

2007 COLORADO FOOTBALL QUICK FACTS

2007 SCHEDULE

series

S 1	Colorado State (Denver)	57-19-2
S 8	at Arizona State	0- 1-0
S 15	FLORIDA STATE	0- 1-0
S 22	MIAMI-OHIO	0- 0-0
S 29	* OKLAHOMA (Homecoming)	16-39-2
O 6	*at Baylor	8- 6-0
O 13	*at Kansas State	43-18-1
O 20	* KANSAS (Family Weekend)	41-22-3
O 27	*at Texas Tech	4- 4-0
N 3	* MISSOURI	31-37-3
N 10	*at Iowa State	47-13-1
N 23	* NEBRASKA (ABC, 10:00 a.m.)	17-46-2

D 1 Big 12 Championship (at San Antonio, Texas)

*—Big 12 Conference game; OPEN WEEK: Nov. 17.

2006 RESULTS

(Won 2, Lost 10; 2-6 Big 12)

S 2	MONTANA STATE	L 10-19	45,513
S 9	Colorado State (Denver)	L 10-14	65,701
S 16	ARIZONA STATE	L 3-21	47,723
S 23	at Georgia	L 13-14	92,746
S 30	*at Missouri	L 13-28	57,824
O 7	* BAYLOR (Homecoming) (3 OT)	L 31-34	47,065
O 14	* TEXAS TECH (Family Weekend)	W 30- 6	50,233
O 21	*at Oklahoma	L 3-24	84,443
O 28	*at Kansas	L 15-20	39,313
N 4	* KANSAS STATE	L 21-34	42,696
N 11	* IOWA STATE	W 33-16	43,056
N 24	*at Nebraska	L 14-37	85,800

*—Big 12 Conference game.

Head Coach: Dan Hawkins (UC-Davis '84)

Record at Colorado: 2-10 (one season)

Career Record: 55-21 (six seasons)

Office Telephone: 303/492-5330

Nickname: Buffaloes

Colors: Silver, Gold & Black

Enrollment: 28,624

Stadium: Folsom Field (53,750; natural grass/opened in 1924)

2006 Record: 2-10

Big 12: 2-6 (5th/6, North Division)

National Rankings: NR

Bowl: none

President: Hank Brown (Colorado '61)

Chancellor: Dr. George "Bud" Peterson (Kansas State '75)

Athletic Director: Mike Bohn (Kansas '83)

Assoc. AD/Sports Information: David Plati (303/492-5626)

Program Quick Notes: Colorado's 142-74-4 record dating back to the start of the 1989 season is the 20th best in the nation over the last 18 years... CU owns the nation's 11th best road record since 1988 (57-35-1)... In 2006, Colorado had the 17th most alumni active in the NFL (29 players), the second most in the Big 12 ... Dating back to the 1989 preseason, CU has been ranked in **185** of the last **294** polls (*AP*; 64%), which includes a tremendous run of 143 consecutive between 1989 and 1997 (10th longest streak all-time). CU has been ranked **292** times in its history, the 21st most all-time. Since 1989, CU has played the fourth most ranked teams in the nation (92), trailing Florida (100), Michigan and Florida State (95 each)... Colorado has scored in 222 straight games, the fifth longest active streak in the NCAA (11th longest all-time).

Lettermen Returning: 41 (19 offense, 19 defense, 3 specialists)

Lettermen Lost: 27 (12 offense, 13 defense, 2 specialist)

Starters Returning (16)—Offense 9: WR Alvin Barnett (9/8), FB Maurice Cantrell (5/5), TB Hugh Charles (19/7), TE Riar Geer (9/9), OG Edwin Harrison (16/9), QB Bernard Jackson (11/11), OT Tyler Polumbus (15/12), OG Daniel Sanders (15/11), WR Patrick Williams (7/7). **Defense 7:** ILB Jordon Dizon (34/11), SS Lionel Harris (6/6), DT George Hypolite (8/8), OLB Brad Jones (11/11), NT Brandon Nicolas (11/11), FS Ryan Walters (10/10), CB Terrence Wheatley (19/12). (*Career/2006 starts in parenthesis; calculated by those with six or more starts OR were starters at the end of the year.*)

Others Returning With Significant Starting Experience (6; min. 3 career starts)— CB Cha'pelle Brown (4/4), WR Cody Crawford (3/3), TE Tyson DeVree (3/3), TB Byron Ellis (5/4), DE Maurice Lucas (7/1), WR Dusty Sprague (13/2).

Others Returning With Significant Position Game Experience (10; two or fewer career starts)— WR DE Alonzo Barrett, DT Jason Brace, FS Benjamin Burney, ILB Marcus Burton, FB Samson Jagoras, DT Taj Kaynor, WR Chase McBride, WR Stephone Robinson, ILB Joe Sanders, ILB Michael Sipili.

Starters Lost (9)—Offense 3: OG Brian Daniels (45/12), C Mark Fenton (31/5), C Bryce MacMartin (7/7). **Defense 6:** S J.J. Billingsley (37/6), DE Walter Boye-Doe (15/12), CB Lorenzo Sims (31/6), CB Terry Washington (9/6), ILB Thaddaeus Washington (31/8), DE Abraham Wright (27/11).

Others Lost With Significant Starting/Playing Experience (9)—S Dominique Brooks (13/0), QB James Cox (19/3), TE Paul Creighton (2/2), TE Dan Goettsch (4/4), TB Mell Holliday (1/1), WR/H Nick Holz (2/2), DE Alex Ligon (20/9), WR Blake Mackey (3/0), OG Jack Tipton (6/2).

Specialists Returning (3)— PK Kevin Eberhart, KR Stephone Robinson, SN Justin Drescher.

Specialists Lost (2)— PK Mason Crosby, H Nick Holz.

Base Spring Roster (75 players/56 scholarship)— 17 seniors, 21 juniors, 18 sophomores, 19 freshmen (16 redshirt/3 true).

Offensive Formation: Multiple (*Colorado in 2006: 291.4 ypg: rushing: 60% plays/65% yards; passing: 40% plays/35% yards*).

Defensive Formation: 4-3/Base (*Opponents in 2006: 340.9 ypg: rushing: 48% plays/37% yards; passing: 52% plays/63% yards*).

STAT RANKINGS... A look where CU ranked statistically as a team in 2006 in both the Big 12 and NCAA (includes bowl stats):

B12	NCAA	Category	Stat	B12	NCAA	Category	Stat	B12	NCAA	Category	Stat
6th	22nd	RUSHING OFFENSE	172.9	4th	30th	RUSHING DEFENSE.....	112.4	12th	104th	PUNT RETURNS	5.6
12th	116th	PASSING OFFENSE	118.5	9th	94th	PASSING DEFENSE	228.5	9th	95th	KICKOFF RETURNS	18.2
12th	102nd	TOTAL OFFENSE	291.4	7th	66th	TOTAL DEFENSE.....	340.9	7th	31st	NET PUNTING.....	36.7
12th	107th	SCORING OFFENSE.....	16.3	6th	56th	SCORING DEFENSE.....	22.3	3rd	17th	TURNOVER MARGIN	+0.67

2007 SPRING SCHEDULE



Colorado is allowed 15 practices over 29 days per NCAA rules (not including spring break); sessions will break down as follows: three in shorts (no contact), four in pads (no tackling), four in pads (tackling allowed 50 percent or less of the time), four in pads (tackling allowed throughout). Practices in "shells" (shoulder pads only) count as padded practices.

Calendar (dates, times subject to change)

MARCH	12—	Practice # 1 (3:30 p.m. meetings, 5:00-7:30 p.m. practice)	shorts
MARCH	13—	Practice # 2 (3:30 p.m. meetings, 5:00-7:30 p.m. practice)	shorts
MARCH	15—	Practice # 3 (3:30 p.m. meetings, 5:00-7:30 p.m. practice)	shells
MARCH	16—	PRO TIMING DAY (9:00 a.m., Dal Ward Center/Balch Fieldhouse; '06 seniors: assorted sprints and drills)	
MARCH	17—	Practice # 4 (8:30 a.m. meetings, 10:00 a.m. <u>scrimmage</u>)	pads
MARCH	19—	Practice # 5 (3:30 p.m. meetings, 5:00-7:30 p.m. practice)	pads
MARCH	20—	Practice # 6 (3:30 p.m. meetings, 5:00-7:30 p.m. practice)	pads
MARCH	22—	Practice # 7 (3:30 p.m. meetings, 5:00 p.m. <u>scrimmage</u>)	pads
MARCH	24—	Spring Break (through April 1)	
APRIL	2—	Practice # 8 (3:30 p.m. meetings, 5:00-7:00 p.m. practice)	pads
APRIL	3—	Practice # 9 (3:30 p.m. meetings, 5:00-7:00 p.m. practice)	pads
APRIL	5—	Practice #10 (3:30 p.m. meetings, 5:00-7:00 p.m. practice)	pads
APRIL	6—	Practice #11 (3:30 p.m. meetings, 5:00 p.m. <u>scrimmage</u>) Coaches Clinic	pads
APRIL	9—	Practice #12 (3:30 p.m. meetings, 5:00-7:00 p.m. practice)	pads
APRIL	10—	Practice #13 (3:30 p.m. meetings, 5:00-7:00 p.m. practice)	pads
APRIL	12—	Practice #14 (3:30 p.m. meetings, 5:00-7:00 p.m. practice)	shorts
APRIL	14—	Practice #15 (1:00 <u>spring game</u> ; morning meeting/breakfast with alumni)	pads

- **Times** listed are tentative; confirm daily with the CU sports information office.
- **Player Interviews** available before and after all practices (other than scrimmage days—after only).
- **Pro-Timing Day** (March 16: morning session with last year's seniors) is open to the media, not the public; current players will be tested AFTER spring practice.
- **Spring:** all practices are open to the media and public; photography needs can usually be met at any time during practice (no formations; up close and tight as in the fall), coaches may also request additional things not be filmed or photographed. All media members must wear their CU season credential (anyone taking notes or photos must be credentialed media). No cell phones permitted.
- The spring game (April 14) is open to all; admission is free.

2007 EXPANDED SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	TV	Time	2006 Record	2007 Meeting (Last)	Series	(Last 10)
Sept. 1	Colorado State (Denver)	tba	TBA	4-8	79th (2006)	57-19-2	(6-4)
Sept. 8	at Arizona State	tba	TBA	7-6	2nd (2006)	0-1-0	(.....)
SEPT. 15	FLORIDA STATE	tba	TBA	7-6	2nd (2003)	0-1-0	(.....)
SEPT. 22	MIAMI-OHIO	tba	TBA	2-10	1st (.....)	0-0-0	(.....)
SEPT. 29	+OKLAHOMA (H)	tba	TBA	11-3	58th (2006)	16-39-2	(5-5)
Oct. 6	+at Baylor	tba	TBA	4-8	15th (2006)	8-6-0	(6-4)
Oct. 13	+at Kansas State	tba	TBA	7-5	63rd (2006)	43-18-1	(4-6)
OCT. 20	+KANSAS (FW)	tba	TBA	6-6	67th (2006)	41-22-3	(7-3)
Oct. 27	+at Texas Tech	tba	TBA	8-5	9th (2006)	4-4-0	(.....)
NOV. 3	+MISSOURI	tba	TBA	8-5	72nd (2006)	31-37-3	(6-4)
Nov. 10	+at Iowa State	tba	TBA	4-8	61st (2006)	47-13-1	(8-2)
NOV. 23	+NEBRASKA	ABC	10:00 a.m.	9-5	66th (2006)	17-46-2	(3-7)
Dec. 1	Big 12 Championship Game	ABC	TBA	at San Antonio, Texas (Alamodome)			

(All times mountain. **KEY:** +—Big 12 Conference game; **H**—Homecoming; **FW**—Family Weekend.)

OPEN WEEKENDS: Nov. 17. *—Big 12 Conference game; (**H**)—Homecoming; (**FW**)—Family Weekend. tba—to be announced (games on the selection menu of ABC and/or FOX Sports Net/TBS; those networks have contracts with the Big 12 Conference which allow them to announce their plans up to 12 days in advance (and two times a year, six days in advance), and those games not selected will likely not be televised). **RADIO:** All games broadcast locally on the Colorado Football Network. National broadcasts in 2007: TBA.

2007 COLORADO FOOTBALL STAFF

Head Coach	Dan Hawkins (UC-Davis '84)
Assistant Head Coach / Running Game Coordinator / Offensive Line	Jeff Grimes (Texas-El Paso '89)
Offensive Coordinator/ Quarterbacks	Mark Helfrich (Southern Oregon '96)
Passing Game Coordinator / Receivers	Eric Kiesau (Portland State '96)
Running Backs	Darian Hagan (Colorado '96)
Tight Ends/Special Teams	Kent Riddle (Oregon State '91)
Defensive Coordinator	Ron Collins (Washington State '87)
Defensive Line	Romeo Bandison (Oregon '94)
Linebackers	Brian Cabral (Colorado '78)
Secondary	Greg Brown (Texas-El Paso '80)
Offensive Graduate Assistant	Joe Bever (Clemson '03)
Defensive Graduate Assistant	Andy Avalos (Boise State '05)
Offensive Technical Intern	Brad Bedell (Colorado '00)
Defensive Technical Intern	Donnell Leomiti (Colorado '98)
Director of Football Operations	Robert Tucker (Willamette '97)
Assistant Director/Football Operations	Megan Rogers (Colorado '02)
Assistant Director/Recruiting & Operations	Mark Nolan (Willamette '95)
Assistant Director/On-Campus Recruiting	Jashon Sykes (Colorado '02)
Director of Strength & Conditioning	Jeff Pitman (Boise State '93)

2007 COLORADO FOOTBALL LETTERMEN PICTURE

Colorado has 41 lettermen scheduled to return for 2007, including 19 on both offense and defense and three specialists; the Buffs lose 27 lettermen off the 2006 squad (12 offense, 13 defense, two specialists). CU returns 16 starters from last season (nine offense, seven defense) and loses nine (six defense, three offense); three positions, two on defense, saw two players basically split the duties (C, LCB, SS). The 2006 starters are listed in bold, and (**) denotes letters earned primarily on special teams. The breakdown:

OFFENSE

Position	Returning (19)	Lost (12)
WR (x)	Patrick Williams , Cody Crawford, Jarrell Yates, **Chase McBride	Nick Holz
WR (z)	Alvin Barnett , Dusty Sprague, Stephone Robinson	Blake Mackey, Reggie Joseph (<i>from 2004</i>)
LT	Tyler Polumbus	
LG		Brian Daniels
C		Mark Fenton , Bryce MacMartin
RG	Daniel Sanders , Devin Head	Jack Tipton
RT	Edwin Harrison	**Paul Backowski
TE	Riar Geer , Tyson DeVree	Paul Creighton, Dan Goettsch
QB	Bernard Jackson	James Cox
TB	Hugh Charles , Byron Ellis, **Kevin Moyd	Mell Holliday
FB	Maurice Cantrell , Samson Jagoras	

DEFENSE

Position	Returning (19)	Lost (13)
DE	Alonzo Barrett	Abraham Wright
DT	George Hypolite	Alex Ligon
NT	Brandon Nicolas , Jason Brace	Marcus Jones
DE	Maurice Lucas	Walter Boye-Doe
MLB	Michael Sipili, **R.J. Brown	Thaddaeus Washington , Jason Ackermann
WLB	Jordon Dizon , Marcus Burton, **Jeff Smart	
SLB	Brad Jones , Joe Sanders	**Ben Carpenter, **Chad Cusworth
CB	Chapelle Brown	Lorenzo Sims Jr. , Terry Washington
SS	Lionel Harris	J.J. Billingsley , Dominique Brooks (<i>from 2004</i>)
FS	Ryan Walters , Ben Burney, **Joel Adams	
CB	Terrence Wheatley , Gardner McKay	**Vance Washington (<i>from 2003</i>)

SPECIALISTS

Position	Returning (3)	Lost (2)
P	Matthew DiLallo	Isaac Garden
PK	Kevin Eberhart (<i>from 2003</i>)	Mason Crosby
SN	Justin Drescher	

RETURNING STATISTICAL LEADERS

RUSHING

Rk Player	G	Att	Gain	Loss	NET	—avg. per—		TD	Long	10+	5+	High Game
						att.	game					
1. Hugh Charles.....	12	139	800	21	779	5.6	64.9	1	44	25	62	119
2. Bernard Jackson.....	12	155	884	207	677	4.4	56.4	7	62t	31	69	105
4. Byron Ellis	12	38	133	7	126	3.3	10.5	1	11	2	13	40

PASSING

Rk Player	G	Att-Com-Int	Pct.	Yards	—avg. per—		TD	Long	Sacked
					att.	comp.			
1. Bernard Jackson	12	219-108-7	49.3	1,298	5.9	12.0	7	63	28/155

RECEIVING

Rk Player	G	No.	Yards	—avg. per—		TD	Long	20+	10+	High rec	yards
				rec.	game						
1. Riar Geer.....	12	24	261	10.9	21.8	3	28t	3	13	7	7-71
2. Alvin Barnett.....	12	21	232	11.0	19.3	1	38	3	8	4	4-77
3. Patrick Williams.....	12	19	242	12.7	20.2	1	42	3	9	5	4-71
4. Cody Crawford.....	12	15	222	14.8	18.5	0	31	4	12	5	5-79
5. Dusty Sprague	12	11	179	16.3	14.9	0	63	2	7	3	2-85
6. Hugh Charles.....	12	9	85	9.4	7.1	0	33	1	3	3	2-30
7. Tyson DeVree.....	11	4	36	9.0	3.3	1	18	0	2	1	1-18
8. Byron Ellis	12	4	26	6.5	2.2	0	7	0	0	2	2-13
11. Jarrell Yates.....	5	2	43	21.5	8.6	1	29t	1	2	1	1-29
12. Maurice Cantrell.....	12	2	38	19.0	3.2	0	20	1	2	2	2-38
13. Stephone Robinson.	12	2	1	0.5	0.1	0	1	0	0	1	1- 1

SCORING

Player	G	Touchdowns-----					2Pt.	PAT	EP-EPA	FG-FGA	Saf	DEX	PTS
		Total	Rush	Rec.	Ret.	PAT							
2. Bernard Jackson	12	7	7	0	0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	--	--	--	42
3. Riar Geer.....	12	3	0	3	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	--	--	--	18
5. Hugh Charles.....	12	1	1	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	--	--	--	6
5. Alvin Barnett.....	12	1	0	1	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	--	--	--	6
5. Tyson DeVree	11	1	0	1	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	--	--	--	6
5. Byron Ellis	12	1	1	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	--	--	--	6
5. Ryan Walters	11	1	0	0	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	--	--	--	6
5. Patrick Williams	12	1	0	1	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	--	--	--	6
5. Jarrell Yates.....	5	1	0	1	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	--	--	--	6

OFFENSIVE LINE

Player	Play Count												Total
	MSU	CSU	ASU	UGA	MU	BU	TTU	OU	KU	KSU	ISU	NU	
Edwin Harrison	54	48	54	66	63	74	65	19	47	58	---	---	548
Devin Head	54	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	55
Tyler Polumbus.....	54	48	62	66	63	74	65	44	70	58	57	54	715
Daniel Sanders.....	INJ	48	62	66	63	68	65	44	70	58	57	54	655

DEFENSIVE

Rk Pos Player	G	Plays	Tackles-----					----For Loss----		Miscellaneous-----						
			UT	AT	—	TOT	Avg.	Sacks	Other	3DS	QBP	QCD	FR	FF	PBU	
1. Jordon Dizon.....	12	679	80	57	—	137	11.4	4-26	7-13	17	2	2	2	1	1	
3. Brad Jones	12	644	41	31	—	72	6.0	½- 5	0- 0	6	2	2	0	0	1	
4. Lionel Harris	8	431	40	27	—	67	8.4	0- 0	3- 7	5	0	0	1	2	2	
5. Terrence Wheatley.....	12	776	46	11	—	57	4.8	1½- 5	2- 3	11	2	1	2	1	11	
6. Ryan Walters	11	553	41	16	—	57	5.2	0- 0	1- 3	4	0	2	1	1	3	
8. Brandon Nicolas.....	12	611	31	26	—	57	4.8	0- 0	4- 5	5	4	3	0	2	0	
10. George Hypolite.....	12	601	31	19	—	50	4.2	2½-18	10-26	4	7	0	2	1	3	
13. Cha'pelle Brown.....	10	350	19	16	—	35	3.5	0- 0	3- 4	1	0	0	0	0	2	
14. Michael Sipili	10	155	16	15	—	31	3.1	0- 0	0- 0	3	1	0	0	0	1	
16. Benjamin Burney.....	9	195	14	9	—	23	2.6	0- 0	1- 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
17. Maurice Lucas	11	167	5	9	—	14	1.3	1- 4	0- 0	1	2	0	0	0	0	
18. Alonzo Barrett	11	144	6	6	—	12	1.1	0- 0	0- 0	1	0	1	0	0	0	

INTERCEPTIONS

Rk Player	G	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
1. Terrence Wheatley.....	12	5	26	5.2	15	0
2. Ryan Walters.....	11	2	-2	-1.0	0	0
3. Brad Jones	12	1	10	10.0	10	0
3. Lionel Harris	9	1	2	2.0	2	0
3. Cha'pelle Brown.....	12	1	0	0.0	0	0

PUNTING

Player	G	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	In		TB	blk	Yds.	had	Ret.	Net	Net
						20	50+				Yds	Avg.		
1. Matt DiLallo	12	47	2056	43.74	73	14	8	0	2	246	1810	38.5		

(Colorado does not count bowl games stats into its season or career statistics; N/A for 2006.)

SPRING DEPTH CHART

April 2, 2007

OFFENSE

(Multiple)

WIDE RECEIVER (x)

- 4 Patrick Williams, 6-2, 200, Jr.**
- 48 Cody Crawford, 5-11, 175, Jr.*
- 80 Jarrell Yates, 5-11, 200, Soph.*
- 13 Michael Kachmer, 6-0, 185, Soph.

WIDE RECEIVER (z)

- 17 Alvin Barnett, 5-11, 190, Sr.**
- 83 Dusty Sprague, 6-4, 190, Sr.-5***
- 1 Stephone Robinson, 5-8, 190, Sr.-5***
- 29 Cha'pelle Brown, 5-7, 175, Soph.*
- 86 Cameron Ham, 6-1, 195, Fr.-RS

*LEFT TACKLE

*LEFT GUARD

*RIGHT GUARD

*RIGHT TACKLE

- 76 Edwin Harrison, 6-4, 300, Sr.***
- 72 Devin Head, 6-4, 285, Soph.*
- 65 Wes Palazzi, 6-1, 285, Fr.-RS
- 77 Tyler Polumbus, 6-8, 300, Sr.-5***
- 75 Daniel Sanders, 6-3, 305, Jr.**
- 56 Keenan Stevens, 6-3, 275, Fr.-RS

CENTER

- 75 Daniel Sanders, 6-3, 305, Jr.**
- 65 Wes Palazzi, 6-1, 285, Fr.-RS
- 56 Keenan Stevens, 6-3, 275, Fr.-RS

TIGHT END

- 87 Riar Geer, 6-3, 245, Soph.*
- 84 Tyson DeVree, 6-5, 245, Sr.-5*
- 13 Joe Sanders, 6-3, 235, Sr.-5**
- 92 Nate Solder, 6-8, 270, Fr.-RS
- 33 Patrick Devenny, 6-3, 240, Soph.

QUARTERBACK

- 7 Cody Hawkins, 5-11, 190, Fr.-RS AND
- 10 Bernard Jackson, 6-0, 200, Sr.-5* AND
- 3 Nick Nelson, 6-1, 220, Jr.

TAILBACK

- 2 Hugh Charles, 5-8, 190, Sr.***
- 27 Byron Ellis, 6-0, 215, Sr.***
- 23 Kevin Moyd, 5-7, 195, Soph.* AND
- 8 Demetrius Sumler, 5-10, 210, Fr.-RS
- 36 Cory Nabors, 5-9, 185, Fr.-RS

FULLBACK

- 32 Maurice Cantrell, 6-0, 240, Jr.*
- 41 Jake Behrens, 6-0, 230, Soph. AND
- 43 Samson Jagoras, 5-10, 225, Sr.-5*

*—interchanging due to small roster count.

DEFENSE

(4-3/Base)

LEFT DEFENSIVE END

- 91 Maurice Lucas, 6-4, 255, Jr.**
- 49 Drew Hudgins, 6-4, 235, Jr.

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

- 86 George Hypolite, 6-1, 285, Jr.**
- 69 Eric Lawson, 6-3, 260, Fr.-RS
- 97 Taj Kaynor, 6-4, 265, Soph.

NOSE TACKLE

- 94 Brandon Nicolas, 6-3, 280, Jr.*
- 78 Jason Brace, 6-4, 265, Soph.*

RIGHT DEFENSIVE END

- 47 Alonzo Barrett, 6-3, 235, Sr.***
- 90 Marquez Herrod, 6-2, 255, Fr.-RS

MIKE (INSIDE) LINEBACKER

- 10 Michael Sipili, 6-1, 250, Soph.*
- 34 R.J. Brown, 6-1, 225, Jr.*
- 57 Jake Duren, 5-11, 230, Soph.

WILL (INSIDE) LINEBACKER

- 44 Jordon Dizon, 6-0, 225, Sr.***
- 54 Marcus Burton, 6-0, 245, Jr.**
- 45 Jeff Smart, 5-11, 210, Soph.* AND
- 52 Bryan Stengel, 6-2, 210, Soph.

SAM (OUTSIDE) LINEBACKER

- 40 Brad Jones, 6-3, 225, Jr.**
- 59 B.J. Beatty, 6-1, 230, Fr.-RS
- 55 Josh Hartigan, 6-1, 210, Fr.

LEFT CORNERBACK

- 26 Terrence Wheatley, 5-10, 175, Sr.-5***
- 23 Jalil Brown, 6-1, 205, Fr.-RS
- 43 #—Calvin Bini, 5-10, 175, Jr.

FREE SAFETY

- 15 Ryan Walters, 5-11, 200, Jr.**
- 30 Joel Adams, 5-11, 195, Jr.*
- 20 Terry Wilson, 5-10, 205, Jr.

STRONG SAFETY

- 25 Lionel Harris, 6-0, 195, Sr.**
- 9 Daniel Dykes, 6-2, 205, Jr.
- 41 #—Kyle Black, 5-11, 195, Fr.-RS.
- 28 Bret Smith, 5-11, 190, Fr.-RS

RIGHT CORNERBACK

- 42 Benjamin Burney, 5-11, 195, Jr.**
- 6 Gardner McKay, 5-11, 160, Jr.**
- 3 Jimmy Smith, 6-2, 200, Fr.-RS
- 18 Jonathan Hawkins, 5-11, 185, Fr.

(N—denotes nickel back.)

SPECIALISTS

PUNTER

- 14 Matt DiLallo, 6-1, 205, Soph.* (I)
- 95 Tom Suazo, 5-11, 190, Jr.
- 39 Kevin Eberhart, 5-11, 195, Sr.-5*

PLACEKICKER

- 39 Kevin Eberhart, 5-11, 195, Sr.-5*
- 89 Jim Parra, 5-6, 140, Fr.

KICKOFF RETURN

- 2 Hugh Charles, 5-8, 190, Sr.***
- 27 Byron Ellis, 6-0, 215, Sr.***
- 1 Stephone Robinson, 5-8, 190, Sr.-5***
- 23 Kevin Moyd, 5-7, 195, Soph.*

PUNT RETURN

- 29 Cha'pelle Brown, 5-7, 175, Soph.*
- 1 Stephone Robinson, 5-8, 190, Sr.-5***
- 9 Daniel Dykes, 6-2, 205, Jr.

HOLDER (PINNER)

- 21 Scotty McKnight, 5-10, 185, Fr.-RS
- 83 Dusty Sprague, 6-4, 190, Sr.-5***
- 7 Cody Hawkins, 5-11, 190, Fr.-RS

SHORT SNAPPER

- 70 Justin Drescher, 6-1, 230, Soph.*
- 75 Daniel Sanders, 6-3, 310, Jr.**

LONG SNAPPER

- 50 Austin Bisnow, 6-0, 210, Fr.-RS
- 34 R.J. Brown, 6-1, 225, Jr.*
- 70 Justin Drescher, 6-1, 230, Soph.*

INJURED (limited participation)

- 61 Erick Faatagi, OL, 6-2, 310, Jr.
- 38 Chase McBride, WR/KR, 5-7, 160, Sr.-5*
- 88 Devin Shanahan, TE, 6-5, 230, Soph.
- 99 Justin Nonu, ILB, 6-2, 300, Fr.-RS

OUT (injury/academics)

- 36 Reggie Foster, S, 5-10, 200, Soph.
- 21 Scotty McKnight, 5-10, 185, Fr.-RS
- 31 Thomas Perez, TB, 6-1, 210, Jr.

#—transfer; eligible to practice only.
(I)—throws or kicks left-handed/footed.

Seniors (17): Listing with a (-5) indicates fifth-year senior (13); all others are fourth-year seniors (4).

AND — indicates those listed all play/rotate (basically co-first team status);

OR — indicates first-team status up for grabs. Freshmen expected to redshirt not listed.



*—denotes number of letters earned through 2006; *Injured players listed in italics (status questionable or doubtful—not out for extended time; probables listed as normal).* **CAPTAINS:** 10 Bernard Jackson (offense), 44 Jordon Dizon (defense), 34 R.J. Brown (special teams).

2007 COLORADO FOOTBALL / ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

April 2, 2007

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Exp	Hometown (High School/Previous College)	Status
30	ADAMS, Joel	S	5-11	195	Jr.	1L	Steamboat Springs, Colo. (Steamboat)	WO 2/2
17	BARNETT, Alvin	WR	5-11	190	Sr.	2L	Tulsa, Okla. (East Central/NE Oklahoma A&M)	S 2/1
47	BARRETT, Alonzo	DE	6- 3	235	Sr.	3L	Alabaster, Ala. (Thompson)	S 2/1
59	BEATTY, B.J.	OLB	6- 1	230	Fr.	RS	Kaaawa, Hawai'i (Kahuku)	S 4/4
41	BEHRENS, Jake	FB	6- 0	230	So.	VR	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)	S 3/3
50	BISNOW, Austin	LS	6- 0	210	Fr.	RS	Washington, D.C. (Landon School)	WO 4/4
78	BRACE, Jason	DT	6- 4	265	So.	1L	Spanaway, Wash. (Spanaway Lake)	S 4/3
29	BROWN, Cha'pelle	WR	5- 7	175	So.	1L	La Puente, Calif. (Los Altos)	S 4/3
23	BROWN, Jalil	CB	6- 1	205	Fr.	RS	Phoenix, Ariz. (South Mountain)	S 4/4
34	BROWN, R.J.	ILB	6- 1	225	Jr.	1L	Honolulu, Hawai'i (Punahou)	S 2/2
42	BURNEY, Benjamin	CB	5-11	195	Jr.	2L	Lone Tree, Colo. (Mullen)	S 3/2
54	BURTON, Marcus	ILB	6- 0	245	Jr.	2L	Channelview, Texas (Channelview)	S 3/2
32	CANTRELL, Maurice	FB	6- 0	240	Jr.	1L	Cedar Rapids, Iowa (Washington)	S 2/2
2	CHARLES, Hugh	TB	5- 8	190	Sr.	3L	Keller, Texas (Keller)	S 2/1
48	CRAWFORD, Cody	WR	5-11	175	Jr.	1L	San Diego, Calif. (Torrey Pines)	WO 2/2
33	DEVENNY, Patrick	TE	6- 3	240	So.	VR	Roseville, Calif. (Granite Bay)	S 3/3
84	DeVREE, Tyson	TE	6- 5	245	Sr.	1L	Hudsonville, Mich. (Hudsonville/Western Michigan)	S 1/1
14	DILALLO, Matthew	P	6- 1	205	So.	1L	Wellington, Fla. (Wellington)	S 3/3
44	DIZON, Jordan	ILB	6- 0	225	Sr.	3L	Kauai, Hawai'i (Waimea)	S 2/1
70	DRESCHER, Justin	LS	6- 1	230	So.	1L	Southlake, Texas (Carroll)	S 4/3
57	DUREN, Jake	LB	6- 0	230	So.	TR	Littleton, Colo. (Mullen/Northern Colorado)	WO 3/3
9	DYKES, Daniel	S	6- 2	205	Jr.	TR	Los Alamitos, Calif. (Los Alamitos/Idaho)	WO 2/2
39	EBERHART, Kevin	PK	5-11	195	Sr.	1L	Broomfield, Colo. (Broomfield)	S 1/1
27	ELLIS, Byron	TB	6- 0	215	Sr.	3L	Culver City, Calif. (Venice)	S 2/1
61	FAATAGI, Erick	OL	6- 2	310	Jr.	JC	Carson, Calif. (Dorsey/El Camino College)	S 2/2
36	FOSTER, Reggie	S	5-10	200	So.	VR	Long Beach, Calif. (Millikan)	S 3/3
87	GEER, Riar	TE	6- 3	245	So.	1L	Grand Junction, Colo. (Fruita-Monument)	S 3/3
86	HAM, Cameron	WR	6- 1	195	Fr.	RS	Haxtun, Colo. (Haxtun)	WO 4/4
25	HARRIS, Lionel	S	6- 0	195	Sr.	2L	Manvel, Texas (Alvin)	S 1/1
76	HARRISON, Edwin	OL	6- 4	300	Sr.	3L	Houston, Texas (Westbury)	S 1/1
55	HARTIGAN, Josh	OLB	6- 1	210	Fr.	HS	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Northeast)	S 5/4
7	HAWKINS, Cody	QB	5-11	190	Fr.	RS	Boise, Idaho (Bishop Kelly)	S 4/4
18	HAWKINS, Jonathan	CB	5-11	185	Fr.	HS	Perris, Calif. (Rancho Verde)	S 5/4
72	HEAD, Devin	OL	6- 4	285	So.	1L	Corona, Calif. (Centennial)	S 3/3
90	HERROD, Marquez	DE	6- 2	255	Fr.	RS	Escondido, Calif. (San Pasqual)	S 4/4
49	HUDGINS, Drew	DE	6- 4	235	Jr.	JC	Spring Hills, Kan. (Spring Hills/Highland CC)	S 3/2
86	HYPOLITE, George	DT	6- 1	285	Jr.	2L	Los Angeles, Calif. (Loyola)	S 3/2
10	JACKSON, Bernard	QB	6- 0	200	Sr.	1L	Corona, Calif. (Santiago)	S 1/1
43	JAGORAS, Samson	FB	5-10	225	Sr.	1L	Arcadia, Calif. (Arcadia/Western New Mexico)	S 1/1
40	JONES, Brad	OLB	6- 3	225	Jr.	2L	East Lansing, Mich. (East Lansing)	S 2/2
82	KACHMER, Michael	WR	6- 0	185	So.	VR	Wheaton, Ill. (St. Francis)	WO 3/3
97	KAYNOR, Taj	DT	6- 4	265	So.	VR	Englewood, Colo. (Cherry Creek)	S 3/3
69	LAWSON, Eric	DT	6- 3	260	Fr.	RS	Sedalia, Colo. (Douglas County)	S 4/4
91	LUCAS, Maurice	DE	6- 4	255	Jr.	2L	Denver, Colo. (Rangeview)	S 3/2
38	McBRIDE, Chase	WR	5- 7	160	Sr.	1L	Thornton, Colo. (Broomfield/Wyoming)	WO 1/1
6	McKAY, Gardner	CB	5-11	160	Jr.	2L	Inglewood, Calif. (Crenshaw)	S 3/2
21	McKNIGHT, Scotty	WR	5-10	185	Fr.	RS	Coto de Caza, Calif. (Tesoro)	WO 4/4
23	MOYD, Kevin	TB	5- 7	195	So.	1L	Miramar, Fla. (Northwestern)	S 3/3
36	NABORS, Cory	TB	5- 9	185	Fr.	RS	Aurora, Colo. (Rangeview)	WO 4/4
3	NELSON, Nick	QB	6- 1	220	Jr.	JC	Mission Viejo, Calif. (Tesoro/Saddleback College)	S 3/2
94	NICOLAS, Brandon	DT	6- 3	280	Jr.	1L	Santa Ana, Calif. (Mater Dei/Notre Dame)	S 2/2
65	PALAZZI, Wes	OL	6- 1	285	Fr.	RS	Plano, Texas (Plano West)	S 4/4
89	PARRA, Jim	PK	5- 6	140	Fr.	HS	Greenwood Village, Colo. (Regis)	WO 5/4
77	POLUMBUS, Tyler	OL	6- 8	300	Sr.	3L	Englewood, Colo. (Cherry Creek)	S 1/1
1	ROBINSON, Stephone	WR	5- 8	190	Sr.	3L	Denver, Colo. (Mullen)	S 1/1
75	SANDERS, Daniel	OL	6- 3	305	Jr.	2L	Vista, Calif. (El Camino)	S 2/2
13	SANDERS, Joe	TE	6- 3	235	Sr.	2L	Nashville, Tenn. (Hillsboro)	S 1/1
88	SHANAHAN, Devin	TE	6- 5	230	So.	VR	Highlands Ranch, Colo. (Highlands Ranch)	WO 3/3
10	SIPILI, Michael	ILB	6- 1	250	So.	1L	Honolulu, Hawai'i (Damien Memorial)	S 4/3
45	SMART, Jeff	ILB	5-11	210	So.	1L	Boulder, Colo. (Boulder)	WO 3/3
28	SMITH, Bret	S	5-11	190	Fr.	RS	Highlands Ranch, Colo. (Regis)	WO 4/4
3	SMITH, Jimmy	CB	6- 2	200	Fr.	RS	Colton, Calif. (Colton)	S 4/4
92	SOLDER, Nate	TE	6- 8	270	Fr.	RS	Buena Vista, Colo. (Buena Vista)	S 4/4
83	SPRAGUE, Dusty	WR	6- 4	190	Sr.	3L	Holyoke, Colo. (Holyoke)	S 1/1
52	STENGEL, Bryan	ILB	6- 2	210	So.	RS	Durango, Colo. (Durango)	WO 3/3

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2007 COLORADO FOOTBALL / ALPHABETICAL ROSTER 2-2-2

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Exp	Hometown (High School/Previous College)	Status
56	STEVENS, Keenan	OG	6- 3	275	Fr.	RS	Monument, Colo. (Lewis-Palmer)	WO 4/4
95	SUAZO, Tom	P	5-11	190	Jr.	VR	Glenwood Springs, Colo. (Glenwood Springs/Arizona State)	WO 2/2
8	SUMLER, Demetrius	TB	5-10	210	Fr.	RS	San Diego, Calif. (Cathedral Catholic)	S 4/4
15	WALTERS, Ryan	S	5-11	200	Jr.	2L	Aurora, Colo. (Grandview)	S 2/2
26	WHEATLEY, Terrence	CB	5-10	170	Sr.	3L	Richardson, Texas (Plano East)	S 1/1
4	WILLIAMS, Patrick	WR	6- 2	200	Jr.	2L	DeSoto, Texas (DeSoto)	S 2/2
20	WILSON, Terry	S	5-10	205	Jr.	VR	Chino, Calif. (Junipero Serra)	S 2/2
80	YATES, Jarrell	WR	5-11	200	So.	1L	Denver, Colo. (Montbello)	S 3/3

EXPERIENCE KEY: #L—indicates number of letters earned through 2006; HS—high school; JC—junior college transfer; RS—freshman redshirt in 2006; TR—transfer; VR—varsity reserve performer. **STATUS KEY:** S—scholarship, WO—walk-on; #/#—clock as of 2007 season, i.e., 2/1: two years available to play one in eligibility.

Spring Inactive Roster Players (Injured/Ineligible, Etc.)

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Exp	Hometown (High School/Previous College)	Status
43	*BINI, Calvin	CB	5-10	175	Jr.	TR	Radcliff, Ky. (North Hardin/Kentucky Wesleyan)	Transfer WO 3/2
41	*BLACK, Kyle	S	5-11	195	Fr.	TR	Highlands Ranch, Colo. (ThunderRidge/Air Force)	Transfer WO 4/4
31	PEREZ, Thomas	TB	6- 1	210	Jr.	JC	Compton, Calif. (Lynnwood/Compton CC)	Academics S 2/2
99	NONU, Justin	ILB	6- 2	300	Fr.	RS	Vista, Calif. (Oceanside)	Injured (back) S 4/4

*—allowed to practice.

TEAM CAPTAINS: 10 Bernard Jackson (offense), 44 Jordon Dizon (defense), 34 R.J. Brown (special teams).

ALL-STAR CANDIDATES

Looking ahead to this fall, there are a few Colorado players who should be in the mix for some individual honors. Heading the list are **CB Terrence Wheatley**, a likely *Thorpe Award* candidate, and **ILB Jordon Dizon**, expected to be in the hunt for the *Butkus Award*. Both should be on most preseason All-America lists as well. **TB Hugh Charles**, on the official watch list for the *Doak Walker Award* in 2006, should again be on that list in 2007. Players like **WR Alvin Barnett**, **PK Kevin Eberhart**, **TE Riar Geer**, **SS Lionel Harris**, **OL Edwin Harrison**, **DT George Hypolite**, **QB Bernard Jackson**, **OLB Brad Jones**, **NT Brandon Nicolas**, **OT Tyler Polumbus**, **KR Stephone Robinson**, **OG Daniel Sanders**, **WR Dusty Sprague**, **FS Ryan Walters** and **WR Patrick Williams**, among others, could emerge as All-Big 12 Conference candidates (or even All-America) with breakout seasons.

2007 COLORADO PLAYERS-TO-WATCH

April 2, 2007

ALVIN BARNETT, WR

5-11, 190, Sr., 2L

Finished up as the second-leading receiver on the Buffs with 21 receptions (for 232 yards, 11.0 per) with a touchdown, but he snared 10 of those in the last four games of the year as started to enjoy some moderate success late in the season... He started eighth games and played in all 12 in 2006 after playing in all 13 as a sophomore in 2005, including one start (he caught 17 passes for 131 yards, averaging 7.7 yards per reception that year)... His long gain was 38 yards, with eight of his grabs for 10 or more yards as he was utilized for a second straight year more on short passes... His best game as a junior was against Iowa State (4-77, 1 TD), with his top career effort to date at Miami, Fla., in 2005 (7-59 receiving, with two reverses for 28 yards).

HUGH CHARLES, TB

5-8, 190, Sr., 3L

The 48th player in school history to rush for 1,000 yards (he is 21st all-time at CU with 1,670), he will again be a candidate for the Doak Walker Award which is presented to the nation's top running back... He has led Colorado in rushing the last two seasons, doing so with 779 yards as a junior in 2006... Had 25 rushes for 10-plus yards (62 5-plus) last season, averaging 5.0 yards or more per carry in nine of 12 games... Involved in four plays of 33 yards or longer (three being runs, including a 44-yard gainer at Nebraska)... Dangerous as a receiver as well, as he's 99th all-time with 319 receiving yards... Has 19 career starts, seven last year, 12 as a sophomore when he earned honorable mention All-Big 12 honors from the *Associated Press* and the league coaches (he was a second-team choice by the *Kansas City Star* and the *San Antonio Express-News*)... He led the team with 842 rushing yards in 2005... In his first start, he rushed for 101 yards and two scores on 15 carries against Colorado State in the '05 opener, becoming just the 14th player in CU history to run for 100 yards in his first career start... He has topped the century mark five times in all... He was involved in three long scrimmage plays in 2005: a 74-yard run TD at OSU; a 51-yard TD catch against A&M and a 45-yard run versus Nebraska.

MATT DiLALLO, P

6-1, 205, Soph., 1L

He was the unanimous first-team Freshman All-American in 2006 (*The Sporting News*, collegefootballnews.com, Rivals.com), as he finished fourth in the Big 12 and 15th in the NCAA with a 43.7 average (he was 2.8 yards out of the league and NCAA lead, as Baylor's Daniel Sepulveda topped both)... He was just the third player to lead CU in punting as a freshman, joining Stan Koleski (38.2 in 1973) and Andy Mitchell (38.3 in 1994)... He placed 14 punts inside-the-20 (four inside-the-10), had eight of 50 yards or longer, and did not record a touchback. DiLallo also rose to the occasion in the Baylor game and out-punted the defending Ray Guy Award winner Sepulveda in both gross (51.8 for four punts, to 49.8 for four) and in net (45.8 to 44.8)... Mitchell's 38.3 average was the best ever posted by a CU freshman before DiLallo bested it by some 5.4 yards.

JORDON DIZON, ILB

6-0, 225, Sr., 3L

CU's defensive captain for 2007 (as selected by his teammates)... He enters his senior season 17th all-time in tackles at Colorado with 280, with his 173 solo ranking as the 20th most in school history... He is fifth in the NCAA in career tackles among active leaders heading into 2007 (his total does not include bowls, others do)... Has played in 38 games in his career, including 34 starts, both team highs... In 2006, Dizon was a second-team All-Big 12 performer by the *Associated Press* (the *San Antonio Express-News* tabbed him first-team, the league coaches made him honorable mention)... His 137 tackles led the team in 2006, as he also had a team best 80 solo; he snuck up on a school record in falling one short of the mark in posting 17 third down stops, just shy of the record first set by Chad Brown in 1992 and then equaled in 2005 by Brian Iwuh... Of his 11 for losses, four were sacks... Had eight games with 10 or more tackles, including a career-high 19 at Nebraska (along with 16 versus Texas Tech and 15 against both Colorado State and Oklahoma)... He earned honorable mention All-Big 12 honors as a sophomore and freshman... In 2004, he became CU's first true frosh to ever be recognized with the conference's Defensive Newcomer of the Year (*Associated Press*) and the Defensive Freshman of the Year (Big 12 Coaches) awards... A second-team *Sporting News* Freshman All-American... He led all freshmen in the Big 12 with 82 tackles (51 solo), which also established a CU true freshman record.

RIAR GEER, TE

6-3, 245, Soph., 1L

A second-team Freshman All-American by both *The Sporting News* and Rivals.com; TSN also selected him to its first-team All-Big 12 team... He led the team in receiving with 24 catches for 261 yards and three touchdowns (all three were team bests); no freshman, true or redshirt, had ever led the Buffs in receiving before Geer did it in 2006, and his 24 receptions were the most by a freshman tight end in school history... Played in all 12 games, starting nine; that was a school record for the most starts by a freshman tight end, either true or redshirt (the old best was five)... He caught at least one pass in 10 games, with his top game for receptions and yards coming at Georgia, when he hauled in seven for 71 yards... His touchdowns were against Baylor (his first career scoring grab tied the game in the first overtime), Texas Tech and Nebraska... Also developed into a solid blocker as the season progressed.

GEORGE HYPOLITE, DT

6-1, 185, Jr., 2L

An honorable mention All-Big 12 selection by the coaches in 2006... Played in all 12 games, starting eight, seeing action for 601 snaps from scrimmage (sixth most on the defense)... Recorded 50 tackles on the year (31 solo), with his 13 tackles for loss the second most on the team... Had three pass breakups, seven hurries and four third down stops to go with two-and-a-half quarterback sacks... Had a career-high nine tackles against Baylor, and had four or more in eight games... He had a big game at Georgia, with four solo tackles, three for losses including two sacks, and a forced fumble.

BERNARD JACKSON, QB

6-0, 200, Sr., 1L

CU's offensive captain for 2007 (as selected by his teammates)... He quietly made some history in 2006; the often-traveled (in regards to position switches) "B-jax" finally settled in at his natural and preferred position and showed marked improvement since being handed the keys to the Colorado offense in game two of the season... He had 31 runs of 10 or more yards (three 30-plus, six 20-plus), and 69 of five or longer, both team highs; it all added to 677 rushing yards, the third most ever in a single-year by a CU quarterback... And when deducting the number of times and yards sacked, his true per carry average of 6.6 yards was the second best by a QB in school history... He ended the season with 66 consecutive passes without an interception (just two in his last 112 attempts); that is the 10th longest active streak in the NCAA entering '07... He did not throw his first touchdown pass until his 107th pass of the season, but had seven in his last 113 throws; his quarterback ranking prior to his first TD pass was 85.0 (106-51-4, 561 yards); to finish off the year, it was 120.5 (113-57-3, 738, 7 TDs)... Many of Jackson's throws (21) were deliberate throws out of bounds to avoid taking a sack or on broken plays, or his completion percentage would be a bit better.

RYAN WALTERS, FS**5-11, 200, Jr., 2L**

Played in 11 games, starting 10 in 2006 as a couple of different injuries cost him some game time (he was in for 553 snaps from scrimmage)... He had 57 tackles on the year (41 solo), with two interceptions, three pass deflections, four third down stops, a fumble recovery and a touchdown save... Had a season and career-high 11 tackles against Arizona State; also had eight against Missouri and Kansas... Earned Big 12 Conference Defensive Player of the Week honors against Texas Tech, when he had two interceptions, four tackles and two third down stops... He returned a fumble 95 yards for a touchdown against the Jayhawks, the second longest fumble (and any kind of miscellaneous) return in CU history; it stood as the 24th longest play of any kind in school annals (behind 15 kickoff, six interception, one punt and one fumble)... He won the inaugural Dick Anderson Award as the most improved player on defense the spring of his true freshman year.

TERRENCE WHEATLEY, CB**5-10, 175, Sr., 2L**

A first-team All-Big 12 selection by the league coaches in 2006 (second-team by the Associated Press)... One of the top cover corners in the conference, he is one of the fastest Buffs with true 4.4 speed... Should be a candidate for the Jim Thorpe Award, previously won twice by CU players... Rebounded well after missing the entire 2005 season following multiple wrist surgeries... Started all 12 games and played the most snaps on the team (776) last year... Led the team with five interceptions... At Colorado, he is 12th all-time in interceptions (9) and 14th in pass deflections (19)... Had 57 tackles (46 solo), with a team-best 11 pass deflections (not including the picks) and the second-most third down stops with 11... Also dangerous as a return man, though utilized in a limited role last season (averaged 22.0 yards on 19 kickoff returns in 2004, with two 40-plus efforts).

PATRICK WILLIAMS, WR**6-2, 200, Jr., 2L**

He played in all 12 games (seven starts) last fall, finishing third on the team in catches (19) and second in receiving yards (242), averaging 12.7 per catch... He had nine catches in the first three games of the year, with eight in the final three, including his lone touchdown catch (against Iowa State, when he caught four balls for 71 yards)... He enters his junior year tied for 38th in receptions (47) and 61st in receiving yards (483) all-time at Colorado... He was fourth on the team with 28 receptions for 241 yards (8.6 per catch) in 2005... He caught at least one pass in the first 16 games of his career before being shutout four straight games early in his sophomore year.

OTHERS TO KEEP AN EYE ON

Several other players have the opportunity to stand out for the Buffaloes in 2007 and some could easily wind up contending for All-Big 12 honors or better. Some of those include:

R.J. Brown, ILB (6-1, 225, Jr., 1L)—CU's special teams captain for 2007 (as selected by his teammates)... Top returning points man on special teams, as he had nine on the strength of five tackles (two inside-the-20), a knockdown block and a fumble recovery... He is listed second at inside linebacker (mike), but likely will see most of his action on special teams... One of the hardest working guys on the team.

Kevin Eberhart, PK (5-11, 195, Sr., 1L)—He has waited patiently to get his chance to kick, as he was the primary backup to two-time All-American Mason Crosby the last three seasons... He did see action in five games as a true freshman, becoming just the third placekicker in CU history to play as a true freshman. He was CU's regular kickoff man the first half of the season, as he had 24 kickoffs, nine going for touchbacks (four through the end zone)... He is the all-time kick scoring leader in Colorado prep history, so he came to college with the credentials and should showcase them this season.

Lionel Harris, SS (6-0, 195, Sr., 2L)—Saw the first real extensive time of his career from scrimmage last fall and responded well, as in eight games on defense (six starts, 431 snaps from scrimmage), he was fourth on the team in tackles with 67 (40 solo), with an interception, two forced fumbles, a recovery, two pass breakups, a touchdowns save and five third down stops... Also on multiple special team units as well (had five tackles in '06)... He had a career-best 12 tackles (10 solo) against Kansas State, and posted 11 against Baylor, Oklahoma and Nebraska.

Edwin Harrison, OT (6-4, 300, Sr., 3L)—The most experienced of all the offensive linemen, as he has played in 34 games in his career, with 16 starts (only three other players on the roster have more career starts)... He started nine games last year, seeing action for 548 plays from scrimmage... Also a veteran of the FG/PAT unit on special teams... Has allowed just three quarterback sacks in his career, none his sophomore season in 2005... One of the strongest players on the team.

Brad Jones, OLB (6-3, 225, Jr., 2L)—He quietly finished third on the team in tackles with 72 (41 solo), as he played the fourth most snaps on defense a year ago (644)... Also had an interception (at Kansas), six third down stops and a pass breakup... Started 11 games (CU came out in a nickel formation in the other)... Had a career-high 10 tackles in the win over Iowa State... Had at least four stops in 11 of the 12 games, and his nine tackle effort against Baylor included eight solo stops.

Brandon Nicolas, DT (6-3, 280, Jr., 1L)—He started 11 games in 2006, doing an excellent job against the run as he had 57 tackles (31 solo)... Was quite durable, as he was in for 611 snaps from scrimmage, the most of the down linemen... Had four tackles for loss, five third down stops and two forced fumbles.

Tyler Polumbus, OT (6-8, 300, Sr., 3L)—He started all 12 games in 2006 (one of only four to do so), as he has played in 35 career games (15 starts), tied for the fifth most among CU's senior class... His 715 snaps last year were a team-high on offense, as he played every snap... At 6-foot-8, he's Colorado's tallest offensive lineman, both this season as well as tied for all-time... A steady player, he could have a breakout season as he figures to play left tackle and thus could contend for postseason honors.

Stephone Robinson, WR/KR (5-8, 190 Sr., 3L)—He didn't have a great 2006 when it came to returns, but his past history combined with his off-season program likely will put him back into the limelight as one of the nation's top return men... He averaged 17.4 yards for 15 kickoff returns and 5.1 for 15 punt returns last season... All-time at Colorado, he is ninth in punt return yards (593), fifth in punt returns (75), sixth in kickoff return yards (857) and fourth in kickoff returns (48)... He earned second-team All-Big 12 honors from the league coaches at kick returner as a freshman and sophomore.

Daniel Sanders, OG/C (6-3, 305, Jr., 2L)—He missed the season opener with an injury but started the other 11 games in 2006 (and played all but six snaps the rest of the season, finishing with 655 total)... Nicknamed "Girthy" for his size, he is CU's best returning interior lineman who might wind up playing both guard and center... A touch competitor, he has not let assorted injuries sidetrack his career as he has fought back from all of them.

Dusty Sprague, WR (6-4, 190, Sr., 3L)—Geared up for a big senior year after catching just 11 passes for 179 yards in 2006; his 16.3 yards per catch was a team best... Top game was at Missouri, with two grabs for 85 yards, including a team-season long of 63 yards... He enters his senior season 19th in receptions (76) and 22nd in receiving yards (925) all-time at Colorado... In 2005, he led the team in receptions with 43 for 468 yards (10.9 per) and a touchdown... In 2004, *The Sporting News* named him to its Freshman All-Big 12 team, as he caught 22 passes for 278 yards for the year.

IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE BUFFALOES

April 2, 2007

OFFENSE

Quarterback

VETERANS: Bernard Jackson, Sr. **REDSHIRTS:** Cody Hawkins, Fr.-RS. **JUCO RECRUIT:** Nick Nelson, Jr.

Jackson took over the starting role from James Cox in the second of the 2006 season, and while struggling at times, made vast improvement over the final 11 games of the year. The only thing for certain is that the starting position won't be decided in the spring; Dan Hawkins prefers to let it play out over summer conditioning and the first part of fall camp. It's a three-horse race in the spring, as Jackson will contend with the junior college veteran Nelson, who enrolled for classes in January, and Cody Hawkins, who redshirted as a true frosh a year ago but was selected by his peers as the offensive scout player of the year. Nelson led Saddleback Community College to an 11-1 record while throwing for 1,910 yards and along with Jackson brings some game experience to the battle. B-Jax was versatile, as he threw for 1,298 yards and ran for the third-most single-season yards (677) by a quarterback in season history. He could be utilized at another position should he not win the job to take advantage of his athleticism. Whoever wins the role will be charged with improving an offense that struggled to be consistent last fall, one that score one touchdown or less in seven of 12 games.

Fall Additions: Matt Ballenger (recruit). **Key Losses:** Cox (graduation).

Running Back / Fullback

VETERANS: Hugh Charles, Sr.; Byron Ellis, Sr.; Kevin Moyd, Soph. (TB); Jake Behrens, Fr.-RS; Maurice Cantrell, Jr.; Samson Jagoras, Sr. (FB); **REDSHIRTS:** Demetrius Sumler, Fr.-RS; Cory Nabors, Fr.-RS (TB)

CU was 22nd nationally running the ball in '06, averaging a healthy 172.9 yards per game, and it marked just the 10th time in program history three players rushed for at least 500 yards. Still, there is room for improvement; CU was just 28-of-62 on third down rushing the football, and while having 17 plays over 20 yards, the coaching staff would like to see more consistency, especially between the tackles. Charles returns as CU's 21st all-time leading rusher, with 779 yards a year ago, as does Ellis, with the duo to get some competition from Sumler, who opened eyes in practice while redshirted as a frosh, and two talented newcomers in the fall.

➤ **Fullback** Cantrell worked his way into the first-team role a year ago after moving over from inside linebacker, with Jagoras, the original starter, also seeing time over the course of the year. Behrens figures into the mix as well, and with no incoming recruits to add to the position, these three will carry the load in 2007.

Fall Additions: TB Brian Lockridge, TB P.T. Gates (recruits). **Key Losses:** Mell Holliday (graduation).

Offensive Line

VETERANS: Edwin Harrison, Sr.; Devin Head, Soph.; Tyler Polumbus, Sr.; Daniel Sanders, Jr. **REDSHIRTS:** Erick Faatagi, Jr.; Wes Palazzi, Fr.-RS; Keenan Stevens, Fr.-RS

For the second straight spring, the coaches won't have many bodies to work with, but help is on the way as eight highly touted recruits will join the fold in August. The Buffs lose two players considered the anchors of the line the better part of this decade, guard Brian Daniels and center Mark Fenton, who started seven seasons and 76 games between them. In the meantime, there are just six healthy bodies for the spring with one player (Faatagi) who can participate only on a limited basis. While that will make practice challenging for the coaches, valuable reps will be gained by redshirts Palazzi and Stevens, who have never seen game action, and Head, who played 55 snaps last year, all but one in the opener when he subbed in for an injured Sanders. Harrison and Polumbus are the only tackles on the roster, though Head could slide over from guard to the position with his size. Palazzi, Sanders and Stevens all will likely see action at center as well as guard. Faatagi, when healthy, figures to line up at guard. Come fall, several of the incoming frosh will fill out the two-deep by necessity, with the possibility that one or more could work their way on to the first-team, most notably Ryan Miller, considered one of the top OL recruits in the nation.

Fall Additions: Ethan Adkins, Matthew Bahr, Blake Behrens, Shawn Daniels, Mike Itlis, Kai Maiava, Ryan Miller, Sione Tau (recruits). **Key Losses:** Daniels, Fenton, C Bryce MacMartin, OG/T Jack Tipton (graduation); OT Paul Backowski, OT Jeremy Hauck (quit).

Receiver

VETERANS: Alvin Barnett, Sr.; *Cha'pelle Brown, Soph.; Cody Crawford, Jr.; Stephone Robinson, Sr.; Dusty Sprague, Sr.; Patrick Williams, Jr.; Chase McBride, Sr.; Jarrell Yates, Soph. **REDSHIRTS:** Cameron Ham, Fr.-RS; Michael Kachmer, Soph.; Scotty McKnight, Fr.-RS (*—denotes switched positions).

No locks here, either at the X or Z positions, as the coaches will be looking for at least two "go-to" guys to emerge in the spring and fall camp. Barnett led all the wideouts with 21 catches a year ago (10 in the final four games), but he, along with Williams (19), Crawford (15, all but two in the final five games), Sprague (11), Robinson (2) and Yates (2) combined for just 70 receptions for a shade over 13 yards per, with just three touchdowns. Hawkins' Boise State teams were known for stretching the field, averaging around 75-80 pass plays a season over 20 yards, and that has to improve between the quarterback and receiver play; CU had just 18 all last year, just 13 from the receiver position. Brown comes over from cornerback where he saw significant action as a frosh (350 snaps), so he'll add some speed to the troops; McKnight, a walk-on, received high praise in practices and could be a factor. Three recruits will be in the mix come fall, and this is definitely one position where they could make an impact if the veterans don't answer the bell.

Fall Additions: Kendrick Celestine, Markques Simas, Josh Smith (recruits). **Key Losses:** Blake Mackey (graduation).

Tight End

VETERANS: Patrick Devenny, Soph.; Tyson DeVree, Sr.; Riar Geer, Soph.; *Joe Sanders, Sr. **REDSHIRTS:** Nate Solder, Fr.-RS (*—denotes switched positions).

Geer emerged as the go-to guy among all receivers, becoming the first freshman (true or redshirt) to lead CU in receiving (24 catches for 261 yards, 3 TDs). DeVree was expected to be that guy as a highly-regarded transfer from Western Michigan, but he was sidetracked early on due to injury and never got into any kind of groove; he could be a diamond in the rough. Devenny moved to tight end last spring but returned to quarterback due to the depth situation, and is now back at TE, with Sanders moving over from inside linebacker to the position he was recruited to CU. Solder is one the coaches want to get on the field as they liked him in practice.

Fall Additions: None (recruit Devan Johnson is scheduled for January enrollment). **Key Losses:** Paul Creighton, Dan Goettsch (graduation).

DEFENSE

Defensive Front

VETERANS: Alonzo Barrett, Sr.; Maurice Lucas, Jr. (DE); Jason Brace, Soph.; George Hypolite, Jr., Taj Kaynor, Soph., Brandon Nicolas, Jr. (DT). **REDSHIRTS:** Marquez Herrod, Fr.-RS (DE); Eric Lawson, Fr.-RS (DT). **JUCO RECRUIT:** Drew Hudgins, Jr. (DE).

The loss to graduation by ends Abraham Wright (11½ sacks) and Walter Boye-Doe hit this area hard, as only two returning players have game experience at the position: Lucas, who started the last half of his freshman year, and Barrett; they played 311 snaps a year ago but had just one sack between them. JUCO transfer Hudgins will immediately bolster the position, and the coaches liked what they saw in practice from Herrod a year ago. At tackle, starters Hypolite and Nicolas return, so the Buffs are more than solid on the first unit. Reserves Brace and Kaynor also return, and they have some game action under their belts, while Lawson is another redshirt the coaches liked in practices. The key here is once there are enough bodies, the coaches want to be able to run in up to 10 players per game to keep people fresh; they utilized only seven in that capacity a year ago.

Fall Additions: Conrad Obi, Christopher Perri, Lagrone Shields (recruits; a fourth, Eugene Goree, is currently slated for January enrollment). **Key Losses:** Walter Boye-Doe, Abraham Wright, Alex Ligon, Marcus Jones (graduation).

Inside Linebacker

VETERANS: Jordon Dizon, Sr.; Michael Sipili, Soph.; Marcus Burton, Jr.; R.J. Brown, Jr.; Jeff Smart, Soph.; Bryan Stengel, Soph. **TRANSFER:** Jake Duren, Soph.

The Buffs had a solid 1-2 punch in Dizon and Thaddaeus Washington a year ago, with Dizon recording 137 tackles, the most in nine years, as he was everywhere; he also had the third-most third down stops in school history with 17. He leads several returnees at the position, but Washington, a tough competitor and big hitter, has to be replaced. Figure on Sipili being a lead candidate for that distinction, as he made a pair of starts in '06 and the coaches are very high on his all-around game. Don't count out Burton, who has plenty of game experience, or Duren, a Northern Colorado transfer. Smart was in for a few game plays as well, and this is a position where you count out no one since it's tutored by linebacker coaching great Brian Cabral.

Fall Additions: Tyler Ahles (recruit). **Key Losses:** Jason Ackerman, Washington (graduation).

Outside Linebacker

VETERANS: Brad Jones, Jr.; **REDSHIRT:** B.J. Beatty, Fr.-RS; **SPRING RECRUIT:** Josh Hartigan, Fr.

Jones was the third-leading tackler (72) last season, though only had one for a loss (a half-sack); thus the coaches will be exploring ways to get him into the backfield more. Last year's backup, Joe Sanders, only saw 36 snaps in games and has switched back to his original tight end position. Beatty impressed in practice and figures to crack the two-deep and subsequent playing time, while Hartigan has enrolled at CU after graduating high school in December and will get extra reps under his belt.

Fall Additions: none. **Key Losses:** Ben Carpenter, Chad Cusworth (graduation); Sanders (to offense).

Secondary

VETERANS: Terrence Wheatley, Sr.; Gardner McKay, Jr. (CB); Ben Burney, Jr. (CB/S); Lionel Harris, Sr.; Ryan Walters, Jr.; Joel Adams, Jr., Terry Wilson, Jr. (S). **GRAYSHIRTS:** Jonathan Hawkins, Fr. (CB). **TRANSFERS:** Daniel Dykes, Jr. **REDSHIRTS:** Jalil Brown, Fr.-RS; Jimmy Smith, Fr.-RS (CB). **WALK-ON:** Bret Smith, Fr.-RS (S).

The group has several key veterans and some talented performers who have yet to play a down in a CU uniform; there should be enough leadership to help the "rookies" ease on in. Wheatley, an All-Big 12 selection by the coaches a year ago, figures to be a lock for one of the cornerback positions; he led the team with five interceptions in 2006. The other spot is wide open, with the graduation of Lorenzo Sims and Terry Washington, who split 12 starts last season. Burney, who made two starts at safety in '06, has swung between the two spots but will get a serious look at corner. McKay will have his chance to emerge, after playing mostly special teams a year ago (he saw 66 defensive snaps). Two of the top frosh redshirts from last fall were cornerbacks: Brown and Smith; thus, the coaches could afford to switch Cha'pelle Brown to receiver. January enrollee Hawkins, a member of the '06 recruiting class, bolsters the group. Walters likely has one spot all but locked up, as he gained a reputation as one of the team's fiercest hitters. The other spot will have some competition, with Harris one of the favorites for playing time as he stepped in for an injured J.J. Billingsley for six starts last year and did just fine. Dykes, an Idaho transfer, will figure into the mix, while Adams, who saw special teams duty a year ago after earning two letters in skiing, is now concentrating solely on football. Two players who will have to sit out the fall after transferring are on hand to provide some practice depth, Calvin Bini (Kentucky Wesleyan) and Kyle Black (Air Force).

Fall Additions: Anthony Perkins, Lamont Smith, Nate Vaiomounga, Anthony Wright (recruits). **Key Losses:** Billingsley, Sims, Terry Washington, Dominique Brooks, Vance Washington (graduation); Brown (to offense).

KICKING GAME / SPECIAL TEAMS

VETERAN PERSONNEL: PK Kevin Eberhart, Sr.; P Matt DiLallo, Soph.; LS Justin Drescher, Soph. **TRANSFER:** P Tom Suazo, Jr.; **SQUAD MEMBERS:** LS Austin Bisnow, Fr.-RS. **SPRING WALK-ON:** PK Jim Parra, Fr. (plus several return men).

It's no secret that CU has to replace two-time All-America placekicker Mason Crosby, but Eberhart had more than sound credentials when he arrived; he just fell victim to being a member of the same class as one of college football's all-time greatest kickers. He has a strong leg as well, and did handle kickoff chores for a time as a freshman. DiLallo quietly had the best season by any freshman punter in school history, and was ranked in the nation's top 20 all season; he could very well arrive on the national scene this fall. There's not much depth at either position, so Parra and Suazo are going to get more than a fair share of reps in the practice which will benefit them down the road. Drescher handled all snaps for placements and punts a year ago and was near flawless in doing so. CU will have to find a new holder, as Nick Holz handled the chores for three years, and the return men, as usual, won't be firmed up until fall.

Fall Additions: none. **Key Losses:** PK Crosby, P Isaac Garden, H Holz (graduation).

2007 COLORADO FOOTBALL OUTLOOK

April 2, 2007

At his season-ending press conference, when asked what grade he would give himself for the season, first-year head coach **Dan Hawkins** responded with "an F."

After all, the Buffaloes were 2-10, their worst mark in 22 seasons and just the third 10-loss campaign in 117 seasons of intercollegiate football. The difference between this one and the other two was that the Buffaloes were in every game, with four of the losses by a combined 13 points, including one in triple overtime.

Colorado heard things all season like, "CU is the best 0-6 team in history... Colorado is much better than its 1-9 record," etc., etc., etc. No coach or player anywhere will tell you that is any consolation; all would rather be the worst 6-0 team ever. The feeling was no different in Boulder, even though fans rushed the Folsom Field floor after both wins, decisive verdicts over Texas Tech and Iowa State.

A 19-10 loss to Montana State in the season opener put an immediate damper on Hawkins' first year, as the highly respected coach came to Colorado from Boise State, where he left as the winningest coach in Division I-A over a five-year span. As to what happened, Hawkins and staff spent the entire off-season analyzing every aspect of the program, with the reality that with his resume, expectations might have been higher than they should have been, though no one expected a 2-10 season and the Buffaloes being home come bowl time for just the fifth time since 1984.

"I don't think there was anything that we really discovered because we already had a pretty good handle on what we need to do to get better and why things didn't work out last year," Hawkins said of the winter evaluations. "A lot of things that we did in the off season were just in terms of being a little more demanding, and really emphasizing the finer points of everything from academics to strength and conditioning. Putting the squeeze on the things we know are very important to being a successful person, student and football team. One of the good things is that after winter conditioning, we're stronger all across the board. It's a rebuilding culture, and we're rebuilding confidence as much as anything."

The 10 losses by a total of 112 points in 2006 likely exacerbated the situation, even though the six losses in 2005 were by 162 points and the previous 22 in the program by 472 (21.5 per setback). And though Colorado is realistically in a rebuilding stage as opposed to a reloading one it had been accustomed to for two decades, long-time observers of the program did see several positives, including penalty and turnover counts being reduced.

Hawkins is obviously eager to get year two rolling, and has stayed upbeat and positive. He believes that with a foundation now laid of what his coaching staff expects of the players, along with the usual first-year newlywed issues most incoming staffs experience at new schools now behind them, things will be much different in 2007. He has noted several times in spring practice how far ahead he felt his second team was of his first at various junctures, both in practice and conditioning.

"We should be able to expand the entire packages on both offense and defense, because we were able to lay down a baseline of components and now we can build upon those," he said. "The experience factor will also make a difference; when you have to go back to point A, we won't have to tell them what point A is. We'll be able to do a lot of things more creatively on both sides of the football, and be able to add more things into the packages as well."

Now there was a long list of positives when looking back on 2006, many that should help lay the foundation that Hawkins referred to. Among those:

- ➔ **Turnover Margin.** CU finished the year at **plus-8**, the best number since a plus-13 in 1993; it also tied for the eighth best single-season figure in school history, behind 1956 (+18), 1967 (+17), 1976 (+16), 1993 (+13), 1992 (+12), 1972 (+11) and 1960 (+10). The +0.67 per game average is 17th in the NCAA.
- ➔ Colorado committed just **16 turnovers**, the fewest since 13 in both 1993 and 1989 (which were 11-game seasons); the 16 are thus the third fewest committed by a Buffalo team over the last **50** seasons. CU's last turnover was a fumble lost with 7:55 left in the second quarter of the Kansas State game, meaning the Buffs finished the last 10-plus quarters (**157:55**) of the season without a turnover (**QB Bernard Jackson** was not intercepted in his last **66** passes). CU's quarterbacks threw just 8 interceptions, tied for the 13th lowest total in the last 61 seasons (with the 3.1 INT percentage the seventh lowest in school annals).
- ➔ CU had four games with no turnovers, a school season best; the old season high had been three games, which had been done just three times (1956, 1989, 1993).
- ➔ **Rushing Yards.** Colorado rushed for **2,075 yards** (172.9 per game), its most since 3,136 in 2002, and its most in any losing season since 1974, when the 5-6 Buffs rushed for 2,441 yards. Three players rushed for over 500 yards, just the 10th time in school history that feat was accomplished (**TB Hugh Charles**, **QB Bernard Jackson** and **TB Mell Holliday** combined for 1,968 yards and averaged 4.9 yards per carry).
- ➔ CU allowed **22.3** points per game, the fewest since 1998 (19.1), and the third lowest figure in CU's 11 years in the Big 12 (the other: 18.1 in 1996).
- ➔ **Linebacker Play.** Junior **Jordon Dizon** and senior **Thaddaeus Washington** became the first set of linebackers to both post 100-plus tackles in a season since 1994, when Ted Johnson and Matt Russell accomplished the double-triple.
- ➔ **Field Position.** Opponents started 56 of 138 drives at or inside their 20 (40.6%), while not up to the figure in 2005 (49.7), the Buffs had a freshman punter compared to a Ray Guy finalist a year ago. **P Matthew DiLallo** improved as the season progressed, and his 43.7 average was a school frosh best (he was just the third freshman to ever lead the team in punting, something CU's six All-Americans at the position never did).
- ➔ **TE Riar Geer.** The redshirt freshman tight end became the first frosh, true or redshirt, to lead the Buffaloes for a single season in both receptions and yards, as he finished the year with 24 catches for 261 yards (and 3 TDs). He's just the ninth tight end to lead the team, joining the likes of Jerry Hillebrand, J.V. Cain, Dave Hestera, Jon Embree and Daniel Graham, who was the last to do it in 2001.

—more—

- ➔ Colorado allowed just **six** plays from scrimmage of 40 yards or longer (4 pass, 2 rush); that ties the fewest since the 1987 season, when the Buffs surrendered just four (two of each). Over the past 20 years, CU has limited the foe to six three other seasons (1991, 1994, 1995), with the 13 allowed over the last two seasons the third fewest over a two-year span (trailing the 11 over the 1987-88 seasons and 12 over '94 and '95).
- ➔ **Second Down Defense.** Though opponents did convert at a 47.8 clip on third down, CU's defense shined on second and short; opponents converted just 23 of 53 times when faced with second and four or less (the same figure for the NFL Denver Broncos, a highly regarded defense, was 39-of-68).
- ➔ **Penalties.** Colorado was flagged for **63** penalties, down from 116 in 2005 and its fewest since 1986, when the Buffs were called for 60 infractions. The **559** penalty yards were the fewest since the '88 team had 535 yards marched off on calls.

The Buffaloes return 16 starters, along with six others with significant starting experience in their careers, and 41 lettermen in all from the 2006 squad. So a nucleus is present to build around and the cupboard isn't bare; but depth along the lines is most certainly an issue.

It will take the better part of three recruiting classes to restock the interior lines, as in the interim, CU has only seven offensive and nine defensive linemen on the spring roster. Hawkins has said he wants as many as 13-15 offensive linemen at any time, with no less than a dozen defensively, as the plan there is to rotate them in to keep them fresh through four quarters.

Offensively, the Buffs did establish a solid running game last year, ranking 22nd in the nation with a 172.9 yards per game average. CU had three players rush for 500-plus yards, including 665 out of the quarterback position. But that wasn't to say that the Buffs could run the ball down anyone's throat when they needed to, something the coaches would like see the program get back to. Senior **Hugh Charles**, a Doak Walker Award candidate, is set for a big senior year, and if his commitment in the off-season is any indication, then big things lie ahead for him and the offense.

The quarterback position will be the key to improving a passing game that ranked 116th in the NCAA, as CU averaged just 118.5 yards through the air in 2006. Because the passing game provided little threat, opponents were able to limit the Buffs to just 291.4 yards per game overall on offense, holding CU to 15 points or less eight times. While senior **Bernard Jackson** made tremendous strides, and rushed for the third-most single-season yards by a quarterback in school history, the job is up for grabs between him, JUCO transfer **Nick Nelson** and redshirt frosh **Cody Hawkins**. As is often the case, all three bring something different to the table and the coaches will have to sort out who can run the offense the most efficient.

Colorado's strength a year ago was its run defense, ranked in the top 15 nationally for much of the season and will likely once again be sturdy this fall. Anchored by tackles **George Hypolite** and **Brandon Nicolas** and inside linebacker **Jordon Dizon**, defense against the run is expected again to be a strong suit for the Buffaloes.

One thing that must improve is the pass defense. While CU did not allow an extraordinary number of big plays, opponents completed 66.9 percent of their passes, which helped lead to nearly a 48 percent third down conversion rate. The secondary is expected to be improved under the second-year leadership of coach **Greg Brown**, one of the top men in the business at any level, and cornerback **Terrence Wheatley** and safety **Ryan Walters** return to lead the group.

The Buffs were inconsistent on special teams last year, and are faced with having to replace two-time All-American **Mason Crosby** at placekicker. However, senior **Kevin Eberhart** has patiently waited for his opportunity, and the all-time kick scoring leader in Colorado prep history should be able to shoulder the load. **Matt DiLallo** had the best freshman season of any punter in school annals, and CU was ranked 31st nationally in net punting; otherwise the Buffaloes struggled in the return game (95th in kickoffs, 104th in punts) as well as in return coverage (72nd in punt, 87th in kickoff), needs that will be addressed both in the spring and fall camp. **Justin Drescher** had a fine true freshman season as the snapper on punts and placements, but three-year holder veteran **Nick Holz** needs to be replaced.

Colorado once again will play one of the nation's premier schedules, particularly in non-conference play. It's almost a murderer's row in September, as CU opens with in-state rival Colorado State in Denver, then travels to Arizona State before three in a row at Folsom Field: Florida State, Miami-Ohio and the conference opener against Oklahoma.

"I think it's awesome to have the opponents that we have coming to Folsom Field," Hawkins said. "Florida State, Oklahoma and Nebraska have all won national championships in the last decade, so I would think having three programs with that kind of accomplishment all coming to your backyard is a unique circumstance... and opportunity. Then there's Missouri, Kansas and Miami, Ohio also on the home schedule, and I think there is a lot of excitement as well to go back down and play CSU at Invesco (Field at Mile High in Denver). All you have to be is a college football fan and you should want to get in on that. The schedule is loaded with premier opponents."

And Hawkins and company are working to make sure that an opponent can say the same when Colorado comes to their town.

HEAD COACH DAN HAWKINS

April 2, 2007

Dan Hawkins was named the 23rd head football coach in University of Colorado history on December 16, 2005, officially taking over the reins of the program on New Year's Day 2006.

He is entering his seventh season as a head coach on the Division I-A level, owning a record of **55-21**. He is the 11th active winningest head coach with an overall career mark of **94-33-1** (73.8 winning percentage) in 11 seasons, which is the eighth best mark for those coaches with at least 100 games under their belts.

Hawkins, 46, came to Colorado from Boise State, where he compiled a **53-11** record in five seasons as head coach. That included three 11-plus win seasons, and 31-game winning streaks in both Western Athletic Conference play as well as at home on Boise State's famous blue artificial turf field. His teams won or shared four WAC titles, including three outright under his direction.

In the modern history of Division I-A football, only Bob Pruett (Marshall, 58-9), Bob Stoops (Oklahoma, 55-11) and Pete Carroll (Southern California, 54-10) won more games in their first five seasons than Hawkins' 53 at Boise State (a number also matched by Miami's Larry Coker).

Hawkins is a 1984 graduate of the University of California-Davis, earning a bachelor's degree in physical education. In 1993, he earned a master's degree in educational administration from St. Mary's (Calif.) College. He's the third head football coach in CU history, all in succession, to hold two degrees.

Hawkins agreed to a five-year, \$4.25 million contract with the Buffaloes, effective January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2010, not including incentive compensation for academic progress, student citizenship and community outreach and various performance incentives ranging from rewarding bowl appearances to winning a national championship.

In his first season at Colorado, the Buffaloes posted a 2-10 record, his first losing season as a head coach. Offensive struggles were the biggest contributor to the mark, as CU finished 102nd nationally averaging just 291.4 yards per game. Defensively, CU fared a bit better, allowing 340.9 yards per game and ranked 66th overall, though were stingy against the run, as opponents averaged just 112.4 per outing (30th nationally).

His overall record includes a **39-12-1** mark in five seasons as the head coach of Willamette University (Salem, Ore.), where he won or shared three conference titles between 1993 and 1997. Thus in 10 years of combined conference play between Boise State and Willamette, Hawkins' teams won or shared seven league championships while going a remarkable **58-6-1**, including six undefeated seasons, in league play (a 90.0 winning percentage).

He was 37-3 in WAC conference games, leading the Broncos to outright championships in 2002, 2003 and 2004 with 8-0 league marks, and the co-title in 2005 with a 7-1 record. At one point Hawkins guided the Broncos to a league record 31 consecutive victories, a streak that began late in his first year and continued well into his fifth campaign. His winning percentage for overall and league games stands as the highest in WAC history.

In 128 career games as a head coach, his teams have never been shut out, scoring at least one touchdown in all but two games while being held below 13 points just nine times (four times at CU, and only once at Boise State). The Broncos scored 40 or more points in 37 of his 64 games, as BSU averaged 41.6 points per game in his time there, the top figure in the nation for the five-year period between 2001 and 2005 (ahead of Texas and Texas Tech, who averaged 40.3 and 38.4, respectively). That included 50 or more points 19 times and 20-plus on an amazing 59 occasions.

Boise State also won 28 games by 25 or more points under Hawkins, and 43 by double-digits; however, his teams also excelled in close contests, as the Broncos were 10-5 in games decided by seven points or less. His teams were well balanced across the board, as evidenced by the Broncos owning top 10 marks for five-year NCAA numbers in his tenure not only in scoring, but also in total offense (3rd, 465.7 yards per game), passing offense (10th, 274.6), rushing defense (6th, 107.8) and kickoff returns (1st, 23.5 average for 245 total returns).

At Boise State, Hawkins had a knack for molding a talented group of players and coaches into a dominating force, part of the reason he was named the WAC Coach of

the Year on two occasions (2002, 2004) and was a finalist for the 2004 Paul "Bear" Bryant College Football Coach of the Year Award.

Hawkins took over the Boise State program on December 2, 2000, replacing Dirk Koetter, whom he had served as assistant head coach, after he took the head coach position at Arizona State. Hawkins had joined the BSU staff in 1998, and coached the tight ends and special teams in addition to assistant head coach and recruiting coordinator duties. Hawkins also oversaw a highly successful community service and public involvement program for the Bronco football team during this time.

Before ascending to Boise State's head man, as tight ends coach Hawkins helped developed a wealth of Bronco talent. In each of his first four seasons on the Bronco staff, a Boise State tight end earned either first or second team all-conference honors. Twice Bronco tight ends were drafted into the National Football League, most notably Jeb Putzier, who earned first-team All-WAC honors in 2001 after putting together the most productive season by a tight end in school history and would be a sixth round draft pick by the Denver Broncos. Special teams also blossomed under his direction, with top national rankings by teams or individuals in kickoff returns, placekicking and punting.

Koetter would serve as head coach in his final game, the 2000 Crucial.com Humanitarian Bowl, but Hawkins took over leading the team in practice and preparation for the game, which Boise State defeated UTEP, 38-23. Though Hawkins served in his assistant coaching role in that game, his work as head coach was already evident to close observers of the program.

As just the eighth head coach in the school's 33-year history, on the surface, Boise State went 8-4 in his first season in 2001. But the Broncos were transitioning from the old Big West Conference, in which they had claimed back-to-back titles, into the stronger Western Athletic Conference. Hawkins met the challenge by posting a 6-2 league mark, tying for second overall, doing so after opening with losses to No. 21 South Carolina and Washington State, who would appear in the national rankings some three weeks later.

His biggest win that season came on October 20, and had an indirect link to his future school, Colorado, at the time. He took his Bronco team on the road where it would defeat Fresno State, 35-30, ranked eighth in the nation with a 6-0 mark at the time. Fresno State began its season with a 24-22 win over the Buffaloes in Boulder and had designs on crashing the BCS (Bowl Championship Series) until being derailed by Hawkins' Broncos, the school's first-ever over a ranked opponent.

That set the stage for the next three seasons, when the Broncos strung together consecutive records of 12-1, 13-1 and 11-1 in posting a 24-0 record in WAC conference play in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

The WAC championship won in 2002 came in just the school's second year in the league and was the first to go undefeated in league play since BYU did so in 1996. Along the way, BSU overwhelmed its eight league opponents, scoring an average of 51.1 points per game while owning a victory margin of 37.2 points, which broke BYU's league mark of 34.0 set in 1979. Boise State led the nation in scoring (45.6), total offense (501.5) and passing efficiency (169.4) and led the WAC in five defensive categories, with Hawkins' success recognized at the conference and regional levels as he was selected the WAC Coach of Year, and the Co-Coach of the Year for Region 4 by the American Football Coaches Association (the latter with Oklahoma's Stoops).

The Broncos appeared in the nation's top 25 late in the year, and following a 34-16 win over Iowa State in the Humanitarian Bowl, Boise State was ranked No. 12 in the final *USA Today* Coaches Poll (and No. 15 in the Associated Press ballot).

It was more of the same in 2003, as the 13-1 Broncos again appeared in the rankings in November and ended the year ranked 15th by the coaches and 16th by the Associated Press. The only setback came at Oregon State (a 26-24 defeat) in the third week of the season; the Broncos would end the year with 11 straight wins (which started a 22-game winning streak, the longest in the nation by the end of the 2004 regular season). The season was culminated by a 34-31 win over No. 19 TCU in the Fort Worth Bowl on the Horned Frogs' home turf.

(continued)

Hawkins' 2003 team again produced the top offense in the nation averaging 43.0 points per game, and in the five major offensive categories in football, Boise State was ranked among the top 10 in four of them. The defense was no slouch either, as the Broncos was ranked among the top 12 in three categories (rushing defense, pass efficiency and scoring defense). Quarterback Ryan Dinwiddie was the league's Offensive Player of the Year and was one of five Broncos to be named first-team All-WAC.

Despite all those accomplishments, Boise State entered 2004 unranked, but at least on the national radar. After a 53-34 win over Oregon State in the second game of the year, the Broncos entered the rankings at No. 23 and were a regular from that point on. BSU survived scares from BYU, Tulsa and San Jose State (winning the latter 56-49 in two overtimes) to finish the regular season undefeated at 11-0 and ranked its highest ever — 10th — in both major polls (and ninth in the final BCS Standings). In one of the season's most anticipated bowl games, and arguably the most intriguing non-BCS bowl since the creation of the system some seven years earlier, Boise State dropped a 44-40 thriller to 10-1 and No. 7 Louisville in the Liberty Bowl.

That 2004 team prided itself on all-around excellence, with top rankings in all three phases of the game, placing in the top 21 nationally in nine major statistical categories including scoring (second), punt returns (third), total offense (fourth) and rushing defense (10th). BSU was ranked either first or second in 16 conference categories and had 16 players earn some kind of All-WAC recognition for a second straight year.

Important to note about the 2004 season was that it might have been Hawkins' best coaching job to date in his illustrious career. Despite returning just 10 starters from the '03 team, he guided the Broncos to their first perfect regular season since the school moved to four-year status in the 1960s. The team spent a school record 13 consecutive weeks in the national rankings and peaked at No. 7 in the BCS Standings in early November.

His final team there in 2005 went 9-4, but had only four senior starters, the lowest total among all 119 I-A schools while also playing one of the toughest schedules in school history. That squad rallied from a 0-2 start, winning nine of the final 10 games in earning a fourth straight bowl berth. Three of the four losses came at the hands of ranked teams, including Hawkins' finale in the MPC Computers Bowl, a 27-21 setback to No. 19 Boston College; the Broncos spotted BC a 27-0 lead in that game, only to see a fourth quarter rally come up just short. Despite some inexperience at the onset, the team of largely underclassmen finished in the top 25 in eight statistical categories including scoring (ninth), sacks (17th) and rushing offense (19th).

Overall, 20 of his players at Boise State earned first-team all-WAC honors, with three earning some kind of All-American mention and 10 either being drafted or signing as free agents with National Football League teams. Including his three years as an assistant coach, Hawkins helped the Broncos to an overall record of 79-21 and six conference championships in eight years, including Big West titles in 1999 and 2000.

Hawkins' first collegiate head coaching position was at Willamette University in Salem, Ore. He took over the program in 1993 after Willamette suffered two straight losing seasons, including a 1-8 campaign the year before his arrival. He would guide the Bearcats to five straight winning seasons between 1993-97, including two appearances in the NAIA playoffs.

Under his guidance, Willamette was 39-12-1, including a 13-1 record and a runner-up finish for the NAIA National Championship in 1997. The Bearcats had finished the regular season with a No. 7 national ranking and won three playoff games, including one in overtime, to reach the title game before succumbing to Findlay (Ohio), 14-7.

He was named the 1997 District Five Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association, and was selected three times as the Mount Hood League (Columbia Football Association) coach of the year. Those accolades came in 1995 when Willamette was co-conference champion, and 1996 and 1997 when the Bearcats won the outright conference title with undefeated records in league play.

Hawkins spent time as both an offensive and defensive coordinator before taking over as head coach at Willamette. In 1992, he was in charge of the Sonoma State University defense. From 1988-91, Hawkins was the offensive coordinator at the College of the Siskiyous (Calif.), helping lead the team to the Golden Valley Conference championship in 1991.

Hawkins began his coaching career with his alma mater, Cal-Davis, serving as the head freshman coach as well as the linebacker coach for the varsity in 1984. After three years at UC-Davis, he served as head coach at Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento in 1986 and 1987.

He was born November 10, 1960 in Fall River Mills, Calif., and graduated from Big Valley High School in Bieber, Calif., where he lettered in football, basketball, baseball and track. At UC-Davis, he lettered four times at fullback for coach Jim Sochor; as a junior, he was a member of UCD's NCAA Division II runner-up team.

He is married to the former Misti Rae Ann Hokanson, a registered nurse, and they are the parents of four children, Ashley (23), Brittany (20), Cody (19), a redshirt freshman quarterback at Colorado and Drew (17).

Dan Hawkins Year-By-Year Coaching Record

Season	School	Overall						Conference						Finish/Conf.
		W	L	T	Pct.	Pts	Opp	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts	Opp	
1993	Willamette	5	4	0	.556	293	281	3	2	0	.600	179	143	t-2nd/Mt. Hood
1994	Willamette	6	3	0	.667	218	214	4	1	0	.800	111	108	2nd/Mt. Hood
1995	Willamette	6	2	1	.722	314	171	4	0	1	.900	195	103	t-1st/Mt. Hood
1996	Willamette	9	2	0	.818	374	246	5	0	0	1.000	158	100	1st/NWC (a)
1997	Willamette	13	1	0	.929	470	187	5	0	0	1.000	200	47	1st/NWC (b)
2001	Boise State	8	4	0	.667	411	280	6	2	0	.750	307	184	t-2nd/WAC
2002	Boise State	12	1	0	.923	593	240	8	0	0	1.000	409	111	1st/WAC
2003	Boise State	13	1	0	.929	602	239	8	0	0	1.000	375	143	1st/WAC
2004	Boise State	11	1	0	.917	587	308	8	0	0	1.000	401	196	1st/WAC
2005	Boise State	9	4	0	.692	469	317	7	1	0	.875	339	178	t-1st/WAC
2006	Colorado	2	10	0	.167	196	267	2	6	0	.250	160	199	5th/Big 12 North
Colorado Totals		2	10	0	.167	196	267	2	6	0	.250	160	199	
Division I-A Totals.....		55	21	0	.724	2858	1651	39	9	0	.813	1991	1011	
Career Totals		94	33	1	.738	4527	2750	60	12	1	.829	2834	1512	

KEY: (a)—NAIA National Quarterfinalist; (b)—NAIA National Runner-up.

2007 COLORADO FOOTBALL / QUOTING HEAD COACH DAN HAWKINS

April 2, 2007

What was the most enjoyable aspect of your first year in Boulder?

"I would have to say the people. The people have been great, very supportive, very warm, very open, very vibrant. It made for a very easy and enjoyable transition. They've been just awesome."

You spent a lot of time the off-season going over all aspects of the program. How useful was that and what, if anything did you discover that you will do differently?

"I don't think there was anything that we really discovered because we already had a pretty good handle on what we need to do to get better and why things didn't work out last year. A lot of things that we did in the off season were just in terms of being a little more demanding, and really emphasizing the finer points of everything from academics to strength and conditioning. Putting the squeeze on the things we know are very important to being a successful person, student and football team. One of the good things is that after winter conditioning, we're stronger all across the board. It's a rebuilding culture, and we're rebuilding confidence as much as anything."

You've said on occasion that there was a lot of value to having to endure a 2-10 season. What did you learn, especially since it had been awhile since you had to go through such an experience?

"The value of it is that those core values that make a program successful really stand out. I think it's real easy when you're winning a lot of games that sometimes you're more open, a little looser, and you're not as buttoned up as you need to be in all areas when you're having success. But when you're not doing well, it's really easy to hammer down on those beacons. One of the reasons I came to Colorado was to reinvent myself, and have to push it, scramble around and figure things out. I figured it wasn't going to be easy, it was going to be a whole new set of adventures, and sure enough it turned out that way."

General comments on the offense.

"It's no secret we need to improve in almost every aspect; we won two games and more often than not did not establish much consistency. The offense didn't generate enough big plays, and the passing game didn't generate a lot. That being said, we did improve as last season progressed, and I did like the work ethic and commitment that we had. As that improvement continues, we'll be able to install more of what we want in our offensive package. We were fairly one dimensional and other than a handful of times, really put the pressure on the defense to keep us in ballgames."

General comments on the defense.

"We were pleased with the defense against the run last year, and generally, overall they really hung in there, keeping us every game when the offense couldn't get untracked. Two areas we have to improve in are third down defense and in pass defense; obviously you make things hard on yourself when you allow the opponent to complete two out of every three passes."

Much has been made that one of the three players vying for the starting quarterback job is your son, Cody. What challenges does that present and what have you implemented to be sure all have an equal chance to earn the role?

"Number one, the bulk of that responsibility and that decision rests with (offensive coordinator) Mark Helfrich, and the rest of the offensive staff. Now I certainly have my input and my say, but the measures that we put in place, one, you are always evaluating everything: every 7-on, every 11-on, every scrimmage, every practice; all of those get graded. It's never what just happens in scrimmages. Then you have an objective form of delineation, while the subjective is what Helfrich is in charge of. At the end of the day, he will have that call along with the rest of the staff. I don't care if it's the QB or an outside linebacker, I might say whatever about this guy, and whatever about that guy. But I've rarely if ever said, for example, "Hey I want this guy to be the starting cornerback."

Are there any big or distinctive changes you have in store?

"We should be able to expand the entire packages on both offense and defense, because we were able to lay down a baseline of components and now we can build upon those. The experience factor will also make a difference; when you have to go back to point A, we won't have to tell them what point A is. We'll be able to do a lot of things more creatively on both sides of the football, and be able to add more things into the packages as well."

With the implementation of the unpopular clock and timing rules in 2006, do you feel it changed the game?

"I think it changed the game a bunch and the hope is it will be rescinded. It affected the game in ways that sometimes people don't think about. When you're taking 14, 16 plays away from an offense, you're cheating the fans out of a couple of big plays, some funky or trick plays, and some shots down the field simply because there are less opportunities as well as less margin for error. You couldn't take some of those shots or be as creative. And it takes away from some of the great comebacks. It wasn't like it as before, where you could see whole momentum shift. There were times where teams ran out the clock from the seven or eight minute mark down. In those instances, you lack the creativity and the excitement of the comeback."

What are your thoughts on the 2007 schedule?

"I think it's awesome to have the opponents that we have coming to Folsom Field. Florida State, Oklahoma and Nebraska have all won national championships in the last decade, so I would think having three programs with that kind of accomplishment all coming to your backyard is a unique circumstance... and opportunity. Then there's Missouri, Kansas and Miami, Ohio also on the home schedule, and I think there is a lot of excitement as well to go back down and play CSU at Invesco. All you have to be is a college football fan and you should want to get in on that. The schedule is loaded with premier opponents."

Sum up your thoughts on your first year competing in a BCS Conference. What were the major differences between the Big 12 and the WAC?

"I think across the board, in the Big 12 you are generally seeing a bigger, faster athlete. And you don't have to travel as far as you did in the WAC, going from Louisiana Tech out to Hawaii, that's for sure. It was fun going to towns and playing programs that are steeped in tradition, and that's a great experience to watch how they embrace college football and all that surrounds it. Not that things like that weren't prevalent in the WAC, but the Big 12 has a few more pure college towns, most of which I had never experienced."