost 10,000 feet. Now that's a problem. I jogged up there. But (at Air Force) I ran 100 miles a week, 50 weeks a year for four years.

"All I'm going to ask our guys to do is strain for six seconds," Stewart said. "And with the 40-second clock, you're going to have 35 to close to 40 seconds to rest."

## **TIGHT END OUT**

Reserve tight end **Luke Walters**, a junior transfer from New Mexico who played at ThunderRidge High School, underwent surgery this week for a stress fracture in his left leg. He is out for the season and hopes to be granted a medical hardship to retain two years of eligibility at CU.

© Rocky Mountain News