

# ***2005 COLORADO FOOTBALL***



## ***INDIVIDUAL PLAYER NOTES***

*(as of December 16 a.m.)*

# INDIVIDUAL PLAYER NOTES

*(The following is a combination of statistical and human interest notes on select CU players)*

## 1 STEPHONE ROBINSON, WR/KR

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He is CU's top punt return man and one of its best gunners on punt coverage. **He cited his return goals this season as 25-yards per kick return and double-digit yardage per punt return.** As Robinson said, if he can gain 10 yards per punt return, that's just as good as a first down—one less that the offense needs to get. Adding to the difficulty of Robinson's duties is the fact that **CU's fourth-down crew is called the "punt block" team rather than the punt return team.** This often leaves him to make plays on his own as gunners are able to get down the field more quickly.
- ➔ Against CSU, Robinson made a crucial play, which **allowed the Buffs to make the game-winning field goal.** After the Rams marched down the field and tied the game with 36 seconds left, the game looked destined for overtime. "If we were to get the ball on the twenty were just going to kneel the ball and take our chances in overtime," senior quarterback Joel Klatt said. "But Stephone Robinson made a great (return) right up the gut." Robinson's 30-yard return to the CU 38 yard-line helped set up Mason Crosby's game-winning field goal with nine seconds remaining.
- ➔ He hinted all week before facing Kansas about how close he was to breaking free for a score on a punt return. His gut feeling was right, as he **returned a punt 81 yards for a touchdown** in the fourth quarter against the Jayhawks. It ties for the 13th longest punt return in school history, the longest since Ben Kelly took one 88 yards for a score against Boston College in the 1999 Insight.com Bowl. It was Robinson's second touchdown of his career. The other one? A 48-yard effort at Kansas last season. He also saw playing time on offense early in the game, although he didn't catch a pass. His punt return average coming into the game (6.2) is not indicative of his abilities—he has fielded seven punts for a net three return yards this year to prevent punts from rolling further to help out his team's field position.
- ➔ Against Missouri, Robinson **recorded his first career reception**, and went on to lead the team with five catches for 50 yards. He also picked up three first downs in the process. He has the speed to stretch defenses, but he also has tremendous value catching short passes and making defenders miss to turn short plays into long ones. Said Robinson: "Coach (Brian) Cabral always challenges us to make the first guy miss and that's all I was trying to do today."
- ➔ Robinson had one catch for 11 yards against Iowa State.

### □ 2004

- ➔ He was named to the **conference coaches' all-Big 12 second-team as one of the league's elite return specialists.**
- ➔ He returned 35 punts for 269 yards (7.7 average) and a TD; however, the average is misleading as **he's often caught balls in traffic without signaling a fair catch just so he could pickup even a single yard** to help with field position (14 of his returns were in this fashion for a net 13 yards; he averaged 12.2 yards on the other 21 returns). His 35 returns on the season are the third most punt returns for a single-season in school history and the most since 1992.
- ➔ By far, his best game of the season came at Kansas when he had 98 total return yards (65 punt, 33 kickoff) in CU's 30-21 victory, as **his best punt return went for a 48-yard touchdown.** In what was his first career touchdown and the longest return of his young career, he gave CU a 24-21 lead late in the third quarter, as the Buffs never looked back en route to their fourth consecutive win over the Jayhawks.
- ➔ For his clutch performance at KU, he was named the Big 12's Special Teams Player of the Week, as well as the CU Athlete of the Week.
- ➔ He was also back for every kick off return with Terrence Wheatley, returning 15 kicks for 269 yards (long of 27).
- ➔ He opened camp at receiver, but was moved to defense early on as the coaches wanted to build some depth at cornerback. He saw his first defensive action against North Texas when he got in for six plays and had one PBU.

## 2 HUGH CHARLES, TB

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ Charles stands atop on the depth chart at running back, and spearheads a running attack that includes fellow sophomore Byron Ellis and senior V-Back Lawrence Vickers. His combination of speed and strength at the position gives the Buffs a dimension they have never had before. Though he is only 5'8, 185 lbs., **he is pound-for-pound the strongest Buff**, as he was the runaway winner of the Spring Dominator Award (RB, DB, WR, K/P, QB).

### CHARLES, continued

- ➔ He benches 369 pounds, power cleans 325 pounds and ran the 40-yard dash in 4.37 seconds, all of which were the best in his group (his 40-yard time was best on the team).
- ➔ Barnett said Charles, along with Ellis, is **hardly a true sophomore running back in terms of experience**. With graduated tailback Bobby Purify banged up much of last year, both players received extensive touches with the first-team offense in practices in 2004.
- ➔ Charles had a monster game in his first career start against CSU. He finished with 15 carries for 101 yards for an impressive 6.7 per carry average and two touchdowns. He also showed his big play ability with runs of 31 and 23 yards, the latter of which went for a touchdown that put the Buffs ahead with just 1:30 remaining. He also hauled in three receptions for 34 yards, including a 27-yard gain on a screen. He became just the 14<sup>th</sup> player in school history to run for 100 or more yards in his first career start. Charles finished with eight carries of five or more yards, and perhaps just as impressive was the fact that **88 of his yards came post-contact**.
- ➔ He reeled off his second consecutive 100-yard rushing performance with 21 carries for 105 yards against the New Mexico State Aggies. He became the first player to open a season with a pair of 100-yard games back-to-back since Marcus Houston had 100 against Colorado State in Denver and 150 at Southern California in 2000. He didn't find the end zone, although he had a 21-yard score called back because of a holding penalty at the one-yard line.
- ➔ He continued his strong play against a fast Miami defense, gaining 82 yards on 19 carries. His long of 29 yards came on CU's first play from scrimmage—a pitch out to the right side in which he outran the 'Cane defenders to the sideline and set the Buffaloes up on the Miami 25 yard line.
- ➔ Charles found plenty of green grass against Oklahoma State, rushing 20 times for 132 yards and two touchdowns for an impressive 6.6 yards-per-carry average. His first score came on the Buffs' initial play from scrimmage, as he slashed through the Cowboys' defensive front and outran the secondary for a 74-yard touchdown. He also had a 15 yard-touchdown run in the third quarter, extending the Buffs' lead to 17-0. **Said Barnett: "Every time he gets the ball I think he might take it all the way."**
- ➔ He had a huge day against Texas A&M, netting 67 yards on 17 rushes and 85 yards on six receptions. He hauled in a 17-yard pass on CU's second play from scrimmage and capped CU's initial scoring drive with a 51-yard touchdown catch three plays later. Said Charles: "Joel (Klatt) and I discussed connecting for a play like that before the game; we decided to try and get me the ball if there was anyone but a cornerback covering me. **My eyes lit up when I saw someone besides a corner on me**, and it was just a matter of getting to the end zone." He also had a four-yard touchdown run in the first quarter, equally impressive because of the way he made the play out of nothing. Taking the handoff to the right, he was met by Aggie defenders and forced to the outside. He raced to the sideline before making a quick cut inside to beat one defender, and immediately cut the other way and dove into the end zone to avoid another. His 152 total yards were the most in his career to this point.
- ➔ Charles rushed the ball 14 times for 75 yards against Kansas. He also had a 21-yard reception in the first quarter to put the Buffs at the KU 22-yard line. The Buffs would score on plays later to go ahead 7-0.
- ➔ He rushed 14 times for 67 yards against Kansas State before leaving the game with an ankle injury.
- ➔ Charles tweaked his injured ankle in pre-game warm-ups against Missouri. He tweaked it again on his lone touch of the day—a five-yard reception in the second quarter.
- ➔ He rushed for 61 yards on 19 carries against Iowa State and scored the Buffs' lone touchdown of the day in the second quarter on a one-yard run. He also had a team-high six receptions for 44 yards.
- ➔ Against Nebraska, Charles finished with 78 yards in 12 carries. He ripped off a 45-yard run on the Buffs' first play from scrimmage, setting up a 33-yard Mason Crosby field goal to give the Buffs a 3-0 lead.

### ❑ 2004

- ➔ He saw his first action against Colorado State when he lined up as a receiver, and then earned his first collegiate carries against Washington State. He carried the ball four times for 17 yards against North Texas in his first extensive action. Versus Iowa State, he lined up at receiver and took a handoff on a reverse play that gained 9 yards for CU, as the Buffs were trying to kill the clock late in the fourth quarter. In the EVI.net Houston Bowl, Charles had his best career performance with seven rushes for 53 yards and a touchdown, including a 37-yard scamper in the second quarter.
- ➔ GENERAL
- ➔ He enjoys flying planes; he earned his solo license in a Cessna 172 as a sophomore in high school. He served in the Civil Air Patrol for two years. He was on **CU's track and field team** last season, participating in the long jump. He won his first competition in early February 2004 as a true freshman at Air Force with only a week to prepare.

## ***3 TYRONE HENDERSON, S***

### ❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ A key component of CU's depth in the secondary, he saw plenty of action as a starter at free and strong safety last year with the knee injury to J.J. Billingsley.
- ➔ Starting opposite J.J. Billingsley, Henderson had a very solid game against CSU. He finished with 10 tackles (eight solo), including two third down stops.

### HENDERSON, continued

- ➔ He was first on the team with eight solo tackles against Miami. His eight total tackles were good for second on the Buffs; he also added a third down stop to his totals.
- ➔ He had a team-high and personal season-high 10 solo tackles against Texas, while also registering a third down stop.
- ➔ Henderson had a huge game against Kansas State, as he was second on the team with 11 total tackles (seven solo). He had one tackle for a 19-yard loss after Kansas State fumbled on a botched option attempt. He also contributed three passes broken up and a forced fumble to go along with two third down stops. He was also in on every defensive play from scrimmage.
- ❑ 2004
  - ➔ In the Big 12 Championship he started at strong safety for the fifth time this year, and racked up eight total tackles (five solo). In CU's win over UTEP in the Houston Bowl, Henderson had six tackles (five solo) and broke up a pass. On the season he had 11 starts (five at free safety and six at strong safety.)
  - ➔ Before Billingsley returned at Missouri for his second and what would eventually be final game of 2004, head coach **Gary Barnett noted that Billingsley was going to have to work hard to regain his starting spot (if healthy), for it wasn't as if Henderson was just going to hand it over easily.** In the MU game Henderson was in for every snap, while Billingsley came in and played at the strong spot in place of Dominique Brooks on several occasions.
  - ➔ He started his first career game against Colorado State, and played in all 92 snaps at Washington State with Billingsley still ailing. How did he respond? He became the first player in recent memory to win the team's **Defensive Back of the Week as well as Special Teams Player of the Week in the same game** for his monster day at WSU. He had five tackles on defense, with two third down stops, and **became the first player in CU history to block two kicks in the same game** (both punts; the second led to a Lawrence Vickers recovery in the end zone for a touchdown).
- ❑ 2003
  - ➔ He had a very solid spring and looked to fit prominently into CU's scheme for the season. In the spring, he led the team in tackles with 24 (15 solo, four for losses with a sack), including a team-high 11 in the spring game.
- ❑ GENERAL
  - ➔ He wants to be a motivational speaker someday. A soft, yet well-spoken young man, Henderson indicates that he has a lot to say.

## ***3 BRIAN WHITE, QB***

- ❑ THIS SEASON
  - ➔ A big gunslinger (6-5, 235) who is currently listed No. 3 on the depth chart, the coaches have been very pleased with his progression. He is a **prototype pocket passer who throws a good long ball.** He missed most of spring drills with a wrist injury, but had a good enough fall camp to pass sophomore Bernard Jackson on the depth chart.
  - ➔ White made his way onto the field against Texas A&M in the fourth quarter. He only attempted one pass--officially listed as a lateral--which fell incomplete.
- ❑ 2004
  - ➔ In the Buffs' only major camp scrimmage he completed 6-of-13 passes for 68 yards, but that was while working against the first-team defense. In CU's last camp situational scrimmage, he connected with receiver Blake Mackey down the sideline for an 80-yard touchdown pass.
  - ➔ He had a breakout spring for the Buffs, as he completed 18-of-28 passes for 175 yards and one touchdown in three major scrimmages; he only tossed one interception.

## ***4 PATRICK WILLIAMS, WR***

- ❑ THIS SEASON
  - ➔ He listed second on the depth chart at the x wide receiver position behind senior Evan Judge. Williams possesses a rare combination of speed and athletic ability, giving the Buffs **a legitimate deep threat to stretch opposing defenses.** He returns as a redshirt freshman after having **the misfortune last season of breaking bones in both of his hands.**
  - ➔ Williams was a vital cog in the Buffs' passing attack against CSU. He finished with three receptions for 38 yards, but his last reception of 22 yards allowed the Buffs to get into field goal range to win the game with nine seconds remaining. Said Barnett: "You can see Patrick Williams' speed on that last drive when he turned it up the field."
  - ➔ He finished with two catches for 15 yards against Oklahoma State. He had a key grab with less than 90 seconds remaining in the first half on a third-and-six. His 11-yard reception kept the drive going and allowed the Buffs to add a field goal with two seconds left in the half, extending their lead to 10-0 at the break.

### WILLIAMS, continued

- ➔ He had two receptions for 30 yards against Kansas State. He had a huge play in the third quarter which demonstrated why coaches are so high on his ability. On a third-and-15 Williams made a leaping grab over his defender and came down with the completion for a 27-yard gain and a first down.
- ➔ He caught three passes for 40 yards against Iowa State, including a 17-yarder in the third quarter which set the Buffs up at the ISU 12-yard line.
- ➔ Against Nebraska, Williams hauled in five catches for 30 yards.

## ***5 J.J. BILLINGSLEY, S***

### ❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ Billingsley, who is slated as a starter at safety, has been a leader and a mainstay in the secondary since his freshman season. After an intense position battle during fall camp, he cemented himself as a starter in large part to his “three touchdown-saving tackles” and an interception.” **Perhaps CU’s purest tackler**, he has 18 starts in 27 games played. He redshirted last year after missing most of the season with a knee injury. He missed spring ball after being suspended from the team due to academic issues, but regained his eligibility after successfully completing a summer class.
- ➔ Against CSU, he showed that he hasn’t missed a beat after missing most of last season due to injury. He finished with 11 tackles (seven solo), two third down stops, two quarterback hurries and an interception. He also got credit for tackling Ram punter Jimmie Kaylor for a loss of 12 yards to the CSU 15-yard line after the Buffs’ rush wouldn’t allow him to get the punt off.
- ➔ He was a defensive plaque winner against Texas A&M, earning a 93 percent assignment grade and a 100 percent critical grade. His seven solo tackles were the most on the team and he finished with eight total. He also had a tackle for a loss, a third down stop and a pass broken up. He also made a play which turned early momentum into CU’s favor. On A&M’s second play from scrimmage, receiver DeQawn Mobley fumbled the ball after a 60-yard reception. Billingsley alertly scooped up the ball and returned it two yards. The offense would go on to score a touchdown and run the score to 41-6 before two A&M touchdowns were scored against CU second and third-stringers. Said Billingsley of the play: “It was huge. Who knows what the game would have been like if they scored right there.” With his performance, Billingsley **passed the 200 tackle mark**, becoming the 52nd player in CU history to reach that mark. He is only the 14th defensive back to do so.
- ➔ He had a **team season-high 15 total tackles** against Kansas (eight solo). He also forced a fumble and came up with an interception. His pick in the fourth quarter was his second interception of the season.
- ➔ Against Kansas State, Billingsley had a team-high eight solo tackles (10 total), including a tackle for a loss. He also had a pass broken up, a third down stop and a quarterback hurry, while participating in every snap from scrimmage defensively.
- ➔ Playing in every snap from scrimmage, Billingsley recorded three total tackles against Missouri. He also made a play which may have been the turning point in the game. After CU scored to go up 14-6, the Buffs elected to go for an onside kick which failed. Two plays later **Missouri running back Tony Temple fumbled the ball which was recovered by Billingsley and returned 36 yards to the MU 26-yard line**. The return set up a Buffalo touchdown to put CU up 21-6. Said Barnett: “That (play) was huge, especially after the head coach called an onside kick. I appreciate (Billingsley) saving my butt.”
- ➔ Billingsley recorded eight solo tackles and a pass broken up against Texas in the Big 12 Championship game.

### ❑ 2004.

- ➔ He did not make the start in CU’s opener because he had missed some practices after undergoing knee surgery (see note below), but he participated in 44 plays against CSU, making perhaps the biggest play of the game. After reaching Colorado’s 1-yard line with 30 seconds remaining in the contest, the Rams failed to score on a first-down run attempt as time quickly decreased. Instead of spiking the ball to stop the clock with only a few ticks remaining, CSU called a sweep left to Tristian Walker on the contest’s final play. **Shooting seemingly out of nowhere, Billingsley erupted into the backfield and stopped Walker for a 2-yard loss**, who was first being hit by the junior and then Lorenzo Sims. **The effort sealed the win for the Buffaloes.**
- ➔ Said secondary coach Craig Bray: “J.J. is really the guy that (the younger players) look up to. When he’s not there, I don’t know if they have that (dominant) figure.”

### ❑ 2003.

- ➔ Billingsley was a 12-game starter at weak safety, earning honorable mention All-Big 12 honors from league coaches.
- ➔ He also earned first-team all-Colorado honors from the Colorado chapter of the National Football Foundation/College Football hall of Fame, while he was also CU’s defensive back of the week on three occasions.
- ➔ He entered the 2003 fall camp listed second at free safety on the depth chart (behind Medford Moorer), but moved over to the No. 1 weak safety spot after Akarika Dawn transferred to inside linebacker and fellow true sophomore Brain Iwuh switched to the top strong safety.

## BILLINGSLEY, continued

- ➔ He made his first two career interceptions at Texas Tech (Nov. 1), both in the first 3 1/2 minutes of the game. He became the 10th Colorado Buffalo to make two interceptions in the same quarter, the first since Terrence Wood had a pair in the third quarter against Colorado State in 2000. His performance earned him CU's Defensive Player of the Game honors.
- ➔ He **recorded at least four tackles in every game.**
- ❑ 2002.
  - ➔ He was named to both the FWAA and *The Sporting News* first-team All-American squad, as he was also a first-team freshman All-Big 12 honoree.
  - ➔ He saw extensive action as a true freshman, and **his 469 snaps were the most by a true freshman in the secondary in quite some time at CU** (in fact, we can't find someone with more since we've kept a play count).
  - ➔ He set two freshman tackle records, for a single game (15 against San Diego State) and for a season (67). He was in the top 10 in tackles by a true freshman in the NCAA, finishing third in the Big 12.
- ❑ GENERAL
  - ➔ He's a crowd favorite thanks to his initials — at Folsom Field home games, **fans say "J.J." out loud along with the public address announcer** (Alan Cass). Cass made the "alphabet kids" popular in the late 80s: O.C. Oliver and yes, J.J. Flannigan. J.J. stands for Jon, Jr.
  - ➔ His father (Jon, Sr.) played college football at Central Methodist College and his cousin, Micha Billingsley, played wide receiver first at Fort Lewis.

## **6 GARDNER McKAY, CB**

- ❑ THIS SEASON
  - ➔ McKay quickly climbed to No. 2 on the depth chart at cornerback behind junior Lorenzo Sims. Although he has a small frame (5'11, 160 pounds), coaches have raved about his coverage skills. He has bulked up this fall in order to be a factor in defending the running game.
  - ➔ He saw his first action of his career against New Mexico State; he was in on seven snaps and did not record any statistics.
  - ➔ Played in nine snaps on defense against Oklahoma State. He also had a nice tackle as a gunner on the punt block team, beating his blocker and tackling the returner immediately upon catching the ball.
  - ➔ He received significant game action in the fourth quarter against Texas A&M. In 19 snaps from scrimmage, he registered three solo tackles.
  - ➔ Playing a back up role to Terry Washington, McKay was in on 22 snaps against Kansas, as recorded one solo tackle.
- ❑ GENERAL
  - ➔ Found his way to CU thanks to being a **high school teammate of Darian Hagan Jr.**, the son of the CU assistant coach and arguably the most successful quarterback in school history.

## **7 BERNARD JACKSON, QB**

- ❑ THIS SEASON
  - ➔ He is listed at No. 4 on the depth chart at quarterback after switching back to his original position during the spring (he switched to wide receiver last season). He was perhaps the **most impressive quarterback in spring drills**, displaying his speed and ability to make plays. Though he likely won't get extended duty at quarterback due to his position on the depth chart, **coaches expect him to find the field in the form of an "offensive specialist."**
  - ➔ Jackson saw his first game action against Miami, returning a kickoff for 25 yards. After the game, offensive coordinator Shawn Watson said the coaches just needed to find a way to get him on the field.
  - ➔ He **played running back for the first time in his career** against Oklahoma State in the fourth quarter. He ran the ball three times for eight yards. Said Jackson: "I'm still learning how to take a handoff." It's all still new to me. I just like getting on the field."
  - ➔ Jackson **lined up at running back and wide receiver** in the fourth quarter against Texas A&M. He carried the ball one time for three yards. His most important contributions came during the week, as he was the scout team award winner for CU. His athleticism on the scout team has become invaluable, as **he is able to imitate many of the dual-threat quarterbacks CU has and will face this season.**
- ❑ 2004.
  - ➔ He entered the fall listed fifth on the depth chart at quarterback, but was moved to receiver two games into the season. **One of the most athletic and versatile Buffs**, the coaches had to find a way to get Jackson on the gridiron... so, they've used him at receiver and punt returner.

### JACKSON, continued

- ➔ In his first career action ever, he scrambled for 3 yards on a reverse against Washington State. One week later, he entered the North Texas contest as a punt returner and dislocated an elbow after being tackled on his first return. He missed the next three tilts rehabbing the injury, but returned to play at Texas A&M.
- 2002.
  - ➔ He redshirted after practicing the entire year at quarterback.

## ***8 ALVIN BARNETT, WR***

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ Listed second at the Z wide receiver position, Barnett is a regular in the wide out rotation. After transferring from NE Oklahoma A&M, Barnett struggled to adapt to the fast pace of Division 1 football upon his arrival. Coaches, however, have been amazed with his progress since the spring, tabbing him as **one of the team's most improved players**. Said offensive coordinator and receivers coach Shawn Watson: "He's made the biggest jump. He is night and day compared to what he was in the spring. **He's the biggest surprise out of the whole crew of receivers.**"
- ➔ Barnett finished with only one catch for 6 yards against CSU, but he gained praise for his play from the coaches.
- ➔ He finished with two receptions for 19 yards against New Mexico State. He also had a 20-yard run on a reverse in the fourth quarter, setting up CU's last points of the night.
- ➔ Against Miami, Barnett hauled in seven passes for a team-high 59 yards, becoming one of Joel Klatt's favorite targets throughout the game.
- ➔ Barnett had two catches for 16 yards against Kansas. Both catches were tough grabs, and his first one was a 13-yarder that set the Buffs up on the KU 38-yard line on the last play of the first quarter. CU would score two plays later to increase their lead to 16-3.

## ***9 TOM HUBBARD, S***

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He is listed at No. 2 on the depth chart behind J.J. Billingsley at safety. Hubbard is **one of five safeties who are capable of being solid starters**, and he sees plenty of playing time, especially in nickel situations, because of his knack for always being a good position to make plays.
- ➔ He missed most of spring practices because of a knee injury but came back healthy for fall camp. He is **one of 42 players on the 2005 Lott Trophy watch list**. The award goes to the college defensive players of the year who has the biggest impact on and off the field.
- ➔ Hubbard finished with a solo tackle and a third down stop against New Mexico State, starting the game as the nickel back. He also caught James Garee's blocked field goal and returned it 68 yards before fumbling the ball back to the Aggies. The play, however, essentially resulted in a 59-yard loss for New Mexico State in return for a first down. They proceeded to go three-and-out on the ensuing possession.
- ➔ Hubbard snagged his first interception of the season and second of his career against Kansas (he had two more picks in the 2004 Houston Bowl). The ball was tipped at the line of scrimmage in the third quarter and Hubbard camped underneath the ball to come up with the turnover.
- ➔ He had a huge impact against Kansas State in only 17 snaps from scrimmage on defense. He finished with two solo tackles, a third down stop, a pass broken up and a forced fumble.
- ➔ Hubbard finished the Big 12 Championship game with four total tackles, three third down stops and an interception. Combined with his 2004 Houston Bowl performance in which he garnered Defensive MVP honors, Hubbard now had three interceptions in his two games at Reliant Stadium.

### □ 2004.

- ➔ **Originally a walk-on, he was awarded a scholarship** for his hard efforts during the spring and has developed into a smart player. He is a consistent, hardworking competitor who made his first career start against Iowa State in place of Tyrone Henderson.
- ➔ He was a standout on special teams, as he **led the Buffs with 13 special team points**.
- ➔ In the Big 12 Championship against Oklahoma, he posted seven tackles (including one for a 4-yard loss) in 71 of 75 defensive plays. Hubbard had the breakout game he was poised for in CU's victory over UTEP in the **Houston Bowl**. He finished with four solo tackles, two third down stops, a broken up pass and two interceptions, earning him **Defensive MVP** honors.
- ➔ Said Hubbard: "I wasn't heavily recruited. I had offers from Wyoming, Colorado State and New Mexico to walk-on. **All the D-II schools in the state offered me scholarships, but I wanted to play at this level and show I could make it here.**"

## HUBBARD, continued

### □ GENERAL

- ➔ Majoring in political science and economics, he is a four-time member of the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll and earned CU's prestigious 4.0 Club Award for a **perfect grade point average as a sophomore**. He also made the **All-Big 12 Academic first-team** this season with a GPA higher than 3.20.
- ➔ A graduate of Limon High School, he was his class's **valedictorian**.

## ***10 JAMES COX, QB***

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He is second on the depth chart at quarterback behind incumbent starter Joel Klatt. He has significant game experience and a good understanding of the offense. Cox figures to be **one of the most capable and versatile backups in the Big 12**.
- ➔ Cox saw his first game action of the season against New Mexico State, relieving Joel Klatt during the fourth quarter of the Buffs' 59-0 victory over the Aggies. He completed 4-of-8 passes for 47 yards in just under a quarter-and-a-half of action. Demonstrating his mobility on one play in the fourth quarter, Cox spun away from the defensive rush deep in the backfield and fed the ball off as he was being taken down. The ball found the hands of fullback Brendan Schaub for his first career reception and a seven-yard gain.

### □ 2004.

- ➔ He was CU's No. 2 quarterback, as he solidified the job with his stout play during the spring and fall camps.
- ➔ In place of an injured Joel Klatt (neck strain) — and because the coaches wanted to shake things up a little and add an extra spark to CU's attack — Cox made his **first collegiate start against Iowa State** seven days after relieving an injured Klatt in the second half against Oklahoma State.
- ➔ Though Klatt eventually replaced Cox midway through the second quarter versus ISU, the sophomore led CU to its only touchdown. Going 7-of-16 for 67 yards and one TD, Cox found tight end Jesse Wallace in the back of the end zone (the score covered 3 yards).
- ➔ Cox had big breakout game in his first extensive career action against Oklahoma State when he started the second half in relief of Klatt (neck sprain). He displayed a valiant effort in trying to mount a CU comeback, as he completed 15-of-21 passes for 175 yards and one touchdown.
- ➔ He held off strong pushes from Erik Greenberg and Brian White to win the backup job behind Joel Klatt. Watson called the battle "a shootout" and said he couldn't recall a time when he had so much depth at the position.

## ***10 TERRY WASHINGTON, CB***

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ Washington is listed at No. 2 on the depth chart at cornerback behind Gerett Burl. He is **one of the fastest players on the team** with great instincts. He should see significant playing time this fall as he continues to learn the Buffs' defensive system after transferring from Garden State, Kan. Community College. The Buffs **originally recruited him as a running back in 2003**.
- ➔ Washington saw his first extensive action with the Buffs, as he was in on 26 plays on defense and recorded two tackles.
- ➔ Washington played extensively against Texas, filling in for injured cornerback Lorenzo Sims, Jr. He forced a fumble by Longhorn running back Ramonce Taylor and recovered it himself in the fourth quarter at the Texas 11-yard line. The Buffs went on to score their second touchdown of the day four plays later.
- ➔ He had his first career start against Kansas, registering five solo tackles, a third down stop and two passes broken up.
- ➔ He started his second consecutive game against Kansas State. After yielding playing time to incumbent starter Lorenzo Sims who worked his way back into the rotation after coming back from an injury, Washington remained a valuable contributor on special teams. He recovered a fumble by Kansas State return man Jermaine Moreira at the KSU 26-yard line late in the game which helped set up a 50-yard game-winning field goal by Mason Crosby with six seconds left.



## 12 AKARIKA DAWN, ILB

- ❑ His first name is pronounced *ock-ah-reek-ah*.
- ❑ **THIS SEASON**
  - ➔ A **would-be starter for most teams in the nation**, Dawn is listed at No. 2 behind Jordon Dizon at the Will (inside) linebacker position. He adds tremendous depth to a linebacker corps which should rank among the best in the nation. Said fellow linebacker **Brian Iwuh**: “**You might not hear about him but I think he’s one of the best players on our team.** Whenever we need a third down stop and he’s in the game, you already know that he’s going to make the play.” Asked to describe himself, Dawn says: “**I’m a motivator. I want to get guys going.**”
  - ➔ Against CSU, he had four tackles, a third down stop and he intercepted Ram quarterback Justin Holland on the first play of the fourth quarter, returning the ball five yards to the CU 49 and setting up a Buff touchdown and two-point conversion that would pull CU to within three. The interception was the second of Dawn’s career.
  - ➔ Dawn was a defensive standout for the Buffs against New Mexico State. He led the Buffs with seven tackles (six solo), including a tackle for a loss. He also sacked Aggie quarterback Royal Gill for a loss of seven yards on New Mexico State’s second possession and added a forced fumble in the third quarter in Buffalo territory, helping preserve the shutout.
  - ➔ Against Oklahoma State, Dawn finished with a team-high seven tackles (five solo), including one for a loss and a third down stop in just 29 plays from scrimmage.
  - ➔ He had a huge game against Missouri, totaling **10 total tackles** (six solo). He also had three third down stops and broke up two passes.
  - ➔ Dawn was third on the team with nine total tackles (six solo) against Nebraska. He also recorded one of the Buffs’ five quarterback sacks and had a third down stop.
- ❑ **2004.**
  - ➔ He settled into the Will linebacker spot after shuffling between safety and linebacker in 2003. He finished the regular season **first on the team with 13 third down stops**. He was also fifth in tackles with 71 (44 solo).
  - ➔ Perhaps his best game of the year came versus Iowa State when he had six tackles (five solo), 1½ sacks, two third down stops, one QB hurry and two chasesdowns. His biggest sack went for 10 yards and dropped ISU back down to its own 10-yardline forcing a third-and-20 situation.
- ❑ **2003.**
  - ➔ He had no problem with his position move from strong safety to inside linebacker, which happened just days into CU’s 2003 August practices. It was easy for him to accept, as he knew with his body style and projected weight that he would someday make the move to linebacker. He has also played some strong safety, including a start at that position at Kansas State (Oct. 18).
- ❑ **GENERAL**
  - ➔ He is fluent in Spanish... and he has to be. His fiancé is from Columbia.

## 13 JOE SANDERS, OLB

- ❑ **THIS SEASON**
  - ➔ Listed at No. 3 on the depth chart at the Mike (inside) linebacker position. Sanders is a key reserve in a linebacker corps which is perhaps the deepest in the conference.
  - ➔ He played in seven snaps on defense against Kansas, registering one third down stop and a pass broken up. His tipped pass caused an interception made by teammate Marcus Burton.
- ❑ **2004.**
  - ➔ He got his chance to shine against Washington State in his first defensive action ever when Iwuh went down with a high ankle sprain. In the middle of the fourth quarter with CU clinging to a 10-6 lead, he picked off an Alex Brink pass and returned the **interception for a 51-yard touchdown**. He finished the game with a solid three tackles, including one for loss. He was **nominated for ESPN’s Game Changing Performance Award**.
- ❑ **2003**
  - ➔ Recruited to play tight end out of high school, he redshirted the year after undergoing season-ending shoulder surgery before camp began. He suffered the injury during a postseason high school all-star game, but never was able to make a full recovery without the surgery.
- ❑ **GENERAL**
  - ➔ Former CU basketball center and current Indiana Pacer **David Harrison helped persuade Sanders to become a Buff**. Harrison, who also hails from Nashville and attended a nearby high school, has known Sanders since 1998. During high school, he traveled to South Africa to volunteer at an orphanage.

# 14 JOEL KLATT, QB

- ❑ **Chart Watch:** Klatt is currently first all-time in passing yards (7,375), completions (666), attempts (1,095) and touchdown passes (44) and is second in total offense (7,255). His 21 TD passes on the 2003 season were the second most in a single year at Colorado, trailing only Koy Detmer (22, 1996). Only Kordell Stewart and Mike Moschetti reached the 4,000-yard plateau in fewer games than Klatt, who is the first to record two 2,500-yard seasons.
  - ➔ An invited walk-on in 2002, he was named CU's starting quarterback halfway through the 2003 fall camp. He entered the 2003 campaign with an edge up on his competitors for the No. 1 job, as he impressed the coaches with his poise and maturity during the spring.
  - ➔ After spending **two years in minor league baseball** (A ball) with the San Diego Padres organization, he came to the realization that he wanted to return to his first love — football. He reported to spring training in Arizona with the Padres, and had his mind made up: if at the end of the normal spring training period, if he was assigned to San Diego's top Class A team, Fort Wayne, he'd play baseball at least one more year. If he had to remain for the extended spring training, he'd walk away from it. He didn't make the Fort Wayne team, so he basically **hung around long enough to collect one last paycheck**, around \$250 after taxes, as he **needed the gas money to drive back to Colorado**.
  - ➔ He had been in touch with CU offensive coordinator Shawn Watson, and the two talked prior to his departing for spring training in '02. He also applied to the school that winter.
  - ➔ Had a great one-liner when repeatedly asked about if he could play quarterback on the major college level: "I'm just trying to remember to buckle my chin strap, because I didn't have to do that in baseball."
- ❑ **THIS SEASON**
  - ➔ Klatt returns as the starting quarterback for his senior season. He is a team captain once again, becoming **just the fifth player to serve as a Buffalo captain in multiple seasons**. He knows every responsibility of every player on the field, and Barnett has said that it's like having **another coach on the field when he's out there**. Former tailback Bobby Purify jokingly on Klatt's abilities in 2004: "We don't even need (offensive coordinator) coach Watson anymore. Klatt can call a whole game himself. He knows everything as well as the coaches do. I have never been as comfortable (in the backfield at CU) with anybody like I am with him."
  - ➔ Added: Watson: "Unlike anybody that I've ever coached, he knows what we do inside and out, and really has perfected it. He's done remarkably well."
  - ➔ Against CSU, he completed 22-of-33 passes for 283 yards and an interception. He **finished his career 3-0 against the Rams**, and is believed to be the first quarterback in CU history to do so. He moved from fifth to third on the all-time career passing yards list, passing Mike Moschetti (4,797) and John Hessler (4,788).
  - ➔ Klatt completed 18-of-25 passes for 186 yards and two touchdowns against New Mexico State. He also had six rushes for 33 yards. He joined Kordell Stewart (6,481) and Koy Detmer (5,390) as the only players in Colorado history to top the 5,000-yard mark in career passing yardage. He came into the game with 4,962 yards and hit the milestone with a 9-yard completion to Evan Judge late in the first quarter. His 10th pass completion of the game, on a screen pass to Hugh Charles late in the second quarter, made him the all-time leader in pass completions at Colorado, as he came in with 447 and passed Kordell Stewart (456) into first place. Hampered by a toe injury all day against Miami, Klatt completed 25-of-42 passes for 228 yards and two interceptions. Despite his struggles, he was still able to complete 59 percent of his passes, while spreading the ball to eight different Buffalo receivers.
  - ➔ Against Oklahoma State, Klatt completed 10-of-26 passes for 151 yards and a touchdown. He also added 26 rushing yards on four carries and wasn't sacked on the day. He gave way to backup quarterback James Cox in the fourth quarter of the 34-0 victory with the game out of hand.
  - ➔ He amassed the third-highest passing total in his career in less than three quarters of duty against Texas A&M. His 398 passing yards (on 28-of-36 passing) and three touchdowns moved him into **second place all-time in total offense** (5,825) and **second in touchdown passes** (38). He passed for 211 yards alone in the first quarter (12-of-15), setting school records for both the most passing yards and for total offense in a single quarter. He completed an astounding 77 percent of his passes, and game film revealed that he graded out to 100 percent on his checks. **Another look inside his numbers: On first down, Klatt was 13-of-15 for 183 yards and five first downs; on third downs, he was 8-of-11 for 147 yards, seven first downs and two touchdowns.**
  - ➔ Against Texas, Klatt threw for 189 yards and two touchdowns on 19-of-39 passing. His interception against Texas ended a string of 95 consecutive passes without a pick; he was just nine passes shy of the school mark.
  - ➔ Struggling to run the ball against Kansas, Klatt took to the air and finished with 193 yards and four touchdowns on 16-of-27 passing. He is now only 175 yards away from setting the all-time passing yards record of 6,481, currently held by Kordell Stewart. He had **four TD passes in a game for the second time in his career**—the other was his first career start against Colorado State in 2003. ; it was the 10th time a CU quarterback had four or more TD passes in a game. His third touchdown of the evening **broke the CU all-time touchdown record**. He is now tied with Ken Johnson (1971-73) for the fourth most wins as a starting quarterback at Colorado with 17; he trails Darian Hagan (28), Stewart (27) and Gale Weidner (20). **His touchdown-to-interception ration in the red zone improved to an impressive 24-to-1** in his career. He has also never been sacked in the red zone.

### KLATT, continued

- ➔ Klatt completed 17-of-34 passes for 272 yards and a touchdown in a 23-20 win over Kansas State. With a 20-yard completion to tight end Joe Klopfenstein in the second quarter, he passed Kordell Stewart for first place in all-time passing yards at Colorado. He now owns 32 CU passing records and is on pace to set or move up in several more.
- ➔ He opened the game against Missouri with 12 straight pass completions before missing, tying for the third longest streak in school history. He also picked up his 33rd career record after extending his streak of passes without an interception to 122. His final line was 23-of-31 for 253 yards and a touchdown. **His six-yard touchdown pass to tight end Quinn Sypniewski improved his career ratio of touchdowns to interceptions in the red zone to 24-to-1.** Said Klatt about continuously breaking CU passing records: "In all seriousness, I'm just happy to be here; it's absolutely just icing on the cake for a walk-on happy to be on the team."
- ➔ Klatt completed 25-of-42 passes for 284 yards and two interceptions against Iowa State. His first interception came in the third quarter with the Buffs driving inside the ISU 20. It was only the second redzone interception of his career. It was also his first interception since the Texas game. Late in the fourth quarter, he led the Buffs on a 62-yard drive to try and tie the game at 23 apiece. His screen pass to Hugh Charles at the ISU 27 was tipped by defensive lineman Brent Curvey and intercepted for a 66-yard touchdown to end the threat. Before the interception, Klatt had gone 7-of-8 on the drive for 59 yards.
- ➔ Against Nebraska, Klatt completed 20-of-40 passes for 159 yards and an interception.
- ➔ Klatt put forth an extremely gutty performance against Texas in the Big 12 Championship game, though it wasn't indicated by the final score. He led the Buffs on an efficient drive to start the game before RB Hugh Charles fumbled the ball away deep in Longhorn territory. In the third quarter, he was **knocked out of the game—and perhaps the rest of his senior season—by a vicious helmet-to-helmet hit from a Texas defender who came free on a blitz with the Longhorns comfortably ahead.** It was only fitting that on the play he completed the pass to WR Dusty Sprague for a 22-yard gain and a first down. He was taken to the locker room for x-rays on his jaw which were negative. He remained in Houston overnight at a local hospital for precaution, as his CT-scans and other tests came back negative. The concussion marked the fourth of his football career—his second at Colorado. It is uncertain whether he will be cleared to play in the Champ Sports Bowl. During the team banquet, **Klatt was awarded the team's most outstanding offensive player, as well as the team MVP.**

### □ 2004.

- ➔ In the Houston Bowl, Klatt won **Offensive MVP** honors, as he completed 24-of-33 passes for 333 yards and two touchdowns. He rallied the Buffs from behind, ultimately throwing the **game-winning touchdown**, a 39-yard pass to Evan Judge, with 8:43 remaining in the game.
- ➔ He had a very solid outing in CU's 26-20 victory over Nebraska, as he became **only the third Buff QB to win in Lincoln since 1990** (Darian Hagan did it then and Robert Hodge did so in 2002). Klatt finished the day 18-of-29 for 222 yards and one TD pass – a 6-yard strike to Blake Mackey on CU's opening 14-play, 90-yard drive. He passed the 2,000-yard mark on the year for the second time in as many seasons.
- ➔ In what was the most important offensive play in CU's season, Klatt and receiver Ron Monteilh hooked up on a last-second, **64-yard touchdown pass to secure victory for the Buffs with 5 seconds remaining.** The improbable play was the longest from scrimmage for the Buffs this year, and Klatt's longest pass/touchdown this season.
- ➔ Colorado certainly is no stranger to 64-yard game-winning touchdowns. All you have to do is look back 11 years ago when Kordell Stewart found Michael Westbrook on a 64-yard Hail Mary that beat Michigan 27-26 in Ann Arbor. The play was dubbed "The Miracle in Michigan," while some people in Boulder have now gone far enough to call Klatt and Monteilh's connection "The Mile High Miracle."
- ➔ Against **Texas A&M**, in a heart wrenching overtime loss, he put together what may have been his best game this season. **Going 25-of-42 for 346 yards and two touchdowns, Klatt led a stellar offensive effort that saw CU post 510 yards of total offense against one of the Big 12's top defenses.** The effort was the second best total output this year behind 586 against North Texas, and earned him CU's Offensive Player of the Week honors.
- ➔ After sustaining a neck strain against Oklahoma State (see note below), Klatt was replaced early in the Iowa State practice week by James Cox as No. 1 for numerous reasons. Noting that the decision to switch was based on Klatt's health and several other factors, the CU coaches placed Cox at the helm to open against ISU and add a new dimension in CU's attack. But, after tossing an interception midway through the second quarter, Cox was pulled and relieved by Klatt, who came into finish the day 11-of-18 for 96 yards and two interceptions. In all reality, Klatt probably could have ended 15-of-18 for well over 100 yards and at least one score, but he had several very catchable balls — including a sure touchdown in the end zone — dropped by his receivers.
- ➔ Said Klatt of not starting, and how he played when called upon: "However it goes, it doesn't matter to me. However the coaches want to play it, both of us or one of us, we just want to win some football games and get this thing rolling so we can hopefully make a surge in the North (Division of the Big 12)." Klatt also said he did "some serious self-examination" while preparing to back up Cox. "I just decided to try to do things the way I normally do them and not the way other people thought I should."
- ➔ Added offensive coordinator Shawn Watson: "Joel did a terrific job. He never pointed any fingers at anybody. He understood, and he just went out and did his job."

## KLATT, continued

- ➔ After a slow start in CU's first two games, Klatt "got back to basics in a simplified scheme" against North Texas and returned to his 2003 form in grand style. Against the Mean Green he completed 26-of-33 passes for 371 yards and three scores, which tied him for the 11th most passing yards in a game in CU history. His 78.8 completion percentage was the best in school history for a game with 20 or more attempts. At halftime, he had completed 20-of-25 throws for 286 yards, including 196 yards in the second quarter (the most in a quarter in school history) on 14-of-17 passing. He began the game with two incompletions, and then reeled off 13 straight strikes, which were the third most in Colorado history.

### ❑ 2003.

- ➔ Klatt **made his debut before over 76,000** at INVESCO Field at Mile High in Denver... by comparison, the largest crowd he played in front of in minor league baseball was about 3,500 in Ogden, Utah.
- ➔ After his season-opening debut performance against Colorado State, he garnered all kinds of honors. Three organizations cited him as the **National Player of the Week**: *The Sporting News* (for its weekly magazine and radio network), SI.com and collegefootballnews.com. He was also named the Big 12 Conference's Offensive Player of the Week, and was the inaugural winner of the Pioneer Press State of Colorado Player of the Week Award, selected by the Colorado Chapter of the National Football Foundation/College Hall of Fame.
- ➔ His 402 passing yards against Colorado State ranked as the **fourth most passing yards ever by a walk-on in an NCAA game** ... and the most ever by a CU quarterback... until he exceeded it with 419 yards against Baylor.
- ➔ **2-0.** Klatt was only the 10th quarterback (out of 38) to win his first two starts for the Buffaloes dating back to the 1959 season. The best start ever was another sophomore, Darian Hagan, who led CU to 11 straight wins in 1989, followed by another soph, Kordell Stewart, who won his first eight starts in 1992. Junior Mike Moschetti won his first five in 1998 and was the last player to open 2-0 before Klatt. The complete list since 1959:
- ➔ Klatt finished the season going 253-of-358 (65.1%), for 2,614 yards with 21 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. He set CU single season records for completions (old: Koy Detmer, 208 in 1996) and average completions per game (21.2; old record: 20.4 by Mike Moschetti in 1999). He also set a record for the most total plays in a season with 426 (old record: Mike Moschetti, 416 in 1999). He was tabbed an honorable mention All-Big 12 selection by the league coaches and received the team's John Mack Award, presented to CU's most outstanding offensive player.
- ➔ Klatt set a sophomore season record for passing yards (2,614), topping the 2,136 John Hessler had in 1995. His 2,533 yards of total offense is also a sophomore record, passing Hessler's 2,246 in 1995.

### ❑ 2002.

- ➔ He took a few snaps at the end of the Baylor game, just to get his feet wet in college football. It was his first game action since 1999, the last time he stepped on a football field in a game situation.
- ➔ He also saw action for a couple of games on the punt team, playing one of the protectors up front.

### ❑ GENERAL

- ➔ Former CU receiver and Arvada West High School head coach Dave Logan said that Klatt was the most difficult to prepare for out of every quarterback in the talented Jefferson County League.
- ➔ His father, Gary, recently retired after 30 years as a coach in the Colorado high school ranks. Twenty-five of those years were spent at Pomona, including 10 as a head coach. He was one of the most respected coaches in Colorado.
- ➔ Baseball runs in his family's blood, as old brother (Jason) played collegiate and minor league baseball.
- ➔ He is an avid golfer, and has even caddied for former CU quarterback great Bobby Anderson in golf tournaments.

## ***16 MASON CROSBY, PK***

### ❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ Crosby was the runner-up for the Lou Groza Award as he continues his career already among the nation's elite kickers. Known by his teammates as "**Golden Toe**," Crosby was tabbed as a **preseason All-American** by several publications. He has also been called "Hef," after earning a spot on the Playboy Magazine All-America team, referring to the publication's famous founder Hugh Hefner. He is known for his big leg, but he prides himself in making his "shorter" kicks. He has only missed one field goal attempt of less than 40 yards in his career.
- ➔ He and punter John Torp have a special ritual after Crosby boots what he considers a big field goal, as Crosby will run over to the sideline after the kick to have **Torp quickly shines his shoe with a towel**. The duo first did it after Crosby's 55-yard bomb against CSU in 2004. Against CSU, Crosby showed why he is an All-American and a **favorite for the Lou Groza Award**. He nailed all three of his field goals (32, 48, 47). His second boot tied the game at 21-21 with 2:32 remaining in the game. His **final kick from 47 yards out came with four seconds left on the clock and won the game for the Buffs**. His memorable performance came on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Said Barnett of his performance: "That's why Mason Crosby is an All-American. We take him for granted. Our team has had respect for Mason ever since he got here and made 60-yard field goals." For his efforts, Crosby was named Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Week; he also earned CU Athlete of the Week honors and was named one of the **Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award Top Three Stars of the Week**.

## CROSBY, continued

- ➔ His school-record string of 10 consecutive field goals came to an end in the first quarter with a miss (wide left) from 55 yards. However, with makes of 33 and 28 yards, he now has made at least one field goal in six consecutive games, just two off the school record of eight by Fred Lima (set between Oct. 7, 1972 and Sept. 15, 1973).
- ➔ Crosby missed the first field goal of under 40 yards in his career against Miami—a 28-yarder in the first quarter that sailed left. He redeemed himself by booting a **58-yard field goal**—with 10 yards to spare—in the fourth quarter, producing the Buffs' only points of the contest. The kick erased any doubt about the strength of Crosby's leg, as he **pounded the ball through the uprights at sea level with 70 percent humidity**. That kick tied for the longest by any kicker in the nation in 2005. **Said Barnett: "It probably was (one of the most impressive kicks I have ever seen).** I was so disgusted at that point in time that I couldn't really celebrate how spectacular it really was. After the year is over and you see that he made a 58-yarder at sea level, it will seem pretty amazing." Crosby earned Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Week honors and was named one of the **Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award Top Three Stars of the Week**.
- ➔ He went 2-of-3 on field goals against Oklahoma State. His first attempt of 44 yards was blocked. His 48-yard field goal with two seconds remaining in the first half extended the Buffs' lead to 10-0. He added a 42-yard field goal late in the fourth quarter. He currently ranks seventh on CU's all-time scoring list.
- ➔ Baltimore Ravens kicker **Matt Stover**, the third-most accurate kicker in NFL history **coached Crosby** during his high school summer breaks back in Texas, and according to Stover, "showed him all my stuff." Said Stover: "He is a great kicker. When he came out of high school, you could see he was a really good kicker. He has got that special work ethic: You never have to tell him to go work because he is always driven to get better on his own. When you have that work ethic, talent and desire like he does, then you will be able to succeed. **He has got a leg. We'll see him in the NFL; he'll be good enough.**"
- ➔ He had about as perfect of a game as a kicker can have against Texas A&M. Not only was he 2-of-2 on field goals and 5-of-5 on extra points, but he booted four of his five kickoffs out of the end zone (one of his kickoffs from the north end of the field sailed way past the end zone and **landed in the middle of the 'C' which helps spell 'COLORADO' on the painted asphalt** a good 10-15 yards behind the end zone). One Aggie returner dared to return a Crosby kick from the end zone and only got 10 yards before being swarmed by the Buffalo coverage team. Of the nine kickoff returns against Crosby this year, four have not been brought out beyond the 20. Teaming with Torp, Crosby forced the Aggies to start **10** of their **13** drives at or inside the 20. The total on the year for the opponent is now **43** of **69** (and 43 of 60 when accounting for CU turnovers). His 11 points moved him into seventh in scoring all-time at Colorado with 182 points. He is also tied for the second most field goals ever by a CU player.
- ➔ Crosby made good on his only field goal attempt against Texas, converting a 48-yarder in the second quarter.
- ➔ Crosby did not attempt any field goals against Kansas, but he was 6-for-6 on PATs. The six points were enough to vault him into sixth place on CU's all-time scoring list (second among kickers). He has 193 career points (82-90 PAT, 37-46 FG), passing Tom Field (190, 1979-83). This was only the second time in the last 20 games that he did not attempt a field goal (with the '04 Texas game being the only other time).
- ➔ He was the hero again against Kansas State, as he **nailed a 50-yard field goal with six seconds left** to give the Buffs a 23-20 victory over the Wildcats. He missed his first attempt of 46 yards, but it was against a stiff wind which gusted to 35 mph at times. He made good on a 42 and 52-yarder in the second quarter, helping extend CU's halftime lead to 20-10. It was his last kick, however which was most amazing. **In pre-game warm-ups, Crosby had made a 75-yard field goal with the wind at his back.** Knowing he was good from plenty yards out, the coaches instructed Klatt to strategically kneel the ball in two plays to get to the center of the field where Crosby wanted it. In the process, the **loss of yardage made an initial 43-yard field goal into a 50-yarder. It didn't matter as Crosby blasted the kick through the uprights with 15 yards to spare.** Said tight end Quinn Sypniewski: "All of the offensive linemen are like, 'Why are you going backwards?' We were like, 'We've got Mason, don't worry about it.' We can take a knee 6 yards back; we can take a knee 10 yards back. We've got Mason. We're good to go."
- ➔ Crosby went 2-of-3 on field goal attempts against Kansas State, as his lone miss was wide right from 48 yards. He had previously made good on a **56-yard field goal, which was the fifth longest in school history**. It was also the fourth longest in the NCAA this season (he is tied for the long with 58). It was Crosby's ninth regular season field goal of 50-plus yards, the 10th including bowl games. His 11 points moved him past Bobby Anderson into **third place all-time in scoring at Colorado** with 215 points. He received Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Week honors for his performance as well (the fourth time he has earned the honor this season).
- ➔ Crosby made good on all three of his attempts at Iowa State. He had a 31-yarder in the second quarter, a 42-yarder in the third and a **standard 57-yarder in the fourth to put the Buffs within a touchdown**. On the season, the **average of his made field goals is 42.5 yards, a good seven yards higher than any of the other 19 Lou Groza Award Semifinalists**...He has now made a career-best 38 consecutive PAT kicks.
- ➔ He converted on 1-of-2 field goals against Nebraska, with his miss coming from 57 yards out.
- ➔ Crosby finished as the **runner-up for the Lou Groza Award**, although he garnered just about every other top honor for his position in the nation. In addition to receiving the team's **Bill McCartney Award** for special teams achievement, he was a **unanimous first team All-Big 12 selection** by the AP and conference coaches, and he became the **27<sup>th</sup> player in CU history to be named a consensus All-American**, the first CU placekicker to be afforded the honor.

## CROSBY, continued

### □ 2004.

- ➔ He was one of 20 semifinalists for the Lou Groza Award and earned 2004 **first-team all-Big 12 honors** by both the *Associated Press* and conference coaches, and racked up several All-American honors.
- ➔ Rivals.com named him a second team All-American, while he was also an honorable mention All-American honoree by SI.com. In addition, Crosby was voted **CU's Special Teams MVP** for the season, as he was given the Bill McCartney Award (for special teams achievement) at Colorado's season-ending banquet. To top things off, he was one of 10 Victory Club members, which means he recorded a winning performance/grade in at least eight games.
- ➔ Head coach **Gary Barnett** has specifically stated that with Crosby, "we are going to have one of the better placekickers in the country. **I think Mason Crosby is going to be on schedule to break all of our records here at Colorado.**" And so far, he has ...
- ➔ Crosby made good on four field goals in CU's 33-28 victory over UTEP in the Houston Bowl. His second one was a 54-yarder in the second quarter.
- ➔ Crosby became a major weapon for the Buffs with both his scoring and kickoff abilities. Through 12 games, he had kicked the NCAA's longest field goal this year (60 yards), and set several major CU records. The 60-yarder was the third longest all-time in Big 12 history, while his five kicks of 50 yards or more were tied for an NCAA best. He and became the second fastest Buff kicker to reach the 100-point mark, doing so in just 19 games (Neil Voskeritchian did it in 14 games in 1994-95). His 19 field goals made were a record for the most ever by a Buff in one season.
- ➔ With his 54-yarder (which followed his 60-yard boot) right before halftime against Iowa State, Crosby became the first Buff to connect on two 50-plus kicks in one game, while he also became the only CU player to hit three (and thus four) 50-plusers in a season (the previous record was two, which he tied with a 50-yard boot at Washington State after kicking a 55-yarder a week earlier against CSU). Versus Kansas State, he kicked a 51-yarder and upped the school record for 50-plusers in a season and career to five.
- ➔ He certainly didn't disappoint in CU's opening game, as he nailed a clutch 55-yard field goal to put the Buffs up by three in the fourth quarter. The boot was tied for the fourth longest in school history (third longest at Folsom Field at the time), and was the first 50-plus yard field goal made by a Buff since September 25, 1993 when Mitch Berger notched a 54-yarder. He was 2-of-3 on the evening, with his other make coming from 31 yards out.
- ➔ In what may have been the best performance by a CU kicker ever, Crosby was **perfect on all four of his field goal attempts against Iowa State** en route to launching kicks of 28, 60, 54 and 33 yards, respectively. His 60-yard shot in the second quarter was the longest field goal in CU history, as he broke the old school record of 58 set by Jerry Hamilton in 1981.
- ➔ For his outstanding efforts in the 19-14 win over ISU he was named the Big 12's Special Teams Player of the Week, one of three **Lou Groza Award Stars of the Week**, CU's Special Teams Player of the Week and the Colorado Chapter NFF/College Football Hall of Fame Player of the Week.
- ➔ In CU's 26-20 win at Nebraska, he connected on 4-of-4 FG attempts. He was good from 37, 39, 46 and 20 yards. He was named the **Big 12's Special Teams Player of the Week** for the second time this season for the performance.
- ➔ What can sometimes be overlooked were his accomplishments on kickoffs. On 59 total kicks, he has had only 17 returned, while 41 went for touchbacks (26 of those through the end zone).
- ➔ During one practice this spring, he lined up for a 60-yard field goal and booted the pigskin almost effortlessly with a half-swing of his leg directly through the uprights. But, the most amazing part of the feat was that the ball cleared the net in back of the uprights. Quipped Barnett after practice to the media: "It was probably a 75-yarder."

### □ 2003.

- ➔ He set a CU record for **most points scored by a freshman** with 52 (the old record of 48 was shared by two players).
- ➔ He became the first true freshman to earn placekicking duties at CU since Eric Hannah did in 1987, and also was the first to kick in a season opener since Tom Field in 1979. No other true freshmen have kicked placements in the last 50 years at Colorado.

### □ GENERAL

- ➔ In high school, he booted the **third-longest field goal in Texas state history**, tying the record with a 59-yarder his senior year.
- ➔ He spent several years growing up in Fort Collins, and managed to come to a few CU games when he was younger.
- ➔ His father (Jim) was a fullback at UTEP in the mid-1970s, and a grandfather (Harry Crosby) ran track at Marshall.
- ➔ It is in his **ritual to go to the driving range** a few days before each game and pound out 40-60 golf balls.
- ➔ When Crosby played soccer as a youth, all the way up though high school, he always had the biggest leg on his team. He would always be called upon to take the free kicks and long corner kicks because of his strong leg.

# 17 LAWRENCE VICKERS, VB

## □ THIS SEASON

Although “V-Back” is his official position, Vickers may be the best fullback in the Big 12 and one of the finest in the nation. The **“V-Back”** moniker describes his **triple-threat capabilities** with his rushing, blocking and receiving skills. He likes to joke that V-Back stands for “Vickers-Back” and was specifically named after him. But even before the V-Back name was created, **Barnett called him potentially “the best that’s ever played” his position at CU.** He likes to joke that V-Back stands for “Vickers-Back” and was specifically named after him.

- ➔ He was named a **team captain**, as fellow captain **Joel Klatt calls him the “emotion of our offense.”** Vickers prides himself on perfection; like Klatt, he knows every play and assignment for all positions.
- ➔ As will likely be the case several times this season, Vickers’ statistics against CSU didn’t reflect his impact on the game. He finished with three rushes for four yards and a touchdown and two receptions for one yard. His touchdown, however came on fourth down at the CSU one-yard line. After following a block from fullback Brendan Schaub, he thrust into the end zone, needing only his forearm to fend off the last defender that stood in his way. Said Vickers of the touchdown run: “We needed it. It got the team going and the crowd amped. Honestly, I wasn’t going to run him (Robert Herbert) over, but apparently he wanted to go. I don’t know why he did-it wasn’t smart on his part. Obviously he didn’t watch the film on me.” He added: “I pointed to myself before the play, trying to tell the coaches to get me the ball. I felt it. **I’m a captain and it was my time to step up and set an example for the team.**” Vickers also disrupted a punt by Ram punter Jimmie Kaylor in the second quarter. After tearing up the middle, he got to Kaylor so fast that the CSU punter didn’t even attempt to get the punt off. As **Vickers flew by, he got a piece of the punter with his leg, slowing him down enough for his teammates to make the tackle**, setting up the Buffs on the CSU 15 yard-line.
- ➔ Vickers was the offensive star of the game for the Buffs against New Mexico State, earning him **CU Athlete of the Week** honors. He rushed six times for 45 yards and two touchdowns and hauled in three receptions for 32 yards and another score. He had a 19-yard rush in the third quarter in which he broke several tackles and carried defenders on his back before being brought down to help give CU a record 14 first downs in the quarter. Said Vickers: “There was excellent blocking all day. **When I see the goal line I don’t think that anyone is going to stop me.**”
- ➔ Vickers had another typical outing against Texas A&M, showing his versatility all over the field. He carried the ball eight times for 48 yards and a touchdown and caught five passes for 36 yards and another score. He had a 27-yard reception on a third-and-1, setting up the Buffs at the A&M 17-yard line for an eventual touchdown in the first quarter. His 13 touches were by far the most this season (he came in with 18 in the Buffs’ first four games).
- ➔ He became CU’s primary running back in the second half against Kansas State after Hugh Charles and Byron Ellis left the game with ankle injuries. He finished with 24 yards on 12 carries. In doing so, he became just the **11th player in school history to accumulate 500 rushing and receiving yards.** He scored a touchdown from 1-yard out in on CU’s opening drive to give the Buffs an early 7-0 lead.
- ➔ Vickers had by far his best game as a Buff against Missouri. Filling in for injured running back Hugh Charles, he made the most of his role as CU’s primary ball carrier, **finishing with 18 carries for 85 yards and four touchdowns** (on runs of 1, 20, 2 and 7 yards). His rushing total was a career best (topping the 72 he had against Oklahoma State in 2004). His performance marked just the 15th time in school history a player has scored four rushing TDs in a game. Said Barnett: “Lawrence is one of those guys who just loves to play the game. He’s on punt return and he didn’t want out. He’s in on punt block and he didn’t want out of that. He wanted to be in the game every snap and you love an attitude like that. He’s got a great passion for the game and he demonstrated his versatility.” Said Missouri linebacker Derrick Ming: “Basically Vickers ran the ball as well as any back we’ve seen this year. In the second half, he hit the gaps very well and their O-Line executed perfectly.” He told one reporter after the Missouri game: **“Me and the end zone are best friends. We have a tendency to bump heads a lot, but he’s been real good to me this year.”** Vickers already has an assortment of nicknames like L.V. and Mr. Versatile (self-proclaimed), but fans are starting to come up with some more creative ones. **After one score in which a Missouri players was run over, a fan yelled, “you’ve just been Vickerized!”**
- ➔ Vickers rushed 13 times for 26 yards against Iowa State and added two catches for 18 yards. He also had a fumble in the third quarter which was returned for a touchdown—his first fumble on the season in 163 touches.
- ➔ Not surprisingly, Vickers was **selected as the “Best Interview” in a vote conducted by team beat media.**
- ➔ 2004.
- ➔ For his valiant efforts, commitment to excellence and overall enthusiasm, the CU coaching staff gave him the Tom McMahon Award (for dedication and work ethic) at the final team banquet. He was also one of 10 Buffs to earn the prestigious Victory Club status, meaning he recorded a winning performance/grade in at least eight games.
- ➔ He totaled 71 rushing yards on 17 attempts (and reeled in one pass for 2 yards) in CU’s 26-20 win over Nebraska, as he and Bobby Purify combined for 212 of the Buffs’ 420 yards of total offense. With Purify suffering from a dislocated finger late in the game, he took over to run out the clock and had crucial runs of 26 and 21 yards.

### VICKERS, continued

- ➔ He had his best “stat” game of the year against Oklahoma State when he started for an ailing Bobby Purify at tailback. He had 15 carries for 72 yards and one touchdown, while he also netted a **nine catches for 96 yards—the most receptions by a running back for a single game in school history.**
- ➔ In CU’s third game, he had a “breakout” session against North Texas to truly showcase his V-Back position, as he snagged five passes for 66 yards (long of 22), rushed one time for 13 yards and helped pave the way for 112 rushing yards from tailback Bobby Purify. Amazingly, every time Vickers touched the ball he gained a first down for the Buffs. It was his first extensive action in which he displayed his versatility.
- ➔ He believes his newfound mindset came about due to the unfortunate **death of his brother-in-law**, who was **murdered in Houston on March 17**. A close friend and person he looked up to, Vickers **switched from No. 34 to 17 last off-season in his memory.**
- ❑ GENERAL
  - ➔ His son, Jayvier Vickers, was injured as an infant in a car accident in September of 2002, but is now doing fine.
  - ➔ He may be **one of the most personable and animated Buffs on the field... and in front of the camera.** Many media members note how great of an interview he is, while Vickers said he should have his own television show someday, appropriately called “VB-TV”.

## ***18 ISAAC GARDEN, PK***

- ❑ THIS SEASON
  - ➔ He has risen to co-No. 2 status on the depth chart, as he has really progressed; the coaches say his leg is about as strong as Mason Crosby’s, and have confidence in him from beyond 50 yards as well.
- ❑ 2004.
  - ➔ He joined the team as a walk-on for preseason practices in the fall; he attended CU as a true freshman in 2003-04 but did not try to walk-on the team, thus he had four years of eligibility.
- ❑ GENERAL
  - ➔ An avid guitar player, he was a member of a band back in California during high school. Hobbies include snowboarding and going to the beach.

## ***19 TIM LEMON, WR***

- ❑ THIS SEASON
  - ➔ He played two snaps against Texas in the Big 12 Championship game, as he has been practicing well toward the end of the year and might see some time in the bowl.
  - ➔ Lemon is just a freshman, coming to CU after playing **six years of minor league baseball.** He was a highly recruited wide receiver and defensive back out of high school, and he received a scholarship to play football at Washington State before pursuing a career in baseball.
- GENERAL
  - ➔ He was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals who gave him a \$650,000 signing bonus and offered to pay for his education—an offer he has taken up now that he is enrolled at CU. Former Buff quarterback Mike Moschetti told CU coaches about Lemon and he was invited to walk-on.
  - ➔ He is a **good friend of St. Louis Cardinals all-star first baseman Albert Pujols.** The two were teammates on the Peoria Chiefs in 2000 in the Midwest Class A league.

## ***21 VANCE WASHINGTON, CB***

- ❑ THIS SEASON
  - ➔ He is currently listed third on the depth chart at cornerback. He is also one of the Buffs’ primary gunners on the punt block unit.
  - ➔ He has **Jeremy Bloom-type speed**, which is why he was briefly switched to receiver at the beginning of the season.
  - ➔ Said Barnett after an experimental practice using him at wide receiver: “Vance Washington can take the top off a defense. We’ve seen his speed, but after you see him out there running by everyone it’s different.”
  - ➔ He owns the third-fastest 40-yard time on the team (4.45 seconds). He was second in the Speed Spring Dominator group (RB, DB, WR, K/P, QB). He had team-bests in the vertical jump (40.5 inches) and the L-Drill (6.57 seconds).



## WASHINGTON, continued

- ➔ He had perhaps the most important play of the game against Kansas State when he caused a fumble by KSU punt returner Jermaine Moreira with about a minute remaining in the game. The ball was recovered by the Buffs, and they went on to win on a 50-yard field goal by Mason Crosby with six seconds left.
- ❑ GENERAL
  - ➔ Hobbies include fixing/programming computers, listening to classical music and watching science fiction movies.

## **22 BYRON ELLIS, TB**

### ❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He is listed as CU's No. 2 running back this season. He plays with a different style than starter Hugh Charles, as he runs with more of a bruising style and likes to shoot the ball up the middle. He should see plenty of action this fall as coaches will use him to give the offense a different dimension than Charles.
- ➔ Barnett said Ellis, along with Charles, is **hardly a true sophomore running back in terms of experience**. With graduated tailback Bobby Purify banged up much of last year, both players **received extensive touches with the first-team offense in practices in 2004**.
- ➔ He saw his first extensive action of the season against New Mexico State, rushing the ball 15 times for 45 yards. He had a 10-yard scamper in the second half, giving the Buffs one of their school-record 14 first downs in the third quarter. Said Barnett; "It was great to see Byron Ellis get a lot of plays and he's a guy that's just going to get better too."
- ➔ Ellis had the best game of his early career, rushing for 34 yards on eight carries against Miami. He also caught three passes for 53 yards. He also had a 38-yard reception late in the fourth quarter, which set the Buffs up on the Hurricane 10-yard line. The play was CU's longest play from scrimmage this season.
- ➔ Ellis made his first career start against Missouri in place of injured running back Hugh Charles. He finished with 15 rushes for 32 yards.

### ❑ 2004.

- ➔ He began to learn the offense, as he moved into second on the depth chart along with Hugh Charles at tailback.

### ❑ GENERAL

- ➔ He is majoring in integrative physiology at CU. **In high school, he boasted a 4.0 grade point average** and took several advanced placement and honors courses. He was a two-time academic all-city team member and earned the Academic Jacket of Excellence Award (presented to students with a 3.75 GPA or higher) three times. He told the Los Angeles Times during his senior year of high school: **"I want to be the tops in life in everything I do. I compete with the nerds. I compete on the football field."**

## **22 LORENZO SIMS, CB**

### ❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He is listed as one of the Buffs' starting cornerbacks this season. He is a **strong cover man and CU's most physical cornerback**. As the Buffs' returning interception leader, Sims is in line for a solid season in which he should be considered for several All-Conference accolades.
- ➔ Sims had a monster game against CSU, finishing with eight solo tackles, a third down stop and three passes broken up. He also intercepted a Justin Holland pass in the third quarter and returned it two yards to the CSU 27 yard line. He had a busy day against Miami, recording three tackles, a third down stop and a team-high three passes broken up. He was also credited with a touchdown save.
- ➔ Against Oklahoma State, Sims had two solo tackles and added two third down stops and two passes broken up.
- ➔ He had two solo tackles and a third down stop against Texas A&M.
- ➔ Sims finished with five solo tackles against Texas, but left the game in the second half after suffering a knee injury.
- ➔ He came back and played against Kansas State after suffering torn cartilage in his knee and undergoing surgery after the game against Texas. He wasn't in the starting lineup, but he started in the second half and received the majority of the snaps at his position.
- ➔ Sims played every snap from scrimmage against Missouri, totaling four solo tackles, a third down stop and a forced fumble. His forced fumble came two plays after CU had failed an onside kick after going up 14-6. The loose ball was recovered by teammate J. J. Billingsley and returned 36 yards to set up a touchdown to give the Buffs a 21-6 lead. Said Barnett: "That (play) was huge, especially after the head coach called an onside kick, I appreciate those guys saving my butt."
- ➔ He was a Victory Club member after his game against Iowa State after playing perhaps his best game of the season. He registered six solo tackles, a third down stop, a forced fumble, a fumble recovery and three passes broken up.

### SIMS, continued

- ➔ Sims recorded six solo tackles against Nebraska and finished with a team-high three passes broken up.
- ❑ 2004.
  - ➔ He started the first 10 games at left cornerback but shifted to free safety for the scheme against Nebraska. However, he was back at cornerback in the Big 12 Championship due to the broken hand of Gerett Burl
  - ➔ As a true sophomore, he shot out of the gates and become one of CU's top all-around players. He was very consistent on defense, and earned **all-Big 12 second-team** accolades from the league coaches for his efforts, as well as *Associated Press* honorable mention notice. He was also one of 10 **Victory Club** honorees for CU, for he recorded a winning performance in at least eight games this season.
  - ➔ He **led the team in three different categories**: interceptions (5), pass deflections (11) and fumble recoveries (3); he was also tied for second in third down stops (11).
  - ➔ A strong defender, his style is more physical than fellow corners Gerett Burl or Terrence Wheatley's (think former Buff Donald Strickland). Example: Sims **"cleaned up" on the final hit made by J.J. Billingsley that stuffed Colorado State at the 1-yardline to win the Buff's opening game of the year.**
  - ➔ He had six stuffs and two third down stops against CSU. He matched that effort and lived up to his nickname of **"Spiderman"** against Washington State the following week, as he seemingly couldn't be stopped on the field for what was the most complete game of his young career. Against the Cougars, he totaled three tackles, one sack for 10 yards, one hurry, one third down stop, one forced fumble and one pass breakup.
  - ➔ He picked off his team-high fifth pass of the year in the Big 12 Championship against Oklahoma, as the 34-yard theft return led to CU's only points of the day when Mason Crosby connected on a 34-yard field goal. He also had five solo stops, and recovered a fumble at CU's 25-yardline when OU was driving in the third quarter.
- ❑ 2003.
  - ➔ A true freshman, he made his first career start – in also his first career game – against Washington State (Sept. 13). He took 38 snaps and recorded four tackles, including three solo stops in his only start of the season.
- ❑ GENERAL
  - ➔ His cousin (Ricky Manning) was a defensive back at UCLA, while another (DeShawn Stevenson) plays guard for the Utah Jazz; second cousin (Bruce Bowen) is a forward for the San Antonio Spurs. He went to the same high school, Edison in Fresno, Calif., that produced Manning and current Oklahoma defensive back Aaron Miller.

## **25 LIONEL HARRIS, S**

- ❑ THIS SEASON
  - ➔ He is listed No. 2 on the depth chart at safety behind Tyrone Henderson. He made enormous strides during fall camp, however he will have to work for his playing time with the depth the Buffs possess at safety.
  - ➔ He was **instrumental in preserving the Buffs' shutout against New Mexico State**, intercepting a fourth quarter Royal Gill pass in the end zone for his first career pick. The play came on third down, and if the pass would have been caught by an Aggie or even fallen incomplete, New Mexico State would have likely put points on the board with a short field goal.
- ❑ 2004.
  - ➔ He saw his first career action against CSU, and played most of the year on special teams.
- ❑ GENERAL
  - ➔ He was an **accomplished bull rider from seventh to 10th grade**, as he earned one win and a runner-up finish during that time span.

## **27 BRIAN IWUH, OLB**

- ❑ Last name is pronounced *E-woo*.
- ❑ THIS SEASON
  - ➔ Iwuh returns in his senior season as CU's starting Buff (outside) linebacker. A **vicious hitter** and an **instinctive pass defender**, he leads a linebacker corps which is deep and talented. He was named a **team captain** after fall camp, as his leadership and play has gained utmost respect from his teammates. He has a small frame for a linebacker (6'0, 225 pounds), but he packs a punch. **Running backs and receivers "know where he is at all times—and they have to," Barnett said.** He keeps pictures of players (opponents and teammates) who have met undesirable paths with him on the field and tapes them in his locker. He refers to his collection as **"Iwuh's House of Pain."** National Scouting recently ranked him as the No. 1 senior strong safety prospect in the nation, although his attributes fit in nicely with the Buffs' linebacking scheme. Still holding onto his secondary mentality, he jokes that he is a "high safety" and not a linebacker. Said teammate Akarika Dawn: **"He's one of those guys you can really trust. He's a quiet leader but if you go into battle he's the guy you want with you."**

## IWUH, continued

- ➔ Iwuh, hampered by a sprained knee he suffered in the first half against CSU, finished with four tackles (three solo) and two quarterback hurries. He underwent arthroscopic surgery the next week and missed the Buffs' game against New Mexico State.
- ➔ He was eased back into the lineup against Miami, playing in 49 snaps from scrimmage. He finished with five tackles (four solo), two third down stops and a quarterback hurry.
- ➔ He recorded five tackles, including one for a loss against Texas, but missed some time after sustaining a foot injury at the end of the first half. X-rays at halftime were negative and he was able to return in the second half. Iwuh came out full speed against Kansas, recording eight tackles (five solo), two quarterback sacks (both on third downs) and a team-high three third down stops. He played as a down lineman in the team's dime package. On a third-and-10 in the fourth quarter, the Buff linebacker tattooed KU quarterback Jason Swanson on an untouched blitz. It was a sack for eight yards and a fitting final play on hard-hitting night. Said Iwuh "It felt good to just get one out. I've been waiting all year like that and hopefully I'll get a few more before the year is up."
- ➔ Iwuh recorded five total tackles (four solo) against Kansas State and added two third down stops, a quarterback hurry and a quarterback chase down.
- ➔ Against Missouri, Iwuh registered four total tackles, two third down stops and a quarterback hurry. **He lined up as a defensive end in many situations, something he had done throughout the season to exploit mismatches with his speed.**
- ➔ He played every snap from scrimmage against Iowa State, finishing tied for a team-high eight total tackles, including one for a loss. He also contributed three third down stops and a quarterback chasedown.
- ➔ In **one of the most complete games by a CU defender in 2005**, Iwuh recorded 10 tackles (eight solo) against Nebraska. He also registered a quarterback sack, three third down stops, three quarterback hurries, a forced fumble and a pass broken up.
- 2004.
  - ➔ The starting Buff 'Backer, he had a monster year and really took well to his new position after playing safety the last two seasons. With CU resorting back to the 4-3 defensive scheme, Iwuh had the freedom to fly all over the field, as some of his duties call for him to stay close to the line, others to send him on the blitz, and then some had him drop back into coverage.
  - ➔ He was CU's most dominant and big-time hitter/playmaker at linebacker, while he was named a **second-team all-Big 12** selection by the conference coaches and an honorable mention honoree by the *Associated Press*. In addition to these accolades, he was one of 10 Buffs this year to make the prestigious **Victory Club**, meaning he graded out with a winning performance in at least eight games.
  - ➔ He concluded the regular season as the **team leader in tackles with 98** (74 solo, also a team best), and was second on the team with 14 tackles for loss. He had 12 tackles after three games, but since that time had at least eight tackles in eight of the last nine games.
  - ➔ He kicked off the 2004 campaign in strong fashion, as he snagged his first career interception and returned it for a 37-yard touchdown. His pick came late in the fourth quarter (just 18 seconds after Mason Crosby kicked a 55-yard field goal), as it helped put CU up by 10. He also racked up seven tackles, including one for loss against the Rams.
  - ➔ In one of the most complete games of his career, he piled up 15 total tackles (an amazing 12 solo) at Kansas and produced some of the hardest hits any CU player made this year. He had two third down stops, one pass break up and two tackles for loss that netted 5 yards. His first TFL on the day stopped KU on third-and-2, and helped produce a CU field goal on the ensuing drive to close in on KU's early lead (14-10).
  - ➔ In the Big 12 Championship versus Oklahoma, he strung together another fine performance when he tallied a team-high 12 tackles (eight solo), including three stops for losses. (Two of those stuffs dropped freshman phenom tailback Adrian Peterson for 2 yards behind the line of scrimmage each time).
  - ➔ For the second straight year, he won the Hale Irwin Award, awarded to the top spring defensive back (including LB's). He had an outstanding spring and made plays wherever the ball was. He led CU in tackling for all three major scrimmages, finishing the spring with 26 stuffs (15 solo), four tackles for losses and six third down stops.
- 2003.
  - ➔ He had to overcome **two deaths in the immediate family in the same week** (Oct. 4-11), as his stepfather passed away from cancer during the Baylor game, as did his older brother (23) just three days later.
- 2002.
  - ➔ He cracked the starting lineup for the final two games of 2002 ... not many can say their **first career start came in the Big 12 Championship game**. His 14 tackles against the Sooners tied him for the second most ever in a game by a true frosh at Colorado.
  - ➔ He has three most distant cousins: baseball players Reggie Jackson (his grandfather's third cousin) and Ralph Garr, and Outland Trophy winner Russell Maryland.
  - ➔ He was an active participant in the Houston area Junior Olympics, as his 4x400 relay team won a gold medal every year since fifth grade.

# 29 JOHN TORP, P

## □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ In his senior season, Torp is a finalist for the 2005 Ray Guy Award. He was the leading active punter in the NCAA with a 44.62 average coming into the season. He teams with place kicker Mason Crosby to give CU the best kicking duo in the nation. Said Barnett: "I don't think we would have been 8-5 last year without those two guys. Torp gave us great field position for a defense that yardage-wise wasn't very good. Thirty-five percent of the game is the kicking game. So we feel like we've got 35 percent of the game sewed up." Torp even received rave reviews from opposing coaches last season. Said **Texas head coach Mack Brown** after Torp punted six times for a 50.8 yards average against the Longhorns: **"He's a great player. He kept us backed up all day and that's what I was worried about. Until we could get the ball rolling offensively, there were no short fields with him."**
- ➔ Torp set the bar high for the rest of the nation's punters who think they have a shot for the Ray Guy Award. **He boomed his first punt of the season against CSU 72 yards;** the ball hit at the 11 with the return man letting it roll into the end zone. It was the longest punt of his career, and the first 70-plus yard effort by a Buff since QB Mike Moschetti surprised Kansas State with a 70-yard bomb in Manhattan in 1999. Torp finished the day with four points for a 52.0 average, with three inside-the-20.
- ➔ He had another "routine outing," punting three times against New Mexico State for a 52.3-yard average with a long of 61.
- ➔ Against Miami, Torp punted seven times for an average of 47.0 yards and a long of 54. His totals included two which were downed inside the 20 (and it would have been three, as one bounced at the five yard line, but Buffalo coverage men missed the ball and let it roll into the end zone). More importantly, Torp manipulated his punts to render the vaunted Hurricane return game ineffective. **The dangerous Devin Hester only got his hands on two of Torp's seven punts, managing only 20 total yards.** Miami started seven of its 14 drives at or inside the 20, bringing the opponent total on the year to 24 of 42.
- ➔ He had practically a flawless game against Oklahoma State, averaging 43.7 yards on six punts. Contributing to what appears to be a typically low average for Torp is the fact that **five of his six punts were placed inside the 20-yard line.** The only time CU punted while backed up deep in their territory, Torp booted a 52-yarder into Cowboy territory. His hang time allowed defenders to get down field and tackle the returner for a two-yard loss.
- ➔ Torp had five punts for a 48.2 average against Texas A&M. With his first punt that pinned A&M at its two-yard line, he set a **school record for most career punts inside-the-20.** He had two for the night, bringing his grand total to 53. Teaming with Crosby, Torp forced the Aggies to start **10** of their **13** drives at or inside the 20. The total on the year for the opponent is now **43** of **69** (and 43 of 60 when accounting for CU turnovers). Earlier in the week, Torp was selected as one of 184 semi-finalists for the **2005 Draddy Trophy**, known in many circles as the **"Academic" Heisman.**
- ➔ He punted the ball seven times for a 40.1-yard average against Texas, with two of them landing inside the 20 (one of them at the Texas six-yard line).
- ➔ Against Kansas, Torp punted seven times for a 47.3-yard average. He had a long of 58 and pinned three inside the 20. Most importantly, he **helped limit the dangerous Charles Gordon to 27 yards on three returns.**
- ➔ Torp had eight punts, four of them against a 35 mph wind at Kansas State. He still finished with a 46.2 average with one kick inside the 20.
- ➔ He punted the ball three times against Missouri, averaging 46.7 yards per boot. One of them also pinned the Tigers inside the 20.
- ➔ Just like the game against Kansas State, Torp had to deal with strong, gusting winds at Iowa State (the game was delayed for almost an hour because of a tornado in the area and winds gusted upwards of 50 mph during the game). Five of his six punts were against the wind, as he averaged only 32 yards per boot.
- ➔ He finally had some good punting conditions against Nebraska, as he had nine kicks for a 47.4 average. He had a long of 57 and pinned three inside-the-20. He now has 24 kicks inside-the-20 on the season, breaking his own school record of 22 which he set in 2004.
- ➔ Torp was a **first team All-Big 12 selection** by the conference coaches. In addition, he was a **close runner-up to Wake Forrest's Ryan Plackemeier for the Ray Guy Award**, given to the nation's top punter.

## □ 2004.

- ➔ For the regular season **Torp finished second in the country with a 46.34 gross average**, as he launched 22 50-plus yarders (and eight 60+), placed a CU single-season record 22 inside the 20-yardline and concocted a 42.4 net average — the nation's best mark. Torp had a better gross average (46.34 yards) than the combined averages of the last five Ray Guy Award winners (46.02 yards). He also had a better net average (42.43 yards vs. 42.03 yards).
- ➔ Finally getting his name out around the conference and country, he earned second-team all-Big 12 accolades from the coaches and media.
- ➔ ESPN.com college football writer, Ivan Maisel, named Torp his first-team All-American punter, while *The Sporting News* said he was its pick to win the Ray Guy Award.

## TORP, continued

- ➔ Away from Boulder, Torp posted a most healthy 43.7 average (39-for-1704), while his longest punts this season came at Texas A&M and Kansas when he launched 63-yarders. When asked if Colorado's altitude boosts his average, Torp noted: "A lot of people talk about that, but I really don't think it makes too much of a difference where I'm kicking. **I think the altitude factor is more of a psychological thing than anything. Really, I prefer to kick in warm, humid climates like Texas. It's tough to get a punt off when fighting bad elements and the cold.**"
- ➔ He kicked off his year with a great game against CSU, as he had three punts average a 52.3 yards, with two dropping inside the 20. With CU pinned on its own 16-yardline with under three minutes remaining in the game, he boomed his longest boot of the day for 61 yards. Though the kick was returned 15 yards, it forced the Rams to start their final drive at their own 38 and stall at the 1-yardline as time ran out.
- ➔ Said Barnett on Torp's long boot: **"If he had only kicked it 60 yards we may have lost the game."**
- ➔ He was one of CU's few bright spots in the Oklahoma State loss, as he banged out five for 261 yards (52.2 average) with two longs of 60 yards. He placed three inside the 20-yardline, upping his total on the year to eight. He was awarded CU's Special Teams Player of the Week.
- ➔ Against Texas, Torp continued to thrive when he booted six punts for 305 yards (50.8 average) and posted 46.0 net average. He dropped one inside the 20-yardline and connected on a long of 57. For his efforts, he was named CU's Special Teams Player of the Week... again.
- ➔ In his most extensive and grueling performance in 2004, he had a season-high **nine punts for 392 yards in the Big 12 Championship against Oklahoma.** He truly was one of CU's lone bright spots, as he posted a 43.6-yard average and kicked a long of 55 yards. At one point, with CU jammed up deep in its own territory, Torp smoked a punt out of his own end zone deep into the night sky that recorded a 5.5 second hang-time.
- ➔ In one of the most important plays of CU's season, Torp took a punt snap and raced 22 yards down the field on a draw to set up CU's go-ahead touchdown. With just over eight minutes remaining in the game and the Buffs down by two, Torp converted on fourth-and-three, **the third time in three career attempts he has earned a first down on a fake punt attempt** (see below for other two; all three conversions have led to a CU touchdown).
- ➔ In the spring, he ran the team's second fastest shuttle time in 4.23 seconds.
- ❑ 2003.
  - ➔ Torp hit his career long, a 69-yarder, in the final game of the year against Nebraska (Nov. 28). It was his fourth of 60-plus yards, three of which were in 2003.
  - ➔ Against Missouri (Nov. 8), Torp had a career-best day with six punts for a 50.7 average, with three inside-the-20 and two landing inside-the-10. His 61-yard punt in the fourth quarter was his longest of the season; with punts of 61 and 60 yards, those were the second and third of his career over 60 yards (he had a 63-yard boot against USC in 2002). His performance earned him CU's Special Teams Player of the Week.
  - ➔ He executed his second fake punt of the season at Texas Tech (Nov. 1), a successful 10-yard jaunt on fourth-and-two in the fourth quarter. It proved to be a vital play in the Buffs' 17-play, 76-yard TD drive that eventually cut the Tech lead to 26-21.
  - ➔ Against Oklahoma (Oct. 25), Torp executed a fake punt, taking the snap and scampering 20-yards for a first down at the end of the third quarter to keep the Buffs' drive alive down 27-7. The fake punt ultimately salvaged what turned into a 76-yard touchdown drive.
  - ➔ Torp has been lauded by head coach Gary Barnett for his defensive abilities, most notably his tackling. He made two touchdown-saving tackles – one in each of the first two games.
- ❑ 2002.
  - ➔ He saw the first action of his career, booting three punts on the season, for a most healthy 49.7 average. All three pinned the opponent inside their 20, and only one was returned (for a single yard). His career long was a 63-yard rocket against USC, from inside CU's 25 no less, with his two other boots coming in the lopsided win over Baylor.
- ❑ GENERAL
  - ➔ He's the first player ever on CU's roster from nearby Monarch High School, one of the state's newer programs.
  - ➔ He also enjoys photography and is interested in a career in politics or law.
  - ➔ He holds four of his high school's records in track (110 and 300 hurdles).
  - ➔ His sister, **Anne-Marie**, plays basketball for Utah State. She is making a courageous return to the court after an operation to patch two holes in her heart. **She had suffered a stroke and had a patent foramen ovale**—the same condition that caused New England linebacker Tedy Bruschi to have a stroke just days after the Super Bowl in February. She is nearly five months removed from the operation and enters this season as a redshirt freshman.

## ***30 PAUL CREIGHTON, FB/TE***

- ❑ THIS SEASON
  - ➔ Creighton is listed as the No. 2 fullback on the depth chart, as well as the No. 3 tight end. His versatility essentially gives the coaches an extra player at both positions, as well as a valuable contributor on special teams.
- ❑ 2004.
  - ➔ Played in all 13 games including the Houston Bowl. He primarily served as a blocker at both positions.

## 31 GERETT BURL, CB

### ❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He is listed as the Buffs' starting cornerback opposite Lorenzo Sims. At 5-10, 160-pounds, Burl uses his speed and quickness to his advantage. He has good leaping ability and can make a play on the ball against taller receivers.
- ➔ Burl was one of the Buffs' defensive standouts in CU's victory over the Rams. He recorded four solo tackles, a third down stop and an interception. His pick off Justin Holland came in the fourth quarter with 1:37 remaining in the game. He returned the ball 14 yards to the CSU 23 yard line, setting up a Hugh Charles touchdown run the next play to put the Buffs on top 28-21. The interception was the first of Burl's career.
- ➔ Against Miami, he recorded five tackles (four solo). He showed the impressive ability to quickly close on the fast Hurricane receivers who took lateral passes and tried to break loose for big gains.
- ➔ Tied for a team-high 58 plays from scrimmage on defense against Oklahoma State. He finished with four tackles (three solo) and helped the Buffs limit the Cowboys to 116 passing yards (49 of which came on one play late in the fourth quarter with the game out of hand).
- ➔ Burl continues to be a rock in the Buffs' secondary. He made nine tackles (seven solo) against Texas and also broke up a pass.
- ➔ He played in every snap from scrimmage against Missouri, registering five solo tackles, two third down stops, two passes broken up and an interception. With the Buffs up 31-12 in the third quarter, Burl intercepted a Chase Daniel pass in CU territory. The play set up a CU touchdown to put the Buffs up 38-12 and effectively put the game away.
- ➔ Burl finished the Big 12 Championship game with six solo tackles and two passes broken up. At the team banquet, he was named the **co-winner of the Dave Jones Award which goes to the team's most outstanding defensive player**. He finished the season with the most snaps of any defensive player with 789.

### ❑ 2004.

- ➔ He underwent surgery following the Big 12 Championship game on a broken finger sustained against Nebraska a week earlier. He fractured the finger in the first half at NU while breaking up a pass, but still came back into the game to play sparingly with its entire hand completely taped up (it looked like a club). He was forced to play with "the club" again versus OU (for 17 snaps)
- ➔ Though listed No. 2 at right cornerback at the time, he started opposite Terrence Wheatley at Nebraska when Lorenzo Sims played safety in a special scheme against Nebraska.
- ➔ He made his first career start against CSU, and led the team in third down stops and pass breakups with three. Against Washington State, in just his second career start, he was in for every defensive play and totaled five stops (four solo) and one pass deflection.
- ➔ Fortunately for the secondary, his return from last year's suspension was timely, as the Buffs were in need of an athletic corner to fill out the depth. He met all requirements by the coaches to be reinstated after breaking a team rule in 2002.

### ❑ 2003

- ➔ He was suspended from CU for the year after violating a team rule, and enrolled at Garden City Community College. He started all 10 games at cornerback, and recorded 48 tackles (36 solo), with two interceptions for 48 yards (one was returned for a touchdown), and added eight pass breakups.

### ❑ 2002

- ➔ He saw brief action on special teams for the San Diego State game, but suffered a season-ending shoulder injury that required surgery. He missed the rest of the year but was granted a medical hardship waiver for the year.

### ❑ GENERAL

- ➔ His grandfather, Alex "The Bullet" Burl, played tailback at Colorado State and then one year (1956) with the Chicago Cardinals. Another grandpa, Eddie Callaway, coached basketball (the first African-American to do so in Colorado) and was principal at Manual. Uncle, Eddie Callaway Jr., coached former CU basketball player and NBA Finals MVP Chauncey Billups at George Washington.

## 33 WALTER BOYE-DOE, DE

- ❑ *Last name is pronounced "boy-doe."*

### ❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He moved to defensive end from inside linebacker, a move that was delayed as he did not participate in spring drills due to an ankle injury. He is listed second on the depth chart at defense end.
- ➔ Boye-Doe finished with two tackles and a pass broken up in CU's victory over Colorado State.
- ➔ He was only in on 12 defensive snaps against new Mexico State, but he made the most of his opportunity, recording three tackles (two solo), a half sack and a quarterback hurry.

## **BOYE-DOE, continued**

### ❑ **2004.**

- ➔ He was listed third at the “Mike” inside linebacker spot, as he fell behind during spring drills after missing all practices while tending to family matters at home. In camp, he was sidelined on and off while nursing a sore Achilles injury sustained early in practice. He did not play against CSU or Washington State, but was on special teams for CU’s following three contests and saw his first defensive action versus Iowa State.

### ❑ **2003.**

- ➔ As a true freshman, he made his first career start at Kansas State (Oct. 18), becoming the fifth member of the 2003 recruiting class to start a game in 2003. He started three games in 2003, and saw defensive time in five contests.

### ❑ **GENERAL**

- ➔ He was **born in Koforidua, Ghana (Africa)**, but moved to the Dallas area when he was four as his father took a job in the states. His parents are also Ghana natives.
- ➔ An older brother, Howard, is a junior linebacker at Wisconsin.
- Walter is active in volunteer work, including the Special Olympics, Adopt-A-Highway and local blood drives.

## ***39 KEVIN EBERHART, PK***

### ❑ **THIS SEASON**

- ➔ He is 100 percent after missing spring practice to have arthroscopic surgery on his knee. He backs up Mason Crosby in kicking duties.
- ➔ He made his first career field goal—23 yards—late in the game against New Mexico State in his first action since 2003.

### ❑ **2004.**

- ➔ He was listed second behind Mason Crosby, but he ended up redshirting. He had been hampered by a nagging quad pull since the middle of the season, but made the trip to the Big 12 title game as the backup kicker.
- ➔ Gary Barnett loves the depth at placekicker and said he felt very comfortable with either Crosby or Eberhart in the game. It just so happens that Crosby won the job in spring ball because of his consistency in practice and superior game experience.
- ➔ Eberhart had a tremendous spring connecting 3-for-3 on PAT kicks, as well as all three field goal attempts (his longest was 52 yards).

### ❑ **2003.**

- ➔ He was CU’s kickoff man for the first half of the season, as he had 24 total kickoffs with nine touchbacks and three placed inside the opponent’s 20-yard line. Four of his kicks went through or over the end zone as well.
- ➔ He saw action in five games, becoming just the third freshman kicker in CU history to start an opener, as he did so against CSU. Fellow frosh Mason Crosby didn’t touch the ball first, for Eberhart kicked off in the opener and Crosby’s first duty came on a PAT.
- ➔ He was named the PAT/Field Goal starting kicker at Florida State, but missed both of his field goals tries, including his first career field goal attempt of 22 yards. Crosby has been the team’s primary kicker ever since.

### ❑ **GENERAL**

- ➔ He is majoring in aerospace engineering at Colorado and wants to work for NASA or Ball Aerospace as an engineer after graduation. He was one of 11 scholar-athletes in Colorado for 2002 as selected by the Colorado Chapter National Football Foundation/College Hall of Fame.
- ➔ As a senior at Broomfield High School, he earned first-team all-Colorado (*Denver Post*, *Rocky Mountain News*), all-state (4A), all-region (*Boulder Camera*) and all-Skyline League honors. He finished his career as Colorado’s all-time state leader in points by kicking (255) and field goals made (36), along with tying the record for the most career extra points made (147).

## ***40 BRAD JONES, OLB***

### ❑ **THIS SEASON**

- ➔ He entered the season second on the depth chart at Buff (outside) linebacker behind senior Brian Iwuh. Said **Iwuh**: “Brad Jones makes a lot of big plays. **I’m in a rush to get out of here because he could be starting.**”
- ➔ Jones started in place of injured linebacker Brian Iwuh against New Mexico State. He played 10 snaps on defense and didn’t record any statistics.
- ➔ Against Oklahoma State, he played in 10 snaps from scrimmage and contributed two solo tackles and a pass broken up.
- ➔ Filling in for injured linebacker Brian Iwuh for a significant stretch against Texas, Jones was in on seven tackles in just 28 plays from scrimmage.

## 43 BRENDAN SCHAUB, FB

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He entered the opener as the No. 2 fullback behind Vickers, but expect to see him in there when LV is in at tailback. His outstanding spring and fall practices prompted Barnett to place Schaub on scholarship. He will likely see plenty of action in special teams duty as well.
- ➔ Schaub played on special teams and also as a fullback in short-yardage situations. His block for V-Back Lawrence Vickers on fourth-and-goal from the one-yard line in the second quarter paved the way for the Buffs' first touchdown of the 2005 season. Said Vickers: "CSU was taking touchdowns away from us, and I have to give props to (Brandan) Schaub for setting the block that allowed me to get in the end zone."
- ➔ Against New Mexico State, Schaub recorded his first career reception, a seven-yarder from James Cox in the third quarter.
- ➔ He saw a lot of action against Oklahoma State, filling in for Lawrence Vickers who missed some time with a lower leg injury. He also had one reception for two yards.
- ➔ Coaches challenged the punt block team to put pressure on the punter during the week leading up to the game against Kansas. In the third quarter, Schaub got through the protection and **blocked a punt which was returned for a touchdown** by teammate Dominique Brooks.
- ➔ Schaub saw extensive action against Missouri, as he lined up as fullback for much of the game, blocking for Lawrence Vickers who took over most of the tailback duties in place of injured Hugh Charles. He also recorded his first career carry, a four yard gain in the fourth quarter.

### □ 2004.

- ➔ He saw action in all 13 games, including the Houston Bowl, mostly on special teams units; he was second in special team points with 12.

## 44 JORDON DIZON, ILB

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He started the season as the starting Will (inside) linebacker. After playing at 205 pounds last season, he has bulked up to a more linebacker-like 225 pounds due a concerted effort on behalf of himself and speed-strength coach Greg Finnegan. He has a knack for finding the ball and making plays, much like fellow defender J.J. Billingsley.
- ➔ He had a busy day against the Hurricanes, finishing with five tackles (three solo), a quarterback hurry and a pass broken up. His quarterback hurry came on the first play of the game when he exploded through the line on a blitz and hit 'Cane quarterback Kyle Wright to force the incompletion. The series resulted in a quick three-and-out for Miami. **Despite not matching his same tackles-per-game pace as last season, Dizon thinks he is a better player:** "Last year I was out of position a lot and that's why I made so many tackles," he said. "When somebody catches a pass in your zone, you have to go tackle him. This year I'm better at staying in position coverage-wise and gap-wise, so other players on the team are making plays."
- ➔ Dizon suffered a lower leg contusion after getting cut blocked in the shins against Oklahoma State. But he didn't miss much time and finished the game with five tackles (three solo), two third down stops and a quarterback chase down.
- ➔ Dizon registered six total tackles (five solo) and a 12-yard quarterback sack against Kansas State, despite suffering a neck stinger in the second half.
- ➔ Despite still feeling the effects of the stinger he suffered the previous week, Dizon recorded five total tackles against Missouri, including one for a loss. He also had **two sacks on the day, for a total loss of 24 yards.**
- ➔ He made six solo tackles, including one for a loss in the Big 12 Championship game against Texas.

### □ 2004.

- ➔ He was the starter at the "Will" inside linebacker spot, as he became the first true freshman ILB to start a season opener in CU history against Colorado State. He was also just the **sixth true freshman to start an opener** in school lore and the first since 1991.
- ➔ He took the college football world by storm, as he **broke the CU single season record for tackles by a freshman** in the Kansas State game. J.J. Billingsley held the previous best with 67 in 2002.
- ➔ Dizon finished the regular season third for the Buffs in tackles with 82 (51 solo); he is the first CU freshman ever to finish higher than seventh on the team in tackles.
- ➔ For his astounding play, he was named the **Big 12 Defensive Newcomer and Defensive Freshman of the Year** by the league coaches and *Associated Press*, while he was also an honorable mention all-conference selection by both groups. To add even more praise, *The Sporting News* tabbed him a **second-team Freshman All-American** and first-team Freshman All-Big 12 performer. Dizon also was given CU's Lee Willard Award at the season-ending banquet for being the team's most outstanding freshman.



## DIZON, continued

- ➔ He totaled a team-high (and career-high) 13 stops against Washington State in just his second game ever, as he also forced the fumble (and stopped the runner) at the 1-yardline to secure a Colorado victory. That play gave him his second touchdown save of the season.
- ➔ He had an amazing game for his first ever battle on a collegiate football field, finishing tied for the team lead in tackles with eight; he also caused the interception that was grabbed by Brian Iwuh and returned 37 yards for a touchdown. Perhaps his biggest moment came on the second-to-last play of the game when he stuffed Marcus Houston at the 1-yardline on first down with less than 30 seconds remaining. That touchdown-saving stop forced CSU to run the ball again as the clock ran off, allowing Billingsley to make the game-saving tackle in the backfield on Tristan Walker.
- ➔ He was **recruited as an “athlete,”** as the coaches figured to try him at a number of positions. He started camp at safety, but after a five practices the coaches moved him to inside linebacker to see him in that role. It didn't take long for him to make an impression at linebacker, as he zoomed up the depth chart in practically unprecedented speed, ascending all the way to the top after just six practices.
- ➔ Recruited by Brian Cabral out of Hawaii – a state that the 16th-year assistant has found many talents in – he is the first player who Cabral, a fellow native, has ever coached at inside linebacker. Says Cabral: “This is something very special to me. I have waited a long time for this.”
- ➔ Added Cabral on what Dizon brings to the table: “He’s young and has made a lot of mistakes. But his effort and athleticism don’t change. **He can make a mistake and still make the play. He’s just so instinctive.** He finds a way to get to the ball. I don’t know how he does it, but he does. To see what he has come out and done, from the first practice, is a big surprise. I’ve never had a freshman linebacker like this before. He’s just so mature, very smart on the field. I think maturity is the biggest thing. I think a lot of freshmen come in with the talent. I don’t think he thinks of himself as a freshman.”
- ➔ He certainly knows how to wrap an opponent up, as he perfected the art **chasing wild boars on hunting trips when he was younger.** His mother, an undercover narcotics police officer in Hawaii, never allowed him to use a gun. Instead he tracked the animals with help from dogs, pinned them to the ground and killed them with a knife.
- ➔ Contrary to what was originally reported in the CU media guide, his last name is pronounced *die-zonn*.

## **45 QUINN SYPNIEWSKI, TE**

### ❑ **THIS SEASON**

- ➔ In his sixth year with the Buffs, Sypniewski is listed atop the depth chart at tight end along with fellow senior Joe Klopfenstein. Always revered as a **premier blocking tight end**, he is present in a lot of two-tight end sets. He is also an **underrated receiver**, as he has used his extended eligibility to hone in on his pass catching skills to give the Buffs a dynamic duo—the two-headed tight end monster—which is arguably the best in the nation.
- ➔ He is the **first player at Colorado to be granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA**; the only careers that spanned longer were those who attended school on either side of World War II and some others before 1905.
- ➔ Against CSU, Sypniewski reeled in two passes for 44 yards, reestablishing himself as a legitimate receiving weapon for the Buffs. His first reception was a 22-yarder from Klatt on CU’s first possession which put the Buffs’ in CSU territory. His second reception was also a 22-yarder, this time coming in the third quarter to again put the Buffs in Ram territory. Said Barnett after the game: “Our game plan was to use the clock and get it to Hugh Charles and Lawrence Vickers. That opened up Quinn who had a great day.”
- ➔ He hauled in three catches for 21 yards against New Mexico State. He caught his **first career touchdown**, reaching over the back of Aggie defender Tim McManigal to make an acrobatic grab in the end zone. Said Sypniewski: “I guess they say that the third senior year is a charm. On that play I didn’t hear the call right in the huddle and so I just started running down the field. The defender was right on top of me and I didn’t think the ball would get thrown to me. Then I saw the ball coming and I thought ‘uh-oh, I need to go up and get that.’ I was just glad that I was able to come down with it.” Said Joel Klatt: “It only took him six years to get it and I gave him a terrible pass to do it on. I’ll put my two tight ends up against anyone in the nation; they are both two of the best.”
- ➔ CU’s tight ends could not be stopped by Texas A&M, as Sypniewski and Klopfenstein combined for eight catches and 169 yards. Sypniewski had three grabs for 70 yards and his second career touchdown, a 36-yard reception capped by a high leap into the end zone to avoid a defender who tried to tackle him low. Said A&M DB Jordan Chambless: “**We knew coming into this game that 45 (Sypniewski) and 89 (Klopfenstein) were their best receivers...** (CU) did what we didn’t want them to do which is get the ball in their hands.” Added DB Jaxson Appel: “They are athletic and are very good football players. They felt they had a mismatch with our linebackers and they executed well.” Sypniewski was also a plaque winner on the offensive line, grading out to 95 percent.
- ➔ Sypniewski had only one catch against Kansas, but he made it count, scoring his third career touchdown from 20 yards out in the first quarter to put the Buffs up 7-0. Said Klatt: “There was blown coverage on Kansas’ part, and Quinn made sure to run a great route so that we could connect.”

## SYPNIEWSKI, continued

- ➔ He had four receptions for 85 yards against Kansas State. His first reception came on the Buffs' fourth play from scrimmage—a 64-yard gain which he took to the KSU 1-yard line. The play was the **second-longest play by a tight end in CU history**—second only to teammate Joe Klopfenstein's 78-yard touchdown catch in the 2004 Houston Bowl.
- ➔ Sypniewski got the starting nod against Missouri (even though he is listed as co-starter on the depth chart). He hauled in four passes for 49 yards and caught CU's only receiving touchdown on the day. Early in the third quarter, quarterback Joel Klatt rolled right and found Sypniewski in the back of the end zone, where the tight end leaped up and was able to come down inbounds for the score. The play put the Buffs on top 31-12 and capped an 80-yard drive to answer Missouri score that had closed the margin to 12.
- ➔ He had three catches for 45 yards against Iowa State. He had a 23-yard reception in the second quarter which set the Buffs up at the ISU 1-yard line. The Buffs would score their only touchdown of the evening on the next play.
- ❑ 2004.
  - ➔ He returned for a fifth year after receiving a medical hardship in 2003, but he couldn't seem to catch a break as he sustained a broken ankle during CU's bye week on Sept. 24 in practice. Having battled a chronic toe injury throughout the last couple seasons, he had been back at full-speed and was listed as a co-starter at tight end with Joe Klopfenstein.
- ❑ 2003.
  - ➔ He was awarded medical redshirt for the 2003 season, as he suffered from a chronic toe injury that required surgery.
- ❑ 2002.
  - ➔ He was a mainstay on the kickoff return and PAT/FG special team units, as he was on both as a sophomore as well.
- ❑ 2001.
  - ➔ He was co-second team much of the year with Beau Williams, but made no mistakes as he **learned the ropes of the position behind All-American and Mackey Award winner Daniel Graham**. Quinn basically backed Graham but Williams was often in there opposite Graham when the team utilized two tight-end sets.
- ❑ 2000.
  - ➔ Made his first career start against Iowa State, as CU lined up in a two tight end set. He became the seventh true freshman and 16th overall player to make his first career start for the Buffs in 2000. He also started the next week at Nebraska.
  - ➔ Caught his first collegiate pass against Texas A&M. He had two catches for 12 yards, both coming on CU's first scoring drive and one earning a first down.
  - ➔ His athletic ability for his size is what struck the coaches right away when he reported to freshmen two-a-days. Already at 6-6, 235 and only 18 years old, he was very impressive in fall camp.
- ❑ GENERAL
  - ➔ Sypniewski has an interest in Sports Information and has worked in the SID office during the off-season. He helped call the action for the basketball stat crew.
  - ➔ He graduated from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication in August 2004 with a major in News-Editorial.
  - ➔ He wore number 47 his first two seasons, but switched to 45 when it became available (FB Dave Andrews had it).
  - ➔ Father (George) lettered four years as an outside linebacker at Drake in the early 1970s.

## ***47 ALONZO BARRETT, DE***

- ❑ THIS SEASON
  - ➔ He had a **monster spring** capped by the annual spring game in which he finished with six solo tackles, five sacks, five tackles for a loss of 22 yards, two third down stops and a forced fumble.
  - ➔ He made the most of his 28 plays from scrimmage against Miami, recording two solo tackles, a team-high three third down stops, two quarterback hurries, a quarterback chase down and a pass broken up.
  - ➔ Barrett made his **first career start against Oklahoma State**, contributing six tackles (three solo). He was rewarded with the start due to his performance and hustle in practice. Said Barnett: "Alonzo Barrett played pretty well. I think he's got to be more consistent and that's typical of a young guy. He's very active and he's always going to be around the ball."
  - ➔ Barrett suffered a knee sprain against Texas A&M in the first half and did not return. He is listed as out for the game against Texas, and a scheduled MRI will reveal the extent of the injury. Before the injury, Barrett had made his second consecutive start at defensive end.
  - ➔ Barrett dressed for the Iowa State game and was ready to play, but he never got in the game. He has been switched to the left defensive end spot behind Abraham Wright because of Maurice Lucas' stellar play since taking over the starting right end job.
  - ➔ He returned for the Big 12 Championship game and was in on five tackles (three solo).

## BARRETT, continued

### ❑ 2004.

- ➔ After entering the fall listed third on the depth chart, the freshman moved into the No. 2 “rush” spot behind James Garee.
- ➔ He saw his first career action at Washington State, and then seemingly shot out of nowhere to have a huge game against the Mean Green when he totaled six tackles (five solo), two stuffs for loss (including one for 2 yards that pinned UNT at its 1-yardline), one sack and a quarterback hurry.
- ➔ A member of CU’s 2003 recruiting class, he delayed his enrollment until January 2004 and participated in spring practice after moving to and working in Boulder in the fall.

### ❑ GENERAL

- ➔ His **older brother, Jamal, is a senior offensive tackle at Texas A&M**; the two will line up against each other in the when the teams meet at Folsom Field this season. A distant cousin, Ken-Yon Rambo, was a wide out with the Dallas Cowboys and the New York Jets prior to this year (he played collegiately at Ohio State).
- ➔ He has been a CU fan since his youth, with one of his favorite players being Heisman Trophy winner Rashaan Salaam. It was natural, for his aunt (father’s sister) is married to Salaam’s uncle (father’s brother).

## ***49 THADDAEUS WASHINGTON, ILB***

### ❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ The 5’11, 240 pound junior came on strong last season and is carrying his momentum over to 2005 with an incredibly talented linebacker group. He is listed as the starting “Mike” (inside) linebacker. If Iwuh is the hardest hitter on the team (Thaddaeus disagrees), then Washington is a close second. He boasts the team’s second best squat, having hoisted 567 pounds during spring lifting drills. Said fellow linebacker Brian Iwuh: “Thaddaeus Washington is going to be **one of the best middle linebackers in the nation**, I feel like. He’s a great player. He’s going to be a huge player next year—he’s getting better and better day by day.
- ➔ Washington picked up right where he left off last season. The **Butkus Award candidate** finished the game against CSU with a team-high 12 tackles (nine solo), including a tackle for a loss. Dating to last season, it was the sixth consecutive game he had reached double digits in tackles. He also suffered a concussion in the game, although he was able to practice later in the week.
- ➔ He was back at full speed against Miami, finishing with a team-high 13 tackles (eight solo), one third down stop, a quarterback hurry and a quarterback chase down. He was all over the field despite immense pain he was suffering in his feet after changing his game shoes. In one play, after barely being able to walk from the huddle and line up, he exploded through the line and wrapped up Hurricane running back Tyrone Moss for a short gain.
- ➔ He was a defensive plaque winner against Texas A&M, finishing with eight tackles (six solo) and a sack. His sack, which went for an eight-yard loss, helped the defense produce a three-and-out and marked the last possession for quarterback Reggie McNeal with the 41-6 Buffalo lead in the third quarter.
- ➔ Washington made a team-high 11 tackles (nine solo) against Texas.
- ➔ Against Kansas, he made 10 tackles (six solo), had a quarterback sack and forced a fumble. His sack came in the first quarter of the scoreless game when Colorado needed to stop the Jayhawks on a fourth-and-short. Washington not only stopped the play, but the CU inside linebacker drilled quarterback Brian Luke for an 11-yard loss. He put another hard, playmaking hit on KU star Charles Gordon on the Jayhawks’ second drive of the second half. The Buffs were on the brink of blowing open the game when Washington hit Gordon, and they did that when Washington forced a fumble. That led to a touchdown, and a sure win.
- ➔ He led the team with 12 total tackles (seven solo) against Kansas State. He also has a tackle for a loss, a third down stop and a quarterback chase down.
- ➔ Washington—surprise—led the team with 11 total tackles (seven solo) against Missouri. He also had a sack and two third down stops on the day.
- ➔ Against Iowa State, Washington made six total tackles, including one for a loss. He also had a third down stop and two quarterback hurries.
- ➔ Washington led the Buffs with 14 total tackles (seven solo) against Nebraska. He also had two tackles for losses, a quarterback sack and a third down stop. He is tied for the team lead with five sacks on the season (Washington has five as well).
- ➔ He registered 10 tackles (six solo), a quarterback hurry and two quarterback chases against Texas in the Big 12 championship game. Dating to last season, he has **recorded 10 or more tackles in 13 of his last 17 games**.
- ➔ At the team banquet, he was named the **co-winner of the Dave Jones Award which goes to the team’s most outstanding defensive player**. He finished the season with a team-high 112 tackles.

### 2004.

- ➔ He made his first start of the season in place of Jordon Dizon at the “Will” against Oklahoma State, and has since started every game at the “Mike” spot. He and the other inside linebackers rotated in and out of the games quite frequently, as the position was one of the deepest spots for CU.

## WASHINGTON, continued

- ➔ He was a hard-nosed, consistent player for CU last year and because of that earned **honorable mention all-Big 12** honors from both the league coaches and *Associated Press*. His play prompted position coach Brian Cabral to say: "I think to his credit he has been really trying to apply himself and understand how the defense works. He is learning and really improving."
- ➔ In what seemingly became a normal weekly routine, Washington posted another double-digit tackle performance in the Big 12 Championship game versus Oklahoma. Against the Sooners he piled up 11 total stops, which was impressive in itself, but becomes even more amazing when revealed that 10 were solo stuffs.
- ➔ He continued to fly around the gridiron and open eyes at Nebraska, as he was CU's most valuable player on defense. Finishing with 10 tackles, including one TFL and two third down stops, he picked off his first ever interception during a third-and-nine situation on NU's second possession. What did he do to top that? He came back in the fourth quarter to make another swipe off Joe Dailey – CU's fourth of the day. At the time, his stop looked to seal the game for the Buffaloes until Nebraska picked off a CU pass on the ensuing drive that led to a late touchdown.
- ➔ In the Houston Bowl, Washington had another monster game with nine tackles, a sack and a pass broken up.
- ❑ 2003
  - ➔ He saw action in 11 games, including nine on defense (with **one start against Florida State, his first ever**).
- ❑ 2002
  - ➔ He redshirted the year, but practiced at linebacker. He was the Scout Team Defense Award winner for the USC and Big 12 Championship game against Oklahoma.
- ❑ GENERAL
  - ➔ He hails from the same high school that produced former CU quarterback Kordell Stewart.

## ***51 ALEX LIGON, DE***

- ❑ THIS SEASON
  - ➔ With James Garee moving to defensive tackle, Ligon is CU's most experienced defensive end.
  - ➔ He had a scary start to fall camp, as he collided with cornerback Lorenzo Sims during a morning practice and lay motionless on the field for several minutes before being transported to the hospital in an ambulance. All tests came up negative, however, and he was able to resume practice the next week.
  - ➔ Against CSU, Ligon finished with three tackles and a quarterback hurry. More importantly, he was credited with causing two interceptions.
  - ➔ Ligon recorded one solo tackle, a third down stop, a quarterback hurry and a pass broken up against Texas A&M. He saw extended duty after fellow defensive end Alonzo Barrett was lost early in the game to a knee injury. His broken up pass came in the first quarter on a third-and-11 for the Aggies who were driving into CU territory. Ligon got into the backfield and then got his hand on an attempted screen pass to force an Aggie punt.
  - ➔ Starting in place of injured defensive end Alonzo Barrett, Ligon made four tackles, including one for a loss against Texas.
  - ➔ He was playing one of his best games of the year against Kansas before leaving with a knee injury. He had a quarterback hurry and a pass broken up early in the game before the injury.
  - ➔ Ligon returned against Iowa State playing in limited action. He finished with four total tackles and a third down stop in 24 plays from scrimmage.
- ❑ 2004.
  - ➔ At second on the depth chart, he was one of CU's top defensive ends. He developed into a dominant player off the edge, known for wreaking havoc in the backfield on backs and quarterbacks. He was tied for second on the team in tackles for loss (11) as well as in sacks (4½), and because of that was named an **honorable mention all-Big 12** honoree by the *Associated Press* this season.
  - ➔ Against Washington State he recorded a **team-high three sacks** for 26 yards, seven total tackles (six solo), one other stuff for loss and a forced fumble. He became the first Buff to garner **Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week** honors since former safety Medford Moorer did so in 2002 against Texas Tech. The last time one CU player (Drew Wahlroos) notched three sacks alone was against Missouri in 2000.
  - ➔ He had one of his best games yet at Texas A&M, as three of his five tackles totaled 9 yards of losses, while he also racked up two third down stops and one QB chasedown. His biggest stop came late in the third quarter when the Aggies faced third-and-goal from the CU 3-yardline with the Buffs ahead 19-10. A&M QB Reggie McNeal rolled right looking to score, Ligon got into the backfield and forced McNeal to fumble; Courtney Lewis recovered the ball, and Ligon quickly pounced on him for a 4-yard loss. The Aggies were forced to settle for a field goal.
- ❑ 2003.
  - ➔ With the injury to Marques Harris, Ligon moved to second on the depth chart behind James Garee at end. He saw action in 11 of 12 contests on the season.
  - ➔ He made his first career start at Texas Tech (Nov. 1), becoming the eighth freshman to start a game for CU that season (five true, three redshirt). He finished the game with three tackles, a QB sack and a forced fumble.

## LIGON, continued

### □ 2002.

- ➔ Redshirted but was a monster on the scout team as he was a three-time defensive scout award winner.

### □ GENERAL

- ➔ A huge movie "Buff," he owns 400 DVDs and VHS tape. His **mother named him after Alexander the Great**, as she is well-versed on Greek Mythology.
- ➔ His father (Alfred) played free safety at UNLV in 1982-83 and signed with the Kansas City Chiefs as a free agent, but injuries cut short his attempt to make the team.
- ➔ He is active in his community, as he volunteers at a center for neglected children over the Christmas holidays.

## ***53 ABRAHAM WRIGHT, DE***

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ Entered the 2005 season as a starter at defensive end. He built on his impressive spring with a solid fall camp. At 6-3, 240 pounds, Wright will be an important cog in the Buffs' defensive line.
- ➔ He had a very solid game against CSU in his first career start. He finished the game with two tackles, a sack, two third down stops, a quarterback chase down and a forced fumble. His sack was the Buffs' only one of the day. He was also credited with causing an interception.
- ➔ Wright was all over the field against Oklahoma State, playing one of the best games by any defensive linemen this season. He finished with four solo tackles, a sack for a nine-yard loss, a third down stop, a forced fumble, a pass broken up and an interception. His interception was the first of his career, and it put the Buffs at the OSU 31-yard line, setting the stage for a 15-yard touchdown run by Hugh Charles to extend the lead to 17-0. With 43 seconds left in the fourth quarter, the Cowboys had the ball at the CU eight-yard line and were threatening to score their first point of the afternoon. Determined to keep the shutout intact, Wright came off the line, beat the offensive lineman and hit OSU quarterback Bobby Reid as he was throwing the ball. His hit caused the ball to float into the hands of linebacker Marcus Burton who returned the ball 99 yards for a touchdown.
- ➔ Against Texas A&M, Wright registered three tackles, a sack and a third down stop. His sack, which went for a three-yard loss, helped the defense produce a three-and-out and marked the last possession for quarterback Reggie McNeal with the 41-6 Buffalo lead in the third quarter.
- ➔ On his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, Wright made three tackles, including one for a loss, and had a quarterback chase down against Texas.
- ➔ Wright finished with four total tackles, a third down stop and a pass broken up against Kansas State. His broken up pass came in the fourth quarter as the Wildcats were driving into CU territory with the score tied. On third down, Wright came around the edge and leaped up as KSU quarterback Allan Evridge released the ball, batting the ball away and forcing a punt. Said Wright **"Coach (Darian) Hagan told me I need to be in on some wide receiver drills. I don't know how many balls I have batted down at the line of scrimmage that I should have caught and returned the other way for a touchdown."**
- ➔ He finished with four tackles, a quarterback sack and a quarterback hurry against Nebraska. He is tied for the team lead with five sacks on the season (Washington has five as well).

### □ 2004.

- ➔ An **explosive player with great speed**, he has a knack for getting in the backfield. He finished the regular season second in QB pressures with six and tied with Ligon in sacks (4½).
- ➔ He played a fair amount against Washington State and recorded his first career sack late in the fourth quarter to force the Cougars back 9 yards on their final drive. The takedown came as he shot off the edge and around his blocker, as he grabbed the quarterback with one hand and dragged him to the ground almost effortlessly.

### □ 2003.

- ➔ He played junior college ball at Northeast Oklahoma A&M before transferring to CU in the spring. He came in right away and impressed the coaches with his speed and initial quickness off the line.
- ➔ At NEO, he lined up at defensive end and linebacker. In 2003, he was named to the Top 100 JUCO list, coming in at No. 62 overall and being the No. 5 defensive end.
- ➔ He originally began his collegiate career at linebacker, but made the switch to defensive end after his first year.

### □ GENERAL

- ➔ A cousin (Robert Jones) was one of the starting cornerbacks at Oklahoma State as a senior in 2004.

## 54 MARCUS BURTON, ILB

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ In his first extensive action of the season, Burton played in 29 snaps from scrimmage against Oklahoma State, spelling teammate Thaddeus Washington who was still hobbled by a foot injury. He finished with four solo tackles, including a quarterback sack. The sack came in the fourth quarter, backing up OSU to its six-yard line. He also had a third down stop and a quarterback hurry. In one of the most spectacular plays of the game, Burton **helped thwart the Cowboys' attempt at their only score of the game** late in the fourth quarter. With 43 seconds remaining, OSU quarterback Bobby Reid was hit by Abraham Wright as he released the ball. Burton **scooped up the errant pass and returned it 99 yards for a touchdown**. The return for a touchdown was the longest by a true freshman in Colorado history. Said Barnett: "We weren't looking for a linebacker (to recruit). But we just couldn't pass him up and we were ecstatic that he decided to come here."
- ➔ Burton was flying around everywhere against Kansas, recording four tackles, a third down stop, a quarterback hurry, a pass broken up and an interception in only 29 snaps from scrimmage. His interception came in the fourth quarter off a tipped pass by teammate Joe Sanders. It was Burton's second interception on the season, tying him with J.J. Billingsley for the team lead. His pass broken up also led to another Buff interception.
- ➔ He registered four total tackles in just 12 snaps from scrimmage against Missouri.

## 58 MARK FENTON, C

\*Note: *Offensive line coach Dave Borbely considers a game grade of 2.5 to be a good grade for offensive linemen*

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He returned as a starter for his junior campaign, helping anchor an experienced offensive line. He is on the **2005 Rimington Trophy watch list** of top collegiate centers.
- ➔ Against CSU, he anchored an offensive line that was depleted by injuries throughout the game. Tight guard Brian Daniels left with a fractured rib and tackle Clint O'Neal missed some snaps with a bruised knee. Nevertheless, Fenton helped pave the way for 113 rushing yards and three touchdowns by CU running backs.
- ➔ Fenton helped lead the way for 238 rushing yards for the Buffs against New Mexico State. Said Lawrence Vickers: "There was excellent blocking all day. The offensive line did a great job of being energized today and I got to see a lot of grass in front of me because of it." Fenton graded out to 177 points with three knockdown blocks.
- ➔ He was the lone lineman who played his normal position against Miami, after a rash of injuries forced CU to juggle the positions. He played in 67 plays and recorded a knockdown block and a game grade of 2.54. The Buffs' line paved the way for 103 net rushing yards and allowed no quarterback sacks.
- ➔ He helped the line pave the way for 213 net rushing yards against Oklahoma State. He had two "perfect four" blocks and two knockdown blocks. The line did allow a sack on the day, as the only one came when backup quarterback James Cox rolled out of the pocket and was chased down.
- ➔ An outstanding game against Texas A&M for the Rimington trophy candidate. Fenton's game grade of 2.85 was the best on the offensive line which paved the way for 158 rushing yards and didn't allow a sack on the day.

### 2004.

- ➔ He was CU's starting center, as he wrapped up the position with a solid performance in fall camp. He made his first career start against CSU in the opener. **He played the most out of every lineman last season, only missing one snap.**
- ➔ He was second on the team in knockdown blocks (26), while allowing just one quarterback sack. His best outing came against Kansas State when he posted an 84.1 grade. For his outstanding efforts he was named CU's Offensive Player of the Week along with Bobby Purify. In another of his top games, he had one TD block and an amazing six knockdown blocks against Oklahoma State (80.3 grade).

### □ 2003

- ➔ He saw action in the last 10 games and was in on 70 snaps from scrimmage at 37 on FG/PAT work. With his work on offense he graded out to a 70-percent, as he had one knockdown block; he allowed one penalty, but didn't surrender a pressure or sack. His top game came against Iowa State when he played in 58 plays.

### □ 2002

- ➔ He first caught the eye of the coaches as a center during the team's Alamo Bowl practices in 2002. He practiced at center for really the first extended time, and Barnett noted at the time, "I think we may have found our future center."
- ➔ He redshirted on the year, while practicing mostly at guard.

### □ 2001

- ➔ He delayed his enrollment until January after undergoing hand surgery to repair a metatarsal bone in his hand; he also wanted time to work on his academics. Originally recruited to be a defensive lineman out of high school, the CU coaches felt he fit best on offense.

## 59 GREG PACE, SN

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ In his senior season, Pace remains the Buffs' short and long snapper. His play is overlooked, yet integral to the success of Mason Crosby and John Torp, who are once again in line for several national awards.
- ➔ For the spring, he earned the **Bill McCartney Award**, given to the **outstanding special teams player**. Said Barnett: "He got it because of how consistent he is and how important he is. Our operation time on both field goals and punts were really at the very top (last fall). They were as good as they could get. **Said Torp: "I definitely think I was spoiled last season with Pace. He was accurate every time he snapped the ball."**
- ➔ He was the **co-champion at the SnapDoctor.com college combine for snappers** in July, an invitation-only event that featured 35 Division I performers.
- ➔ Pace was once again flawless in his snapping duties for the Buffs against CSU. Often overlooked is the anxiety not only placed on the kicker during pressure kicks, but the snapper and holder. He had seven perfect snaps (four on punts and three on field goals). His efforts aren't overlooked by his teammates. Said quarterback Joel Klatt after the game: "I have all the confidence in the world in our field goal unit; Greg Pace is a great snapper and Nick Holtz is a good holder. They're a great unit and they get things done."
- ➔ He was a special teams plaque winner against Texas A&M, with 12 perfect snaps (five long and seven short).
- ➔ He is only the second player to letter four years as a snapper in school history. Chris O'Donnell was the first, as he was CU's long snapper from 1988-91, snapping to three All-America punters in Keith English, Tom Rouen and Mitch Berger.

### □ 2004.

- ➔ CU's starting short snapper the previous two years, he took over long snapping duties season. He was put on scholarship following spring ball, and was the first snapper since 2000 to handle both long and short duties.
- ➔ He snapped all 69 on the punt team as well as all 53 for placements, with the 122 snaps totaling the most since 1990 (when Chris O'Donnell snapped the same number). He also added two solo tackles covering punts.

### □ 2003.

- ➔ He was the short snapper for every play from scrimmage on the FG/PAT team.

### □ 2002.

- ➔ He became the **first freshman walk-on to play at Colorado since 1986**, when wide receiver Jeff Campbell did so.
- ➔ He was pretty smart preparing for college ball. He went to special teams camps throughout high school and won numerous long snapping awards.

### □ GENERAL

- ➔ His father (Greg, Sr.) played football at the University of Illinois; an uncle (Bill Dickenson) was a defensive tackle at Cornell; and twin cousins are on the water polo team at Miami of Ohio.
- ➔ He has done volunteer work for the Wellness House Cancer Awareness and pop Warner Football.

## 62 JOHN GUYDON, DT

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ Guydon is listed second on the depth chart at nose tackle behind fellow senior Vaka Manupuna. He is a key reserve in with a defensive line that lost two tackles to graduation.
- ➔ He played defensive tackle and guard against Texas, a two-way accomplishment that hasn't happened at CU since wide receiver Michael Westbrook played safety against Baylor in 1993. He has been an emergency player on offense and only played on the offensive line because the Buffs are thin without injured backup Daniel Sanders.
- ➔ He recorded his first career sack against Iowa State, tackling ISU quarterback Bret Meyer for a 10-yard loss in the first half.

### □ 2004.

- ➔ Listed second behind Matt McChesney at defensive tackle, he also saw some work at offensive guard early in the year. He was the only player on the team who could play offense and defense had he ever need to.

### □ 2003

- ➔ After transferring to CU from Fullerton Junior Community College, he redshirted the year while practicing at defensive tackle and occasionally at offensive guard. He was a practice squad machine, and took great pride in getting the first-teamers ready each week. He won the Scout Team Defense Award for the Baylor, Kansas and Kansas State games, while he also earned the Scout Team Offense honor for the week of Florida State.

### □ GENERAL

- ➔ His **main hobby is comedy**; he's performed stand-up in several California clubs and cites comedian Dannon Greene as his mentor. He's also met legendary comedians and actors Tommy Davidson and Martin Lawrence.
- ➔ Other hobbies include entertainment of all kinds: music, movies and live performances. He also excels at performing "Beat Box," which he has done for a couple of major Southern California radio stations.

## PACE, continued

- ➔ His second cousin, Damian Anderson, played tailback at Northwestern (under coach Gary Barnett) and is now with the Arizona Cardinals in the NFL.
- ➔ A self-proclaimed “late bloomer,” he wasn’t recruited out of high school.

# 66 BRIAN DANIELS, OG

\*Note: *Offensive line coach Dave Borbely considers a game grade of 2.5 to be a good grade for offensive linemen*

## □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ As a true junior, he entered the 2005 season in his third year as a starter. **One of the best interior lineman in the conference**, Daniels helps solidify a line with three returning starters. Coaches rave about his strength, attention to detail and ability to finish off his opponent.
- ➔ Daniels left the game against CSU in the first half after being hit in the side. After being taken to the locker room for X-rays, it was revealed that he had a **fractured rib**. He came back to the sidelines during the second half and attempted to return, but his injury prevented him from being able to breathe correctly. Said Daniels: **“I guess one hour wasn’t enough time to wait after a broken bone.”**
- ➔ Daniels missed the Buffs’ game against New Mexico State because of his rib injury.
- ➔ He did not play against Miami because of concerns over the bruised kidneys he suffered as a result of fracturing a rib against Colorado State.
- ➔ He returned against Oklahoma State, playing in a team-high 72 plays from scrimmage on the offensive line. He had one “perfect four” block and a team-most four knockdown blocks.
- ➔ He again played the most snaps out of any offensive linemen against Texas A&M with 79. He helped the Buffs amass 158 rushing yards, and the offensive line did not allow a sack all day.
- ➔ He graded out to a solid 2.66 against Kansas State, recording six knockdown blocks on the day.
- ➔ He had the best game of any offensive lineman during the season against Missouri. With five “perfect 4” blocks, three knockdown blocks and one touchdown block, he graded out to a 2.89 on the day.

## □ 2004.

- ➔ He was CU’s starting tight guard built on his outstanding freshman campaign. In the preseason, *Phil Steele’s College Football* magazine ranked him the No. 25 guard in the nation (one of only two sophomores on the list), and he followed up that hype by being tabbed an honorable mention **all-Big 12 selection** by both the conference coaches and *Associated Press*. For his efforts this season, he was one of 10 players to be named to CU’s prestigious **Victory Club**, as he was the only offensive lineman who graded out to a winning performance in at least eight games.
- ➔ Throughout all 12 games he led the team in knockdowns blocks with 29. He bolstered that number with a season-high five pancakes against Nebraska.
- ➔ He only allowed a half a sack all year (with just four pressures and two penalties).
- ➔ He said his top game came against a big, veteran defensive line at Washington State when he graded out to 85 percent.
- ➔ He graded out to an 88.3 in his best overall performance against Oklahoma State, while he totaled three knockdown blocks against a stout Texas defense.
- ➔ Head coach **Gary Barnett** said that Daniels will be a captain in the near future, and that **“you are going to see his name up there someday,”** referring to the All-Americans posted on the front of CU’s press box.

## □ 2003.

- ➔ His play earned him Freshman All-American/all-conference consideration and CU’s Lee Willard Award for the most outstanding freshman.
- ➔ First collegiate start came against Florida State (Sept. 20) at the offensive guard position. Said head coach Gary Barnett regarding his performance: “He played pretty well for a freshman. He had to have learned a ton. He did a pretty good job, being his first time out there and being matched up against a pretty good player.”
- ➔ He saw action in 11 games (nine starts), but was a fixture in the starting lineup since the fourth game of the year at Florida State. He was only the seventh true frosh to start on the offensive line since 1973, as he started nine games, setting the record for the most offensive line starts made by a freshman in school history (Clint Moore started eight at OG in 1991).
- ➔ He graded out as CU’s third rated lineman (74.6 percent, with only two sacks allowed and just two penalties).

## □ GENERAL

- ➔ He was the first person to commit to Colorado’s 2003 recruiting class, doing so on the 2002 signing day.
- ➔ As a high school senior, he was the No. 1 ranked power lifter in the state.
- ➔ A finance major, he garnered first-team academic all-Big 12 honors this year by receiving a 3.20 GPA or higher.



## 76 EDWIN HARRISON, OT

\*Note: Offensive line coach Dave Borbely considers a game grade of 2.5 to be a good grade for offensive linemen

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ Missed spring drills and most of fall camp after off-season shoulder surgery. He started practicing with contact in late August, and he should be at full strength for the start of the season. He is currently second on the depth chart at split guard.
- ➔ Harrison saw spot duty against CSU, filling in on the offensive line and on special teams.
- ➔ He saw 38 snaps from scrimmage against New Mexico State, splitting time at split guard with Jack Tipton. He graded out second highest among the CU linemen.
- ➔ Filling in on the injury-riddled offensive line against Miami, Harrison played in 70 plays, tied for the most among the offensive linemen. He recorded one perfect four play, had a knockdown block and did not commit a penalty on the afternoon.
- ➔ In only 47 plays from scrimmage against Oklahoma State, Harrison recorded four “perfect four” blocks, a knockdown block and the offensive line’s only touchdown block.

### □ 2004.

- ➔ He came into fall camp in competition for starting honors at the tight tackle position, as he was tied atop the depth chart with Clint O’Neal early on. For his efforts and strong play towards the end of the season, he was named to *The Sporting News Freshman All-Big 12 squad*.
- ➔ On the year, he participated in 222 plays, including a career-high 46 against Texas A&M, as O’Neal saw limited action after suffering a pinched trap muscle.
- ➔ He had eight knockdown blocks on the year, as he also paved the way for two touchdown runs. His best game came against Kansas when he graded out to 82.6 percent.
- ➔ He led all offensive linemen with four knockdown blocks against Texas A&M.

### □ 2003.

- ➔ Redshirted; did not see any game action but practiced the entire year on the offensive line. He was the Scout Team Offense Award winner for the Oklahoma game.

### □ GENERAL

- ➔ His grandfather (Calvin Jones) won the Outland Trophy as the nation’s outstanding interior lineman as a senior at Iowa in 1955; Jones was the first two-time consensus All-American in Iowa history, and his No. 62 was retired by the Hawkeyes.
- ➔ Hobbies include traveling, with the Bahamas as his favorite place he has ever visited, and skiing. **He received the Eagle Scout Badge in 2001** for helping build a library for “The Project Royal,” which helps single moms and kids.

## 77 TYLER POLUMBUS, OT

\*Note: Offensive line coach Dave Borbely considers a game grade of 2.5 to be a good grade for offensive linemen

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He entered the season as the starter at split tackle. The **tallest player on the Buffs** at 6’8, Polumbus has bulked up to 280 pounds.
- ➔ He made his first career start against CSU, bolstering a CU offensive line that allowed Buffalo running backs to rush for 113 yards and three touchdowns.
- ➔ Polumbus helped the Buffs rack up 238 rushing yards against New Mexico State. He left the game in the second half after rolling his ankle. He was held out of the rest of the game as a precaution with the Buffs holding a comfortable lead. He recorded six perfect play scores, four more than any other lineman, and had two knockdown blocks.

### GENERAL

- ➔ **Two members of his family played sports at CU:** Father (Tad) lettered in both football and golf (1965-66), and an uncle (Gary Polumbus) lettered three years in golf and twice made it to the NCAA Championships.

## 79 GARY MOORE, OG

\*Note: Offensive line coach Dave Borbely considers a game grade of 2.5 to be a good grade for offensive linemen

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ The biggest player on the team at 6’6, 330 pounds, Moore provides leadership and experience to the offensive line, as well as much-needed depth. He can play four positions, including split guard, tight guard, tight tackle and split tackle.

## MOORE, continued

- ➔ Moore contributed valuable experience and depth to an offensive line that was depleted by injuries against CSU. He played mostly at tackle, filling in for Clint O'Neal when he was out with a bruised knee.
- ➔ He played in 56 snaps from scrimmage against Miami, filling in on the offensive line which was ravished by injuries.
- ➔ He again displayed his worth as an experienced reserve against New Mexico State. He filled in on the line when split tackle Tyler Polumbus rolled his ankle in the second half and didn't return. Clint O'Neal shifted to split tackle and Moore played tight tackle. He also filled in at tight guard
- ➔ He had arguably the best game of any offensive linemen against Oklahoma State, grading out to a team-best 2.72. He added one "perfect four" block and three knockdown blocks.
- ❑ 2004.
  - ➔ He secured himself as a solid backup at both tight tackle and tight guard.
  - ➔ He rotated with Clint O'Neal (at tackle) and Brian Daniels (at guard) during spring and fall camp. He was in on 91 snaps, with his top game grade being 75 percent against North Texas.
- ❑ 2003.
  - ➔ He entered the fall listed at the No. 1 tight tackle position, but found himself in a battle with fellow sophomore Clint O'Neal for the starting job after Sam Wilder took over the split side. Moore was second on the depth chart at the tight guard position after Derek Stemrich moved from center to guard for the Florida State game.
  - ➔ He saw action in nine of 12 games on the season, and made his first career start at Texas Tech (Nov. 1), subbing for the injured Derek Stemrich at the tight guard spot. He graded out to a 67.1 on the year, with a high mark of 81.0 against Kansas.
- ❑ 2002.
  - ➔ Received playing time in five games as well as the Alamo Bowl, adding three knockdown blocks and one downfield block on the year.
- ❑ 2001.
  - ➔ After arriving in Boulder at 370 pounds, he worked hard to get his weight down to 325. He redshirted the season.
- ❑ GENERAL
  - ➔ Hobbies include singing, especially in his church choir. After the Sept. 11 attacks, in the following week's game against Kansas, he **sang *God Bless America* in front of 50,000 fans at Folsom Field.** He was also CU's Scout Team Player of the Week for that game.
  - ➔ He took an acting class over the summer of 2004 with former wide out Ron Monteilh and says he is really enjoys performing in front of people.

## ***82 JAMES GAREE, DE***

- ❑ THIS SEASON
  - ➔ Made the switch to defensive tackle to shore up the Buffs' lack of bodies at the position after the graduation of Matt McChesney and Brandon Dabdoub. He bulked up to 275 pounds to handle the pounding of the interior line. Garee is **one of the most vocal leaders on the defense, being voted a captain** by his teammates.
  - ➔ Barnett on Garee: "He's a captain and that tells you a lot. (Former Buffalo) Tyler Brayton mentored James Garee and they are out of the same mentality. **James is blue-collar and he loves to practice. He has never worn an orange or a red or a blue jersey meaning he can't go through contact. He has been through every practice for five years** and he has brought energy and enthusiasm and a practice mentality that no one else has on that field. He loves the game, he loves to practice and he loves his teammates. **There isn't anyone else like him out there.**"
  - ➔ In his first game at defensive tackle, Garee recorded two tackles, including one for a loss, and a quarterback hurry against the Rams. The tackle for a loss came on the Rams' first play of the game, and helped the Buffs force a three-and-out.
  - ➔ Garee was active to say the least against New Mexico State. He finished the game with three tackles (two solo), a tackle for a loss, a half sack, a third down stop and a quarterback hurry. In addition, he **blocked an Aggie field goal** in the fourth quarter which was returned 68 yards by teammate Tom Hubbard, helping preserve the shutout.
  - ➔ He recorded five total tackles against Miami. He also **had a reception on a third-and-short** in the second quarter, but the screen play was poorly executed, as the offensive linemen blocked the defenders in his direction. Garee played tight end and defensive end in high school, and he said his position offers from different colleges were "about half-and-half."
  - ➔ He finished with four total tackles a quarterback sack and a quarterback sack against Nebraska.
  - ➔ Garee had a **season-high nine total tackles against Texas in the Big 12 Championship game.** He also recorded a third down stop and a tackle for a loss. At the team banquet, he **received the Tom McMahon Award, given to the player with exemplary dedication and work ethic.**

## GAREE, continued

### □ 2004.

- ➔ He was CU's top defensive "rush" end. He developed into a **fast and powerful player** who racked up **honorable mention all-Big 12** honors by the league coaches. In addition, he was named to CU's prestigious 2004 **Victory Club** because he graded out with a winning performance in at least eight games.
- ➔ He had another solid outing at **Texas A&M**, as he was the only **Buff to corral explosive QB Reggie McNeal for a 6-yard sack**. The stop came on a crucial third-and-3 from the Colorado 10 during A&M's second to last drive of regulation. The sack forced the Aggies to kick a field goal to put A&M up 23-19 with 3:37 remaining.
- ➔ In the Texas game, Garee posted a career-high 11 tackles, as he totaled eight solo stops. In CU's win over Kansas State he tallied five tackles, while his biggest stop at Nebraska came when he stifled Joe Dailey for a 4-yard sack late in the second quarter.
- ➔ He has been **compared to former CU defensive end and current Oakland Raider Tyler Brayton**, for they each are strong individuals whose motors never seem to stop running.
- ➔ In the spring, he was named to ***The Sporting News All-Spring team*** citing his pass rush abilities. He also earned the Dan Stavelly Award for being CU's top defensive lineman.

### □ 2003.

- ➔ He impressed the coaches as he finally cracked the starting lineup at defensive end in game five and started eight games on the season. A 12-game contributor, Garee led the team with four sacks.
- ➔ Before the Kansas State game head coach **Gary Barnett said of Garee: "James is the toughest guy on our football team.** He will not miss practice. He had (a medial collateral ligament) sprain last week that 99 out of 100 guys would have refused to go to the practice field with. He refused to not practice. And then he ran all of the sprints on top of that. That guy loves to play the game."
- ➔ Garee wreaked havoc on Missouri (Nov. 8), totaling five tackles (four solo), three tackles for a loss, and two QB sacks. He earned CU's Defensive Player of the Game honors for his efforts.
- ➔ His first career start came at DE against Baylor (Oct. 4). He totaled two tackles in 65 plays from scrimmage.

### □ 2002.

- ➔ He played in seven games during the year, posting five tackles and one sack against Baylor. Other than that, he saw most time on special teams, finishing with three points.

### □ 2001.

- ➔ He was the recipient of the Lee Willard Award, given to the **most outstanding freshman**.

## GENERAL

- ➔ What a sight: At 6-6, 275 pounds, with **both arms covered in tattoos** (he has four total), he was once an avid trampoline jumper (he used to jump on it daily—he and friends would play football on it).
- ➔ Said one ABC announcer about Garee and former fellow line mate Matt McChesney, both of whom are known for their colorful and extravagant tattoos: "Who do you think would win in a tattoo-off?"

# **82 EVAN JUDGE, WR**

### □ THIS SEASON

- ➔ A solid target (6-2, 210), Judge has **tremendous hands and deceiving speed**. He entered his senior season atop the depth chart at the x wide receiver spot. He is also a leader among a young pool of receivers on the Buffs.
- ➔ Against CSU, Judge hauled in two receptions for 23 yards. His first reception of 17 yards came in the second quarter, placing the Buffs in CSU territory and led to their first touchdown of the game. He also reeled in a crucial two-point conversion in the fourth quarter which pulled the Buffs to within a field goal, which Mason Crosby would later convert.
- ➔ Judge led all receivers with three catches for 48 yards against New Mexico State. He had a 28-yard reception from Klatt with under a minute remaining in the first half, setting up the Buffs on the NMSU 3-yard line. Lawrence Vickers hauled in the score on the next play, putting CU on top 22-0 at halftime.
- ➔ Judge was CU's leading receiver against Oklahoma State, catching three passes for 63 yards. He had a 27-yard reception in the third quarter which set the Buffs up on the OSU 11-yard line. Two plays later, Klatt found Joe Klopfenstein for a touchdown to extend the Buffs' lead to 24-0.
- ➔ He led all CU receivers with seven catches against Texas A&M, netting 82 yards. He had a 32-yard reception in the third quarter on a third-and-7, in which he streaked down the sideline and brought down the pass over his defender.
- ➔ For the second-straight week, Judge led all CU players in receptions, finishing with six grabs for 37 yards and a touchdown. His score came on an eight-yard pass from Klatt with just **one second remaining** in the first half.
- ➔ Judge had six receptions for 108 yards and a touchdown against Kansas State. He had the team's first **100-yard receiving game by a wide receiver this season, as well as his first career 100-yard receiving game**. His 31-yard touchdown catch in the second quarter gave CU a 20-10 lead going into halftime.

### JUDGE, continued

- ➔ He had three receptions and led the team with 73 receiving yards against Missouri. Pinned at their own 6-yard line on their second possession, Klatt found Judge for a 38-yard pass up the middle to bring the ball close to midfield. The Buffs would go on to score a touchdown on their longest drive of the season and take a 7-0 lead.
- ➔ Judge had three receptions for 34 yards against Nebraska.
- ❑ 2004.
  - ➔ Seemingly out of nowhere, Judge rose to No. 1 at the “X” receiver, and developed into a **“go-to-guy” in CU’s young receiving corps; he led the team with 29 catches for 336 yards and three touchdowns.**
  - ➔ In the Houston Bowl, he hauled in two passes for 50 yards, one of them being a 39-yard touchdown grab which put the Buffs up for good with 8:43 remaining in the game.
  - ➔ He missed the win at Nebraska while recovering from a viral infection contracted several days before. It was actually a complex thing called ITP that has to do with a low platelet count in his blood. He made a strong recovery from the illness in about a week, and was good to go for the Big 12 title game versus Oklahoma.
  - ➔ He had two “firsts” against Colorado State in the opener, as he made his first career start against the Rams and reeled in his first ever catch on just the third play of the game during a crucial third-and-8 situation. His reception was good for 20 yards, tying him with Jesse Wallace for the longest CU air delivery on the evening.
  - ➔ Against North Texas, he had a breakout game and led all players with 82 yards on five catches. He also caught his first ever touchdown on a 21-yard strike from Joel Klatt. All five of his grabs resulted in first downs for the Buffs.
  - ➔ In the best scoring game of his raw career, his two receiving touchdowns at Texas A&M covered 15 and 24 yards. The first score came when he reeled in a nice fade in the corner of the end zone late in the second quarter to give CU a 13-7 lead going into the half. The second came on the first drive of the third quarter when he blew by Aggie defenders down the sideline to make the catch and then strolled effortlessly into the end zone.
- ❑ 2003.
  - ➔ He saw action in all 12 games, mostly on special teams. He did not make any receptions, but he had one knockdown block on return team duty. He was **placed on scholarship during the second week of August camp**, as the coaches rewarded him for his dedication on special teams.
- ❑ 2002.
  - ➔ He played in all 14 games on the punt return unit on special teams. He registered CU’s only blocked punt of the year, when he beat his man off the edge and got a block against USC in the third quarter.
- ❑ 2001.
  - ➔ Redshirted; practiced the entire fall at wide out.

### GENERAL

- ➔ He is majoring in business management at Colorado. He earned **first-team Academic All-Big 12** team honors as a sophomore in 2003 (second-team honors as a redshirt frosh the previous year), and is a four-time member of the Big 12 Commissioner’s Honor Roll. This season, he garnered second-team Academic All-Big 12 honors.

## ***83 DUSTY SPRAGUE, WR***

- ❑ THIS SEASON
  - ➔ Sprague is the starter at the z receiver spot. He is a **big target** (6-4, 190 pounds), and he turned into one of Joel Klatt’s favorite targets last year before suffering a broken collarbone midway through the season.
  - ➔ Against CSU, he led all CU receivers with five receptions for 61 yards. He had a 33-yard reception late in the fourth quarter which helped set up Mason Crosby’s game-tying field goal with 2:32 left in the game.
  - ➔ He was a **bright spot for the Buffs’ offense against Miami**. Running a number of underneath routes against the quick Hurricane defense, Sprague **caught nine balls for 55 yards.**
  - ➔ Against Oklahoma State, Sprague caught three passes for 27 yards. Two of the catches went for first downs, including his first which went for eight yards on a third-and-four.
  - ➔ Against Texas A&M, he had two catches for 18 yards, including a clutch 11-yard reception on a third-and-9 in the first quarter. The catch kept the drive alive and the ensuing score put the Buffs up 14-0.
  - ➔ Sprague had three catches and led the team with 76 receiving yards against Kansas. He also scored on a 62-yards touchdown reception—the longest play on the season for the Buffs. Said Klatt: “We’ve been trying to get that play to work for a couple of weeks now and we felt like this defense gave us the opportunity to make the play.”
  - ➔ He had five catches for 37 yards against Nebraska.
- 2004.
  - ➔ As Sprague was becoming a big-time weapon in CU’s receiver rotation this season, he **suffered broken collarbone** in CU’s loss to Texas on Oct. 30. Finally returning to full strength ahead of schedule, he played in the Big 12 Championship against Oklahoma and had one catch for 6 yards. ***The Sporting News*** named him to its **Freshman All-Big 12 team.** He was also a standout for the Buffs on special teams.
  - ➔ He had his first career catch in the first quarter against North Texas on a 16-yard strike from Joel Klatt, and reeled in two passes for 46 yards at Missouri.

### SPRAGUE, continued

- ➔ He earned his first career touchdown on a 21-yard strike from James Cox late in the fourth quarter against Oklahoma State. After beating his defender, Sprague made a nice over-the-shoulder grab in the back of the end zone to give CU its second and final score of the day.
- ➔ His best game of the year, when he truly came into full bloom, was at **Texas A&M** when he totaled a **career-high eight catches for 101 yards**. As a result of his efforts, he became only the second CU freshman (true or redshirt) to post a 100-yard game. Phil Savoy did so in 1994 when he caught six balls for 113 yards.
- ➔ Sprague made several clutch catches against the Aggies, but perhaps his biggest came on CU's final 13-play, 82-yard push in regulation when Joel Klatt completed a 34-yard strike to him down the sideline, setting CU up on the A&M 12. After leaping high in the air to fight his defender for the ball, Sprague came down victorious with the longest catch of his young career. That drive, in which he also reeled in a pass of 5 yards on third-and-4 from CU's own 29, gave the Buffs a 3-point lead with 1:05 remaining as Bobby Purify capped the push with 1-yard run. The score forced A&M to later kick a field goal that sent the contest into overtime.
- ➔ For the special units, he was tied for the team lead prior to his injury with nine total points, including six solo tackles (with one inside the 20). On punt coverage he was a gunner, often the first to reach the return man.

### 2003.

- ➔ He redshirted after practicing the entire year at wide out.

### GENERAL

- ➔ His family is no stranger to college football, as **two older brothers (Aaron and Russell) both played receiver at Colorado State**.
- ➔ He enjoys acting and music; some day he may wish to go into television production.
- ➔ A business major, he garnered **first-team Academic All-Big 12** honors last year by receiving at least a 3.20 GPA.

## ***86 GEORGE HYPOLITE, DT***

### ❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He had an outstanding fall camp that moved him to send on the depth chart at nose tackle behind incumbent senior Vaka Manupuna. The coaches are excited about his potential, and he is one of the few freshmen who are expected to play immediately.
- ➔ He saw his first career action against New Mexico State. In 21 plays from scrimmage, he made a solo tackle for a loss and a third down stop.
- ➔ Hypolite played in 20 snaps from scrimmage against Oklahoma State, recording one solo tackle and a quarterback hurry.
- ➔ Against Texas A&M, Hypolite saw a career-most 30 plays from scrimmage against Texas A&M, finishing with one tackle.

## ***89 JOE KLOPFENSTEIN, TE***

- ❑ Last name is pronounced: *klof-N-stein*; the *P* is silent.

### ❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He entered the season on the **Mackey Award watch list**. He won the **Spring Dominator Explosion award** (TE, LB, FB, DS), as he was first in his group in the bench press (403 pounds) and vertical jump (38 inches). He also ran the **40-yard dash in 4.53 seconds, the sixth-best time on the team**. His rare blend of strength and speed has him poised for a great season.
- ➔ Against CSU, he finished with four receptions for 76 yards. He had a 17-yard grab in the second quarter on a second-and-16, which moved the Buffs to the CSU 4 yard-line, setting up their first touchdown.
- ➔ He reeled in two catches for 24 yards against New Mexico State. Said Joel Klatt after the game: "I'll put my two tight ends up against anyone in the nation; they are both two of the best."
- ➔ He caught two passes for 28 yards against Oklahoma State, including his **first touchdown of the season**—an 11-yard score from Joel Klatt in the third quarter which extended the Buffs' lead to 24-0.
- ➔ He led all players with 60 receiving yards on five catches against Texas. He also scored his second touchdown of the season, a four-yard grab on fourth down in the fourth quarter.
- ➔ CU's tight ends could not be stopped by Texas A&M, as Klopfenstein and Sypniewski combined for eight catches and 169 yards. Klopfenstein had five catches for a team-high 99 yards. Said A&M DB Jordan Chambless: "**We knew coming into this game that 45 (Sypniewski) and 89 (Klopfenstein) were their best receivers...** (CU) did what we didn't want them to do which is get the ball in their hands." Added DB Jaxson Appel: "They are athletic and are very good football players. They felt they had a mismatch with our linebackers and they executed well."

## KLOPFENSTEIN, continued

- ➔ Klopfenstein had two catches for 43 yards against Kansas, both of which went for touchdowns. His 40-yard reception in the second quarter was particularly impressive. As Klatt rolled to the right he saw 'Klop' turn up field and got him the ball around the 20-yard line. He broke one tackle and then was able to shake off another defender who had a grasp on his leg. After that he used his impressive speed to outrun the rest of the defense to the end zone. His three-yard touchdown reception in the third quarter was the 12th of his career, breaking the record of 11 held by Christian Fauria (1991-94), Daniel graham (1998-2001) and Gary Knafelc (1951-53). He has now caught 11 touchdown passes from Klatt, one short of the record between a duo (Koy Detmer and Rae Carruth, 19992-96). Said Klatt: "Having Joe around is an awfully big luxury for me to have around because he is able to do so much. We can put him absolutely anywhere on the field and he will make plays for us."
  - ➔ He finished with only one reception for 20 yards against Kansas State, but it was only fitting that the completion gave quarterback Joel Klatt CU's all-time passing yards record.
  - ➔ Hampered by a shoulder injury, Klopfenstein was held out of much of the game as a precaution. He finished with two catches for nine yards.
  - ➔ Klopfeitein caught four passes for 23 yards against Texas in the Big 12 Championship game, including a nifty one-handed grab on the run on a third down, which kept the Buff's initial drive of the day going.
- ❑ 2004.
- ➔ *The Sporting News* acknowledged him as the **nation's No. 4** tight end in the preseason and he made the second team all-Big 12 list. He followed up that early hype by being tabbed a **second-team all-Big 12** performer by the league coaches, and an honorable mention selection by the *Associated Press*.
  - ➔ He had an outstanding game against North Texas (6-67, 2 TDs), hauling in the two scoring throws from Joel Klatt. He and Klatt make up the **JK-to-JK connection**, and they also connected in the Kansas and Kansas State wins this year. On the season, he reeled in four touchdowns from Klatt, and overall was on the receiving end of more Klatt career TD passes (7) than any other target in 2004.
  - ➔ In maybe his best (and certainly most clutch) game this year, he had four grabs for 48 yards at Texas A&M. His biggest moments came on CU's final drive of regulation when the Buffs drove 82 yards on 13 plays to go up 26-23 with 1:05 remaining. During the push, Klop stabbed two different 11-yard passes, the first a one-handed catch across the middle, while the other occurred in tight traffic and positioned CU at the 1-yardline for first-and-goal.
  - ➔ In his final game of the season in the **Houston Bowl**, he finished with five catches for 134 yards and a touchdown. On one play, he streaked across the middle, caught a pass from Joel Klatt, broke two tackles and outran a safety for a **78-yard touchdown reception. It was the longest play by a tight end in Colorado history.**
- ❑ 2003.
- ➔ He came on very strong during the spring and fall camp and took over at No. 1 tight end while Quinn Sypniewski remained sidelined. He had a breakout spring, leading all players on offense with 11 catches for 137 yards (12.5 per reception) and two touchdowns.
  - ➔ Klopfenstein earned **honorable mention All-Big 12** honors from both the *Associated Press* and the league coaches.
  - ➔ First career start came in the season opener against Colorado State and he started 10 of 12 games.
  - ➔ His first collegiate touchdown was the game winner, as he and Joel Klatt connected on a 6-yard pass with 2:15 remaining in the 16-14 victory over UCLA in Week 2.
- ❑ 2002.
- ➔ He saw action in seven games, but didn't post any stats as most of his duty was on special teams.

## **91 MAURICE LUCAS, DE**

### ❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ Lucas was planning on redshirting this season before a rash of injuries hit the defensive line. His frame—6'5, 235 pounds—is already reminiscent of an upperclassman.
- ➔ He saw his first playing time against Texas, the No. 2 team in the nation—how is that for being thrown into the fire?
- ➔ Against Kansas, Lucas made three tackles, had a quarterback hurry and recovered a fumble. His fumble recovery came early in the third quarter and led to a touchdown drive which would put the Buffs on top 30-13, effectively putting the game out of reach.
- ➔ Lucas made his first career start against Kansas State (ironic because after originally committing to CU, he decided to go to KSU; he then changed his mind again and recommitted to CU). He finished the game with seven total tackles, a tackle for a 13-yard loss and two quarterback hurries. Said DE Alex Ligon: "**Maurice is going to be a great player. He has great size and speed and he has freakishly long arms.**"
- ➔ He made his second career start against Missouri, finishing with two solo tackles and a quarterback hurry.
- ➔ Lucas made four solo tackles, including two for losses in the Big 12 Championship game against Texas. At the team banquet, he received the Lee Willard Award, given to the team's most outstanding freshman.

# 93 VAKA MANUPUNA, NT

□ *First name is pronounced vah-ka; last name pronounced ma-na-poooh-na.*

□ **THIS SEASON**

- ➔ He entered his senior season as the Buffs' starting nose tackle. He is a **very strong presence in the trenches**. In spring workouts, he posted team-bests in the squat (609 pounds) and incline press (390 pounds). He is an **excellent run defender**, and he will occupy blockers to give his teammates a better shot at getting to the quarterback.
- ➔ He recorded three tackles (two solo) against New Mexico State and added a quarterback hurry. He also recovered a fumble in the third quarter after the Aggies had driven into Buffalo territory and threatened to score.
- ➔ He registered one tackle and a quarterback chase down against Texas A&M. **Yes, the 290-pound lineman did actually chase down Reggie McNeal!**
- ➔ He finished with a career-high nine tackles (five solo), including one for a loss against Texas.
- ➔ Against Kansas State, Manupuna totaled seven tackles, including two for losses. He also had a fumble recovery.
- ➔ He tied for a team-high with eight total tackles against Iowa State, earning him Victory Club distinction. He also had a tackle for a loss, a third down stop, a quarterback hurry and two quarterback chase downs.
- ➔ At the team banquet, **he received the Regiment award, given to the player with the greatest contribution with the least amount of recognition.**

□ **2004.**

- ➔ He was the starting nose tackle for the Buffs, rising to the occasion when Brandon Dabdoub missed spring drills and was limited in fall camp with a torn pectoral muscle. For his efforts, he was tabbed an **honorable mention all-Big 12** selection by the conference coaches.
- ➔ One of the most dedicated and hardworking Buffs, he stepped up after his sophomore year when he was **forced to overcome the deaths of his mother (heart attack/brain aneurism) and sister (leukemia)**. **The first Manupuna to leave the Hawaiian islands and come to college**, he made a promise to his family to stick it out on the mainland and thrive on the football field and in the classroom.
- ➔ At Kansas he had four solo stuffs (one for loss) and two third down stops. His biggest play of the game came when he helped turn the momentum into CU's favor after the Jayhawks jumped out to a 14-0 lead. With KU driving again in the first quarter, Manupuna forced a fumble on tailback John Randle. Without hesitation, safety Dominique Brooks swooped in and picked up the loose pigskin and returned it for a 41-yard touchdown.
- ➔ He had an outstanding spring, as the coaches tabbed him as the Most Improved Defensive Player Award winner. He had 12 tackles, three for losses, in CU's three full scrimmages.

□ **2003.**

- ➔ He missed a good portion of spring practice when his mother suffered a heart attack and passed away. Prior to leaving for his native Hawaii, he had been switched to the offensive line; but he didn't practice much at his potential new position, and upon his return for the final week coaches decided to move him back to his old spot.

□ **2002.**

- ➔ He saw spot action from scrimmage, and did see time early on the kickoff return unit on special teams.

□ **GENERAL.**

- ➔ One of the several Buffs that have found their way over to Boulder via the Hawaiian Islands; he is **very adept in husking — coconuts**.
- ➔ He has been the **"big brother" for linebacker Jordon Dizon**, who also hails from Hawai'i.
- ➔ His hobbies include surfing, going to the beach and studying history of the people and islands of the South Pacific.