



# 2008 signee Vigo itching to start career as Buffalo

## New Jersey recruit took fall off as grayshirt

By Kyle Ringo  
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There aren't a lot of young men walking around CU's Dal Ward Center wearing a New York Yankees hats turned backwards and speaking with a New Jersey accent.

But one arrived this week with plans for earning a degree and making heavy contributions to the Colorado football team during his four-year stay.

Paul Vigo, a member of the Buffs' 2008 recruiting class from New Brunswick, N.J., delayed his enrollment at CU -- a practice known as grayshirting -- and stayed at home this fall while many of his friends and former teammates were enjoying their first semester of college.

He's finally in Boulder and itching to get started with classes, workouts and building his new life.

"At first I kind of hated the fact that I was going to be away from football," Vigo said of his decision to grayshirt. "Friends were playingball, and it was just kind of building up inside of me. But I took advantage of the situation, was able to put on weight and it made me more hungry for the game. It also made me more confident. I think this wait was probably a good thing for me."

Vigo (6-foot-1, 190 pounds) said he watched every CU game he could during the season and it made him want to be here even more.

He said he spent his time working out with a personal trainer to prepare himself for the winter workouts CU strength and conditioning coach Jeff Pitman has in store for him.

Vigo also worked a part-time job as a child care aide in an after-school program at a Catholic Charity center.

He spent much of his spare time in high school working to help others through Elijah's Promise Soup Kitchen, the New Jersey Community Food Bank, Rose Mountain Care Center, the Special Olympics, and The Institute for Children with Cancer and Blood Disorders and Read Across America.

Vigo said serving as a role model to his four younger siblings and other children near where he grew up is a priority for him.

He adopted that attitude from his father, who always has been a positive force in his life and a man determined to keep his son on the right path.

Paul Vigo Sr. works as the chief of security for a juvenile corrections facility.

"I've seen friends fall. I've done seen it all," Vigo said. "I've seen people like just messed up. I took it as an example and he was always there. He showed me what it was and this is how it ends up and this is what happens."

Paul Vigo Sr. went to a small college in New Jersey years ago to play baseball, but he didn't see it through to the end. He's determined to see that his children do.

"I couldn't hack it, but I put all my battles and the things that I went through and I prepared him," Vigo Sr. said.

Father made the trip to Boulder to help his son get settled in this week. He was scheduled to head back to New Jersey on Thursday evening, leaving Paul Jr. to enjoy his first day completely away from home and on his own today.

Vigo's only other trip to Colorado came during the 2007 season when he made an official visit to CU and watched the Buffs knock off then-No. 3 Oklahoma.

"I love it 'cause it would be different," Vigo said. "I was willing to try something completely new than what everybody is used to. I'm used to a different environment and now I'm over here connecting with different people and people are friendly and they want to see somebody who is going bring a different vibe, but a positive vibe."

Vigo, who also is an avid boxer, played mostly linebacker in high school and was recruited to CU with coaches telling him he would end up at either safety or the outside linebacker position manned the past three years by former Buff Brad Jones.

Vigo said he loves playing linebacker, but it doesn't make a huge difference which position he plays. He is simply thankful to have the waiting behind him and the opportunity to show what he can do at any spot on the field coaches want to put him.

"It made me realize that this is a privilege and I'm here to handle business," he said.



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