



# CU veterans instill magnitude of Nebraska rivalry

By Kyle Ringo  
Tuesday, November 20, 2007

Colorado linebacker Jordon Dizon had heard a lot of talk about the intensity and passion behind the Colorado-Nebraska rivalry during his true freshman season in 2004, but it didn't resonate with him until he encountered two little old ladies in Memorial Stadium.

Walking out of the locker room and onto the field that day, Dizon said he saw the two women yelling at CU players and "chucking tomatoes" at the Buffs.

"Once I saw that I knew this was a real rivalry, from then on I knew it was a great rivalry," Dizon said Monday.

The Buffs and Cornhuskers will meet at 10 a.m. Friday at Folsom Field in their annual grudge match. It will be the first time in the history of the rivalry both teams will enter with losing re-cords. The winner will become bowl-eligible.

The contest means so much to veterans in the CU program that members of the senior class have been taking turns addressing the team after practices and meetings.

Senior wide receiver Dusty Sprague got everyone's attention when he asked for a show of hands Monday of those who have actually been on the field against the Cornhuskers. So few hands were raised it made younger players pay that much more attention to what Sprague had to say. Quarterback Cody Hawkins said listening to tackle Tyler Polumbus talk about what the game means to him got his blood boiling.

"Because he's grown up a Buff, he's a second generation Buff so the Colorado-Nebraska game has always meant a lot to him," Hawkins said.

Dizon said he took his turn last week and made it clear what standard he expects from his teammates in preparation.

"If you don't get up for this, if you don't play your best in practice or study the most, you are not a true Buffalo because this is Nebraska," he said.

## Wheatley in doubt

Coach Dan Hawkins said during his weekly press conference he believes senior cornerback Terrence Wheatley will be able to play Friday.

Wheatley sounded considerably less sure. Wheatley said he has been unable to do anything more than

light jogging since he fractured a bone in his left big toe against Missouri on Nov. 3. He said he will try to practice today and should have a better idea of his availability.

### **Notable**

Former Chicago Bears defensive back Doug Plank will serve as a radio analyst for the SportsUSA Radio broadcast of the game. Plank played on the 1985 Super Bowl championship team in Chicago with CU linebackers coach Brian Cabral. ... Officials reported 5,000 tickets remain for the game. Most are end zone seats where CU students normally sit. There will be far fewer students than normal Friday with this being the second year CU students have received the entire Thanksgiving week off. ... With no classes scheduled this week, the Buffs are practicing at 10 a.m., the same time Friday's game will start.



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# CU set to offer extension to Bohn

## Deal would extend athletic director's tenure out to 2012

By Kyle Ringo

Tuesday, November 20, 2007

The University of Colorado Board of Regents will vote on a two-year contract extension for athletic director Mike Bohn at its Nov. 28-29 meeting at the Anschutz Medical Campus, the Camera has learned.

Bohn is in the third year of a five-year contract he agreed to when he was hired in April 2005. He is paid a base salary of \$250,000 annually and is eligible to earn another \$100,000 each year through a series of incentives. Those terms are not expected to change.

Bohn's current deal expires in 2010, but the extension will keep him in Boulder until the summer of 2012. Bohn's original contract did not include a buyout clause protecting the school from competitors trying to hire Bohn away. It is unclear whether the new deal will include such a clause.

Chancellor Bud Peterson was out of town Monday attending his mother's funeral and was not available to comment. Acting Chancellor Phil DiStefano said Bohn has earned the extension based on his successes in the first 2½ years on the job.

"We're really pleased with the job Mike has been doing, and I think to show our appreciation we wanted to extend the contract for two more years," DiStefano said.

A simple majority vote is required to approve the extension and DiStefano said he has no reason to believe regents wouldn't support the move. Regent Michael Carrigan said he was not sure whether the extension had been scheduled for a vote but he supports the idea.

"I think Mike Bohn is a man of integrity and he has done a terrific job in leading the athletic department," Carrigan said. "His focus on customer service and satisfaction has been outstanding. I believe him to be an asset to the university and I hope we can keep him around."

Ken McConnellogue, executive director of university communications, confirmed an extension for the athletic director is listed as an action item on the agenda for the next meeting.

"I'm pleased it is being put forward by the Boulder campus and eager to continue with our efforts to build a viable program from top to bottom," Bohn said.

DiStefano said Bohn has balanced the athletic department budget, boosted ticket sales and dramatically increased fundraising since being hired. He also started multiple marketing and community outreach campaigns that have improved public perception of the athletic department.

DiStefano said Bohn's greatest successes might be recruiting three sought-after coaches to lead the

department's three most high-profile programs — football (Dan Hawkins), men's basketball (Jeff Bzdelik) and women's basketball (Kathy McConnell-Miller).

"I think he has hit a home run with each of those appointments," DiStefano said.

A search for the next CU president is ongoing and a successor to Hank Brown should be hired by next summer. At that point Bohn would be entering his fourth year, a typical point at which extension talks would unfold.

CU system sources said some believe it would be unfair to expect a newly hired president to sign off on an extension so soon after being hired and it would also be unfair to Bohn based on his record to this point.



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## Woelk: Extension for Bohn the right step

By Neill Woelk

Tuesday, November 20, 2007

Anyone who has paid close attention to the Colorado athletic department over the last half-dozen years has no reason to quibble with the proposed contract extension for CU athletic director Mike Bohn.

Here's hoping CU's regents have been paying attention, and ensure that Bohn stays in Boulder.

Bohn has helped bring Colorado back from one of its darkest periods. With the shadow of the recruiting ordeal still looming large, with finances in tremendous disarray and the two revenue-generating sports (football and men's basketball) slipping, Bohn has turned the ship around.

It hasn't been easy, and it's a job that's far from complete. Every time the department takes a couple of steps forward, it seems that there's yet another detour that forces a step back.

But today, CU athletics are at least headed back in the right direction, a dramatic change from when Bohn took the reins in April 2005.

Fundraising is up. Facilities have been upgraded across the board, from the women's soccer stadium to the football locker rooms to a new operations center for men's and women's basketball. The new practice bubble proved to be a boon for the women's soccer team during early-morning practices this fall, and improvements are currently being made at CU's track in preparation for the Big 12 Outdoor Championships next spring.

Other, more subtle steps forward have also been taken. CU's academic support system for student athletes has markedly improved, student support for football and basketball has increased and cross-campus cooperation has improved dramatically.

Even such things as the "Buffalo Stampede" on the Pearl Street Mall before CU home football games have helped improve CU's public image and visibility.

Still, there's plenty of work remaining. Overall, CU's facilities are not yet even middle-of-the-pack when compared to Big 12 brethren. Fundraising is up, but not yet close to the level it needs to be to make the Buffs competitive in all areas. Meanwhile, there are still customer-service glitches that exasperate both fans and CU officials.

And, of course, there's the highest-profile area needing improvement: on-the-field records.

Dan Hawkins' football team has taken strides in his second year, but there's still a long way to go. New men's hoops coach Jeff Bzdelik has a monumental task in front of him, and women's coach Kathy McConnell-Miller is finding that rebuilding in the Big 12 isn't an overnight task.

But overall progress is being made. That couldn't be said just a few years ago.

Next up for Bohn? We'll suggest something that would be his most controversial move yet at CU, but an issue that needs to be addressed soon.

Take a quick look at the college football landscape and see what Mark Mangino has done at Kansas. Look at Missouri's Gary Pinkel and Kentucky's Rich Brooks. All have taken time to rebuild, but they've established foundations for long-term success.

Their common thread? Each of their ADs had faith in them when the public began to doubt.

Yes, that's right: the next extension at CU should be aimed at Dan Hawkins.



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cu football

## Wheatley may miss game

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

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BOULDER — On Friday at Folsom Field, Colorado's defensive secondary may have to face one of the nation's hottest quarterbacks - Nebraska's Joe Ganz - without its best cover cornerback.

CU senior Terrence Wheatley said he has been able to only jog since injuring his left foot against Missouri on Nov. 3. "And even that is not easy," Wheatley said Monday.

Wheatley has a hairline fracture and is listed as day to day. He was told the expected healing time would be two weeks, but that time frame has passed. Wheatley said he will try to practice today.

"I have no idea how that will go," he said. "We'll see if I can do anything. You have to be optimistic, but I am kind of a realist, too."

With

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five interceptions this season, Wheatley is tied for second among Big 12 Conference players. No other CU defensive back has more than one interception. Senior linebacker Jordon Dizon has two.

Colorado's defense, which ranks third in the Big 12 against the pass and 80th nationally, draws a difficult assignment in the regular-season finale. Nebraska's Ganz set school passing records with 510 yards and seven touchdowns in a 73-31 win over Kansas State on Nov. 10.



Colorado's Terrence Wheatley (26) has five interceptions this season - and a foot injury. (AP / David Zalubowski)

The CU training staff has tried various pads and shoe inserts to take the pressure off the injured area of Wheatley's foot but nothing has worked, the cornerback said.

"I talked to coach (Dan Hawkins) about it," Wheatley said. "I told him I'll be out there if I can ... but I'm not going out there if I'm half-speed and get beat on every play."

**Footnotes.** With Nebraska interim athletic director Tom Osborne planning to meet with the Cornhuskers' coaching staff as early as Saturday, head coach Bill Callahan was asked Monday in Lincoln if that could become a distraction. "All I'm focused on is the preparation and performance of our team against Colorado," Callahan said. ... Hawkins, speaking at his weekly media luncheon, predicted Dizon will play at the next level. "He will be a first-day guy (in the 2008 NFL draft), I don't think there is any question about that. He just has too much production (for scouts to ignore)," Hawkins said.

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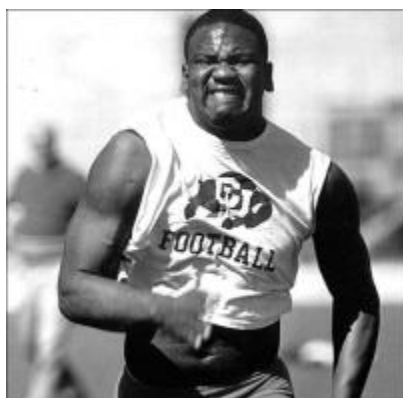
colorado classics

## Williams still saying thanks

Reporter Irv Moss writes about stars from the past

By Irv Moss  
The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 11/20/2007 12:38:49 AM MST



As a senior at the University of Colorado in 1990, Alfred Williams won the Dick Butkus Award as the nation's top linebacker. CU won a share of the national title that year. (Post file)

In the summer of 1987, Alfred Williams arrived in Boulder from Houston as a football recruit of the University of Colorado. His initial impression of Boulder was not favorable.

"I wanted to go home," Williams said. "I arrived early in the summer to earn some money. It was a real culture shock. There weren't many black people in Boulder. I didn't know I was going to be around such a lack of diversity."

Williams, 39, who is a sports-talk radio host on KKFN 950 AM in Denver and also does television work, found support among his coaches to get him through the difficult early days in Boulder.

"I've always had a wonderful association with (head) coach Bill McCartney," Williams said. "Assistant coaches Mike Hankwitz and Bob Simmons helped talk me into staying at CU. Those coaches helped shape my life. They taught me that the harder you work, the better results you get."

His hard work paid dividends, never more so than his senior year when he won the Dick Butkus Award as the nation's best college linebacker and helped CU win a share of the national title in 1990.

Williams helped bring more glory to Colorado in the NFL. After stints with Cincinnati and San Francisco, Williams was a member of the back-to-back Super Bowl champion Broncos. Denver beat Green Bay 31-24 in San Diego for its first Super Bowl title on Jan. 25, 1998, then followed that up with a 34-19 win over Atlanta in Miami on Jan. 31, 1999.

"I don't think you could even dream of playing on teams that won a national championship and a Super Bowl for essentially

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the same city," Williams said. "I was lucky enough to play on both of them. The national championship really sticks out. That always will be part of my life."

But the Super Bowl victories also were memorable because Williams was at CU during Super Bowl losses by the Broncos.

"I saw what it did to the city and the letdown was terrible," Williams said. "I always said that if I ever played in a Super Bowl for Denver, I didn't want to lose. The first Super Bowl was so gratifying for me because we did what we had to do."

Williams learned early how precious life is. While at CU he watched as complications from stomach cancer claimed the life of teammate and friend Sal Aunese.

"We played Illinois in 1989 and blew them out 38-7," Williams said. "Sal came to the game and that was the last time I saw him alive. We were a bunch of young guys dealing with the death of a friend. It broke my heart."

Williams remembers the title-winning Orange Bowl game as if it were yesterday. He and the Buffs faced Notre Dame for the second year in a row. The year before, the Buffs lost the title game 21-6 to the Irish.

CU won 10-9, but not before some exciting moments late in the game. Irish star Rocket Ismail returned a punt for an apparent touchdown, but it was called back on a clipping

penalty.

"That team was the grittiest team I've ever been part of," Williams said. "I was on the sidelines on the punt and all I could see were my college dreams going down the tubes. I almost ran on the field and tackled him myself."

## Alfred Williams bio

**Born :** Nov. 6, 1968, Houston

**High school :** Jones, Houston, 1983-87

**College :** Colorado, 1987-91

**NFL :** Cincinnati Bengals, 1991-94; San Francisco 49ers, 1995; Denver Broncos, 1996-99

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DAILY TIMES-CALL

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## Nebraska rivalry begins anew for Buffs

CU saves arch rival Cornhuskers for regular-season finale

*By Patrick Ridgell**Longmont Times-Call*

BOULDER — Nebraska week is here. This is gonna be fun.

Colorado hosts the Cornhuskers on Friday (10 a.m., ABC). Both teams are 5-6, reduced to playing for bowl eligibility and pride. In their 66 prior meetings, never has each program entered their annual date with a losing record.

Nebraska coach Bill Callahan spends most interviews these days addressing his immediate future. Word is he's through in Lincoln. CU's Dan Hawkins, still smarting from the meltdown in Ames, is searching for ways to shake the Buffs from their losing ways. They've dropped four of their past five.

Such is the state of this "rivalry" today.

But both teams took breaks from preparations Monday to talk with media. Players and coaches did their best Lou Holtzes and gushed over the other. But things weren't totally innocent.

Specifically, Nebraska quarterback Joe Ganz said the buffalo head that the Huskers hung in their locker room prior to the 2005 game, a 30-3 Cornhusker triumph in Boulder, is back. That ploy, along with tacking Buffalo decals on their practice helmets, worked well for the Cornhuskers.

And the thought that the buffalo head is back might annoy a few Buffs.

"That's kind of what coach Callahan brought once we started playing Colorado," Ganz said. "He put a big buffalo head in our meeting room and watched 'Dances With Wolves' all week with the buffalo hunt. It's just a fun way to get the guys revved up."

Last year, Nebraska heard about Hawkins declaring, "At 0-5, the worst days as a Buff are better than the best days as a Husker." And running back coach Darian Hagan, who never lost in three starts against Nebraska as CU's quarterback, probably knows better now than to publicly promise CU will "kick their butts." He didn't a year ago.

Still, the Buffs are finding ways to grasp the depths of this rivalry.

"All of our scout team painted their helmets and put N's on there. They all wore red jerseys, so that definitely helps it sink in a little bit," CU quarterback Cody Hawkins said.

"We have a senior talk to us after every practice ... about their Nebraska experiences and memories. When you have the in-state kids, growing up and talking about the Colorado and Nebraska game, it's always been such a big deal. So it's really impressive to see how much of an effect the CU-Nebraska game has had on these guys and the effect it has had on their careers. I think it is really awesome."

Senior guard Edwin Harrison said the seniors went to Dan Hawkins with the idea for the decking the scout team in red. He said the coach was "all for it."



Buffs quarterback Cody Hawkins will have to outduel Nebraska quarterback Joe Ganz in order to finish the regular season at 6-6.

Lewis Geyer/Times-Call file

The CU seniors also have been all for expressing their feelings when it comes to this rivalry. Linebacker Jordon Dizon, a man of few words, relayed a simple message Saturday.

“If you can’t get up for this, then you are not a true Buffalo,” he told his teammates.

Senior Dusty Sprague grew up in Holyoke. He took his turn after the Buffs practiced Monday morning.

“Some of these younger kids and out-of-state people don’t realize what the rivalry is all about,” he said. “I grew up in it. Out there in Holyoke, there are a lot of Nebraska fans. It’s a heated rivalry out there.

“It always comes down to who comes out and attacks and who hits the other in the mouth.”

Nebraska’s massive following makes it more attractive to bowls, even with its five-game losing streak that included four blowouts. If CU reaches 6-6, its chances at a postseason spot aren’t so certain, but still good.

To some, though, Friday’s contest means more than any bowl bid the Buffs could land. And that point has been made.

“When I showed up on campus, the first thing anybody said to me is, ‘Beat Colorado State and beat Nebraska,’” Cody Hawkins said. “They don’t say anything about any of the other games; they just say, ‘You’ll be fine if you beat Colorado State and you beat Nebraska.’ So I guess it’s pretty important.”

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## Wheatley hopes to be in Buffs' lineup

*By Patrick Ridgell**Longmont Times-Call*

BOULDER — Today might determine whether cornerback Terrence Wheatley ever dons a Colorado uniform again.

Wheatley said he will test his broken foot during this morning's practice. He injured it Nov. 3 against Missouri and missed the Iowa State game. He no longer wears the boot he wore in the days after the loss to Missouri.

Wheatley vowed last week to play against Nebraska on Friday (10 a.m., ABC). On Saturday, he said he had "no idea" if he would. CU lists him as day to day in this week's notes and reported that the usual healing time for hairline fractures like Wheatley's is two weeks.

"I'll know for sure (this) morning in practice," he said Monday. "I'll go out there and try to do a few drills and go from there."

CU coach Dan Hawkins said he expects Wheatley to be able to play, which is what he said before the Iowa State game. Hawkins said he will not return kicks if he plays. Wheatley suffered the injury returning one against Missouri.

CU's pass defense will need all the secondary help it can muster Friday. With Joe Ganz at quarterback, the Cornhuskers have thrown for 915 yards and 11 touchdowns in their past two games.

Receiver Maurice Purify, the uncle of former CU running back Bobby Purify, enters Friday after his best two-game stretch with Nebraska. He topped 100 yards in each, and he averages 14.7 yards a catch.

"You can't allow him to use his size. ... He's a bigger guy," Wheatley said. "You have to find a way to take his height advantage out of it. I don't know how you do that, being that big."

The 6-foot-4 Purify said he expects CU's defensive backs to try to take him out.

"That is what I like about it," he said. "When they take me out, then they have Nate Swift and Todd Peterson making plays. They are going to have to start worrying about them guys. Later on in the game, that is when they have to start worrying about me."

**WEATHER WORRIES:** Friday's forecast calls for 35 degrees and possible snow.

"I've played in weather a lot worse than snow," CU quarterback Cody Hawkins said. "Like sleet, wind and tons of mud."

"I think it's easier to throw the ball in the snow than in the rain. You can keep it dry, and it doesn't get wet if you drop the ball."

Several Buffs have said in recent days they'll welcome bad weather and enjoy a slugfest. Some say playing in snow would be fun. As tackle Tyler Polumbus put it, "We're all kids."



CU senior cornerback Terrence Wheatley has a broken bone in his foot, but he has vowed to attempt to play in what could be his final game in a Buffs uniform on Friday against Nebraska. **Lewis**

**Geyer/Times-Call file**

Said defensive tackle George Hypolite: "I love it. It makes me smile. Snowballs are nice. That's what this rivalry needs: dirty weather. No one can throw the ball, so it comes down to whose defense can stop whose offense in the run game.

"For a defensive tackle, that's heavy. That's saying that we know exactly what they're going to do and they know exactly what we're going to do. We're going to put eight in the box, and they're going to try to run the ball down our throats. That's a beautiful thing. That's all you can ask for, especially in this rivalry."

The Buffs haven't endured any bad-weather games in 2007, excluding the heat at Arizona State in September. Neither have Purify and Nebraska.

"I am done with the cold games. I am ready to go somewhere warm," Purify said.

**EXTRA POINTS:**CU lists safety Ryan Walters (concussion) as probable for Friday. He said he will play. He missed Iowa State, too. ... CU said 5,000 tickets remain, mostly in the south end zone, where students normally sit. ... Nebraska coach Bill Callahan said his players were up at 4:30 a.m. Monday, practicing at 5:50. ... Nebraska is 20-8-2 in Boulder and has won six of its past seven trips to Folsom Field. ... CU won't unveil who'll introduce its starting lineup for ABC's national telecast but promised it'll be someone "cool."

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