

# UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO FOOTBALL

## 2007 LETTER-OF-INTENT SIGNEES

### High School (24)

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (High School)
ADKINS, Ethan.....	OL	6- 5	280	Castle Rock, Colo. (Douglas County)
AHLES, Tyler.....	ILB	6- 3	235	San Bernardino, Calif. (Cajon)
BAHR, Matthew.....	OL	6- 5	285	Dove Canyon, Calif. (Mission Viejo)
BALLENGER, Matt.....	QB	6- 4	215	Nampa, Idaho (Skyview)
BEHRENS, Blake.....	OL	6- 4	285	Phoenix, Ariz. (Brophy Prep)
CELESTINE, Kendrick.....	WR	6- 1	185	Mamou, La. (Mamou)
DANIELS, Shawn.....	OL	6- 3	265	Evergreen, Colo. (Denver Mullen)
GOREE, Eugene.....	DL	6- 2	285	Murfreesboro, Tenn. (Riverdale)
HARTIGAN, Josh.....	OLB	6- 1	210	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Northeast)
*HAWKINS, Jonathan .....	DB	5-10	185	Perris, Calif. (Rancho Verde)
ILTIS, Mike .....	OL	6- 3	285	Sarasota, Fla. (Riverview)
JOHNSON, Devan .....	TE/HB	6- 1	230	Turtle Creek, Pa. (Woodland Hills)
LOCKRIDGE, Brian .....	TB	5- 8	175	Trabuco Canyon, Calif. (Mission Viejo)
MAIAVA, Kai .....	C	6- 1	290	Wailuku, Hawai'i (Baldwin)
MILLER, Ryan.....	OL	6- 8	310	Littleton, Colo. (Columbine)
OBI, Conrad.....	DE	6- 4	245	Grayson, Ga. (Grayson)
PERKINS, Anthony .....	DB	5-11	180	Northglenn, Colo. (Northglenn)
SHIELDS, Lagrone .....	DL	6- 4	260	Memphis, Tenn. (Ridgeway)
SIMAS, Markques.....	WR	6- 2	195	San Diego, Calif. (Mira Mesa)
SMITH, Josh.....	WR	6- 1	185	Moorpark, Calif. (Moorpark)
SMITH, Lamont .....	DB	5- 9	170	Penn Hills, Pa. (Pittsburgh Central Catholic)
TAU, Sione .....	OL	6- 6	310	Honolulu, Hawai'i (Damien Memorial)
VAIOMOUNGA, Nate .....	DB	5-11	190	Corona, Calif. (Corona)
WRIGHT, Anthony.....	DB	6- 0	185	Compton, Calif. (Compton)

(\*—signed a financial aid contract instead of a letter-of-intent due NCAA technical reasons.)

### Junior College (4)

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Hometown (High School/Previous School)
GATES, Patrick.....	TB	5-11	190	Jr.	San Diego, Calif. (Marion Catholic/Saddleback College)
HUDGINS, Drew.....	DE	6- 4	230	Jr.	Spring Hills, Kan. (Spring Hills/Highland CC)
NELSON, Nick .....	QB	6- 1	220	Jr.	Mission Viejo, Calif. (Tesoro/Saddleback College)
PERRI, Christopher .....	DL	6- 4	270	Jr.	Alameda, Calif. (Bishop O'Dowd/San Jose State/Laney College)

### Breakdown

Total.....	28 (24 high school, 4 junior college transfers)
By State.....	California 11, Colorado 4, Florida 2, Hawaii 2, Pennsylvania 2, Tennessee 2, Arizona 1, Georgia 1, Idaho 1, Kansas 1, Louisiana 1
By Position.....	Offense 16 (8 linemen, 3 receivers, 2 quarterbacks, 2 running backs, 1 halfback/tight end)
	Defense 12 (5 backs, 5 linemen—ends/tackles, 2 linebackers)
	Specialists 0



## Junior College

### **P.T. GATES, TB**

5-11, 190, San Diego, Calif. (Marion Catholic/Saddleback College)

**AT SADDLEBACK (2005-06/Fr., Soph.)**—As a sophomore, he was named a *J.C. Gridwire* first-team All-American, first-team All-State, and selected as the Mission Conference Player of the Year. Named to the *SuperPrep* Juco 100 team, he was the No. 9 overall ranked player and the first running back. He ranked third in the conference in rushing with 223 carries for 1,338 yards (6.0 per carry), scoring 23 touchdowns, while he also led his team in receiving with 40 catches for 359 yards and three more scores. His 114 regular season points on 19 TD's led the conference in scoring. He was the league's offensive player of the week in a 24-12 win over Santa Ana in week 9, as he rushed 16 times for 125 yards and two scores with four catches for 34 yards. He scored the game winning touchdown on a 9-yard reception in overtime to defeat Orange Coast, 23-17. As a freshman, he was named second-team All-Mission Conference as he had 122 attempts for 790 yards on the ground, again third best in the league, with six touchdowns, averaging 6.3 yards per carry. He also caught 18 passes for 139 yards and two touchdowns. His top three games at Saddleback came in his last three contests: against El Camino, he had 26 carries for 236 yards and three touchdowns in a 42-37 win; averaging 9.1 yards per carry, he helped rally SC from a 31-14 deficit. In his next game against Palomar in the National Bowl, he had 22 carries for 102 yards and four touchdowns in a 30-28 win. In a season-ending 31-29 loss to El Camino in the semifinals of the regional playoffs, he had another 24 carries for 177 yards and three touchdowns, with four receptions for 41 yards. He had seven 100-yard rushing games as a sophomore. Under head coach Mark McElroy, Saddleback was 11-1 in Gates' sophomore season, finishing as the No. 3 team in the nation by *J.C. Gridwire*, and was 7-4 his freshman season.

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A three-year letterman in football, he lost only one game in his prep career while scoring 84 touchdowns. As a senior, he was named first-team All-State, All-CIF and All-San Diego County in being named the San Diego Player of the Year. He had 123 rushes for 2,005 yards and 27 touchdowns, adding close to 300 more yards receiving with six scores. He also played safety on defense, finishing with 80 tackles. As a junior, he garnered first-team All-State, All-Conference and All-San Diego County honors in rushing for 1,600 yards and 24 touchdowns on offense; he played cornerback on defense, registering 35 tackles. As a sophomore, he was named team Newcomer of the Year as he rushed for 1,700 yards and 27 touchdowns. Playing a limited role on defense, he registered 25 tackles playing outside linebacker. His top game came as a senior in the CIF Championship game against St. Augustine when he ran for 93 yards and two touchdowns; he also had nine tackles and an interception on defense to help clinch the title. Under head coach Mike David, and later Matt White, Marion Catholic went 38-1, while advancing to the CIF Championship game all three years of his prep career, capturing CIF titles in 2003 and 2004. He also lettered twice in basketball (guard).

**ACADEMICS**—He plans to major in ethnic studies or social sciences at Colorado. He will have to earn his A.A. degree this summer before he can transfer to CU for fall camp.

**PERSONAL**—Born April 13, 1986, in Williamsburg, Va. His hobbies include watching movies and playing video games. Originally signed with San Diego State out of high school before going the junior college route.

### **DREW HUDGINS, DE**

6-4, 230, Spring Hills, Kan. (Spring Hills/Highland Community College)

**Note:** He enrolled at Colorado in January (he counts toward last year's class) and will have three years to play two in eligibility.

**JUNIOR COLLEGE**—Named to the *SuperPrep* Juco 100 team, as he was the No. 49 overall ranked player and the eighth defensive end, while *J.C. Gridwire* ranked him as the No. 6 defensive end of the class. Earned second-team JCAA All-American and first-team All-Jayhawk Conference honors as a sophomore at Highland Community College, where he was the league leader in quarterback sacks with 19 (for 176 yards in losses). He had 93 tackles overall (52 solo), with 36 for losses for 299 yards, including the sacks. He also had eight passes broken up and two forced fumbles. His best game in the junior college ranks was in his finale in a 42-29 upset of No. 1 and eventual region champion Butler in 2006, when he had 10 tackles, three sacks and forced a fumble. HCC finished 3-6 his sophomore year, opening 2-0 before closing with the Butler win, and was 2-7 his freshman season under coach Keith Majors.

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A four-year letterman in football, he was named first-team All-Frontier League as a senior as he registered 72 total tackles, including 12 sacks. His senior team went 3-6 under head coach Pat Williams. He also lettered four times in wrestling, as he was named All-Frontier League his final two seasons and All-Johnson County his senior year.

**ACADEMICS**—He is interested in business management as a major at Colorado. He owned a 3.7 grade point average in high school and was on the honor roll all four years. He also maintained a 3.6 GPA at Highland Community College.

**PERSONAL**—Born September 18, 1985 in Shawnee Mission, Kan. His hobbies include lifting weights and playing PlayStation. His uncle, Joe Boone, was a middle linebacker for Kansas State, graduating in 1991. He has aspirations of getting into coaching after college. Full first name is Andrew.

## **NICK NELSON, QB**

6-1, 220, Mission Viejo, Calif. (Tesoro/Saddleback College)

**Note:** He enrolled at Colorado in January (he counts toward last year's class) and will have three years to play two in eligibility.

**JUNIOR COLLEGE**—Named to the *SuperPrep* Juco 100 team, he was the No. 76 overall ranked player and the seventh quarterback; *J.C. Gridwire* ranked him the No. 12 signal caller in the JUCO ranks. He was Saddleback's Offensive Player of the Year and a first-team All-Mission Conference selection as a sophomore, when he completed 157-of-251 passes for 2,241 yards. He had 18 touchdowns against nine interceptions in completing 62.5 percent of his passes to go with a 154.1 passer rating. His single game high was 274 yards (with 2 TDs) against Allan Hancock, as he had seven 200-plus passing games. He was "activated" from a possible redshirt three games into his freshman season, coming off the bench to throw for 1,232 yards and 14 touchdowns with seven interceptions. He also played baseball as a freshman, batting .290 as a starting outfielder. Under coach Mark McElroy, Saddleback went 11-1, reaching the semifinals of the regional playoffs, and won the Mission Conference his sophomore year; the Gauchos were 7-4 his freshman season, winning the U.S. Bank Beach Bowl in Santa Monica over Mt. San Jacinto College.

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A three-year letterman in football, he was Tesoro's Athlete of the Year his senior season. He was also named his team's Offensive Player of the Year and was a first-team All-Pacific Coast League selection and a second-team All-Orange County selection that same year, when he passed for 2,200 yards and had 24 touchdowns against just eight interceptions in completing 69 percent of his passes. He was also first-team All-Pacific Coast league and second-team All-Orange County as a junior. Under head coach Jim O'Connell, Tesoro went 20-5 with Nelson at the helm in his junior and senior seasons, winning the CIF Championship in the latter. He also lettered three times in baseball, as he was the team's Player of the Year as a senior as well as earning first-team all-county and all-league distinctions.

**ACADEMICS**—He is interested in business management as a major at Colorado. He owned a 2.9 grade point average in high school and had a 3.49 GPA at Saddleback.

**PERSONAL**—Born January 25, 1987 in Long Beach, Calif. Hobbies include fishing, poker and body boarding. Full first name is Nikolas, but he prefers to go by Nick.

## **CHRISTOPHER PERRI, DL**

6-4, 270, Alameda, Calif. (Bishop O'Dowd/San Jose State/Laney College)

**AT LANEY COLLEGE (2006, Soph.)**—He was named first-team All-Mid-Empire Conference and was the team's Defensive Lineman of the Year; *J.C. Gridwire* ranked him as the No. 28 defensive end in the JUCO ranks. As a sophomore in his only season at Laney after transferring from San Diego State, he tallied 60 tackles, including 19 for losses with nine quarterback sacks. Under coach John Beam, Laney was 9-2, ending the season with a 20-17 win over American River College at Sacramento in the Capitol Shrine Game.

**AT SAN JOSE STATE (2005, Fr.)**—He played three games at linebacker, recording six tackles, as under head coach Dick Tomey, the Spartans were 3-8.

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A two-year letterman in football, he was named first-team All-HAAL League and second-team All-San Francisco Bay Area as a senior. He was also his team's defensive lineman of the year and was honored for the Northern California Hit of the Year. At the defensive end position, he tallied 80 tackles, including 24 for losses with 12 quarterback sacks. He also played tight end on offense and recorded 22 catches for 300 yards and two touchdowns. As a junior, he was named honorable mention All-HAAL League en route to posting 50 tackles, 15 for losses including nine sacks. On offense, he played offensive tackle. Under coach Paul Perenon, Bishop O'Dowd went 11-2 in his senior season, capturing the NCS 2A state title; as a junior, O'Dowd was 8-5 and advanced to the semifinals. He also lettered twice in baseball, batting .383 as a senior with a 3-0 record and an 0.83 earned run average as a junior.

**ACADEMICS**—He plans to major in business and criminal justice at Colorado. He owned a 2.85 grade point average in high school, and at Laney College, he had a 3.9 GPA and was named an academic honor student while earning his Associate Arts degree.

**PERSONAL**—Born February 14, 1987, in Alameda, Calif. His hobbies include playing golf, coaching a younger brother (Michael) and his little league baseball team and lifting weights with his brother, Jeff. When he was 15, he went to Japan as a member of the Junior National World baseball Team. His father (Mark) was a defensive lineman at Fresno State. He left San Jose State after his freshman season because he wanted to play in the Big 12.

## **High School**

### **ETHAN ADKINS, OL**

6-5, 280, Castle Rock, Colo. (Douglas County)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A *SuperPrep* All-American and All-Midlands team member, as the publication ranked him as the No. 29 player in the region (and the sixth best offensive lineman). Scout.com had him pegged as the No. 30 offensive guard nationally, while Rivals.com ranked him as the No. 64 offensive lineman in the nation. He was an All-Colorado selection by the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post* as a senior, when he was also first-team All-State (5A) and All-Continental League. Playing offensive left tackle and grading out as the Huskies' top lineman, he helped pave the way for junior tailback Ryan Misare, who rushed for 1,479 yards and 18 touchdowns, as well as Douglas County's explosive offense. As a junior, he was an honorable mention all-league selection. He did not allow a quarterback sack in his entire high school career. Under head coach Jeff Ketron, Douglas County went 24-3 over Adkins' two seasons as a starter (11-2 as a senior, 13-1 as a junior). His team best Mullen 35-13 for the state title in his junior season and lost to the Mustangs in a 38-35 overtime thriller in the state semifinals his senior year. He also lettered twice in basketball.

**ACADEMICS**—He is undecided on his major at Colorado. He owns a 3.2 grade point average in high school.

**PERSONAL**—Born November 28, 1988, in Denver, Colo. His hobbies include playing video games. In the summer, he has helped out with youth football camps for elementary school kids at his high school.

### **TYLER AHLES, ILB**

6-3, 235, San Bernardino, Calif. (Cajon)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—Ranked as the No. 80 linebacker recruit in the nation by Rivals.com, he was named first-team All-San Andreas League at both running back (H-back) and linebacker as a senior. He was also an All-San Bernardino County Utility Player as he racked up 80 tackles and six sacks from the linebacker position. A team captain, he played tight end and fullback on offense in an H-back type role, rushing 18 times for 277 yards and two touchdowns while catching 18 passes for 312 yards and three more scores. As a junior, he was named first-team All-San Andreas League on defense as he tallied 98 tackles, including 10 sacks, six forced fumbles and five recoveries. He was ineligible to play football his sophomore year after transferring from Bishop Union High School. His best games came in his senior campaign: in a 14-6 playoff loss to Colony, he racked up 13 tackles on defense and finished with 68 rushing yards and a touchdown to go along with three catches for 28 yards; in a 55-27 win over San Bernardino, he had 14 tackles and a sack on defense, while rushing for 70 yards and a TD with 20 receiving yards and a TD reception; he also had 16 tackles on defense and 100 all-purpose yards on offense in a 21-13 loss to Colton. Under head coach Kim Battin, Cajon went 6-5 his senior year, losing to the eventual state champion Colony in the first round of the playoffs. CHS went 6-5 and lost in the first round of the playoffs in his junior season. He also lettered four times in track and was named first-team All-San Andreas League in the discus (149-0 career best) and shot put (49-2) as a junior. He lettered twice in wrestling, and was the undisputed San Andreas County heavyweight champion as a junior despite performing at some 50-60 pounds lighter in the heavyweight (275-lb.) division.

**ACADEMICS**—He is undecided on his major at Colorado. He owns a 3.4 grade point average in high school.

**PERSONAL**—Born December 6, 1988, in Reno, Nev. His hobbies include snowboarding and playing video games.  
(Last name is pronounced *alice*)

### **MATT BAHR, OL**

6-5, 285, Dove Canyon, Calif. (Mission Viejo)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A three-year starter at two different high schools at offensive tackle, he was named first-team All-South Coast League, All-CIF Southern Section (Pac-5 Division) and All-Orange County as a senior. He was also named second-team All-State and was his team's Lineman of the Year and Big Hitter of the Year (presented to the one with the most pancake blocks). He racked up 60 pancakes as a senior and did not allow a sack on the season. As a junior at Santa Margarita High School, he was named second-team All-South Coast League and was his team's Lineman of the Year. He tallied 35 pancakes on the season and allowed just one sack. He also started every game for Mission Viejo as a sophomore. His top game as a senior came against Long Beach Jordan when he recorded six pancake blocks in the victory. Against Orange Lutheran in his junior season, he went up against USC-bound defensive end Michael Reardon and tallied three pancake blocks without allowing a sack. Under coach Bob Johnson, MVHS went 9-3 his senior year, making it to the second round of the playoffs. Santa Margarita was 12-1 his junior year, advancing to the third round of the playoffs.

**ACADEMICS**—He is interested in business as his major at Colorado. He would like to get into real estate.

**PERSONAL**—Born March 3, 1989, in Mission Viejo, Calif. His hobbies include playing golf; he is also very active with his local church, Saddleback Community Church. His stepfather owns a commercial real estate company called Pacific Point Partners. Will attend Colorado with a teammate, running back Brian Lockridge, who helped block for during their prep days at Mission Viejo.

## **MATT BALLENGER, QB**

6-4, 215, Nampa, Idaho (Skyview)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A *SuperPrep* All-Midlands team member, as the publication ranked him as the No. 45 player in the region (and the seventh best quarterback); Rivals.com ranked him as the No. 23 quarterback in the nation while Scout.com tabbed him No. 39. A four-year letterman, he was named second-team All-Southern Idaho Conference as a senior when he threw for 1,800 yards and 13 touchdowns. He also rushed for 500 yards and nine scores. As a junior, he was named first-team All-Conference en route to racking up 1,600 passing yards and 13 touchdowns. He added another 300 yards and four touchdowns on the ground. He started four games as a sophomore and lettered as the backup quarterback in his freshman season. His top games in his senior season included a 38-6 win over Kuna where he completed 13-of-18 passes for 189 yards and three scores with a rushing touchdown; against Caldwell, he was 11-of-15 passing for 209 yards and a touchdown; he rushed for 75 more yards and four touchdowns on the ground in the 55-48 victory. Under coach David Young, Skyview was 15-5 in Ballenger's two seasons as a full-time starter (8-2 his senior year, 7-3 his junior season). Skyview was the district champion in his senior season. He will also letter four times in basketball, as he was the Idaho Gatorade Player of the Year as a sophomore and was an All-State performer his sophomore and junior seasons.

**ACADEMICS**—He is undecided about a major at Colorado. He owns a 3.4 grade point average in high school and was a member of the honor roll.

**PERSONAL**—Born May 18, 1989, in Lexington Ky. His hobbies include playing video games and hunting (pheasant is his favorite). An uncle (David Sharp) was an offensive lineman at Stanford during the Jim Plunkett years.

## **BLAKE BEHRENS, OL**

6-4, 285, Phoenix, Ariz. (Brophy Prep)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A *SuperPrep* All-Far West performer as a senior, as the publication ranked him as the No. 9 overall player in Arizona (and as the fourth offensive lineman in the state); Rivals.com pegged him as the No. 17 offensive guard in the nation (the No. 6 overall player in the state), while Scout.com ranked him at No. 26. He played in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl in Fort Lauderdale, starting at guard. As a senior, he was named first-team All-Arizona and was an EA Sports second-team All-American. A three-year letterman, he did not allow a sack in his entire prep career. Playing offensive tackle, he had 120 pancake blocks, and playing defensive tackle, he had 60 tackles and five quarterback sacks as a senior. As a junior, he was named first-team All-State and All-Desert Valley Region when he had 112 pancake blocks playing offensive tackle and 55 tackles, including five sacks on defense. He was named first-team All-Desert Region and honorable mention All-State as a sophomore when he tallied 104 pancake blocks. Under coach Andrew Mulander, Brophy Prep went 9-3 his senior season, advancing to the state quarterfinals; they were state champions his junior year with a 13-1 mark, and went 11-2 and advanced to the state quarterfinals in his sophomore season. He also lettered once in track and played two years of basketball (freshman and junior varsity).

**ACADEMICS**—He is interested in business (finance) as his major at Colorado, and is also interested in communications. He owns a 3.2 grade point average in high school.

**PERSONAL**—Born December 6, 1988 in Scottsdale, Ariz. His hobbies include spending time outdoors—snowboarding, fishing, wakeboarding and waterskiing. His Godmother owns a house in Vail, and his family makes it out to Colorado two or three times a year. His father (Rick) attended Colorado for a time and attempted to play football, but was injured during the spring and eventually returned to Arizona. A grandfather (Bob Behrens) was an All-American at Colgate who was drafted by the New York Giants, but opted to go to medical school instead.

*(Last name is pronounced bear-ens; he is no relation to CU fullback Jake Behrens)*

## **KENDRICK CELESTINE, WR**

6-1, 185, Mamou, La. (Mamou)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—As a senior, he was an All-Southwest team performer by *SuperPrep*, which ranked him as the No. 23 player in the state of Louisiana (the fifth wide receiver). A three-year letterman in football, he was named first-team All-State, All-Central Louisiana, All-District and All-Parrish as a senior. Playing his first season at wide receiver, he caught 45 passes for 936 yards and 11 touchdowns. He also had 19 rushes for 215 yards and two touchdowns and added another score on a kickoff return. As a junior, he was named honorable mention All-State and was a first-team All-Central Louisiana, All-District and All-Parrish selection. Playing quarterback out of necessity for his team, he threw for 1,446 yards and 11 touchdowns while running for 800 yards and 10 scores. As a sophomore, he was named first-team All-Central Louisiana, All-District and All-Parrish. Playing in more of a passing offense at quarterback, he threw for 1,500 yards and 25 touchdowns; he also ran for 200 yards and four scores. His top game as a sophomore came in a 36-31 win against Westminster when he passed for 300 yards and three touchdowns while rushing for 100 yards and a score. In his senior season, he had three receiving touchdowns in a win over Madison. In the same season, he had nine receptions for 200 yards and three touchdowns in a loss against Welch. His performance included a school-record 99-yard touchdown reception. Under head coach Joe Desselle, Mamou was 9-3 in Celestine's senior season, advancing to the second round of the playoffs. His team missed the playoffs in his junior season and went 13-1 in his sophomore campaign, losing in the finals of the state playoffs. He also lettered three times in basketball, earning first-team All-District and All-Parrish honors his freshman through junior seasons. He has three letters in track, as he was first in both the Parrish and district in the 100-meter run and was second in the region (10.6 is his best time). His 4 x 100 relay team also won Parrish and District titles.

**ACADEMICS**—He plans to major in psychology or engineering at Colorado. He was on the merit roll as a junior in high school.

**PERSONAL**—Born January 30, 1989, in Mamou, La. His hobbies include working out and sport training. His uncle, Myron Guillory, played college basketball at Virginia Tech and was part of the 1995 NIT championship team; he is currently an assistant basketball coach and recruiting coordinator at Colorado State. Celestine had a job working as a valet driver at a Casino his senior year of high school.

*(Last name is pronounced cell-uh-steen)*

## SHAWN DANIELS, OL

6-3, 265, Evergreen, Colo. (Denver Mullen)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A *SuperPrep* All-Midlands performer, as it ranked him as the No. 32 overall player in the region and as the seventh offensive lineman; Rivals.com ranked him the No. 48 offensive guard in the nation (Scout.com tabbed him No. 70). He was an All-Colorado selection by the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post* as a senior, when he was also first-team All-State (5A) and All-Centennial League. A three-year letterman, he was considered a tenacious blocker in both running and passing situations as he was a key performer for the state's top-rated offense. He was also a team captain as he manned the center and guard positions, finishing with 90 pancake blocks. He allowed no sacks on the season and helped pave the way for running back Phillip Morelli to average 11.4 yards per carry. He was named second-team all-league as a junior, and was the team's most improved lineman as a sophomore when he played center and backed up Oklahoma-bound Jesse White at guard. His best game came in his senior season when he recorded six pancake blocks and three touchdown blocks in a 41-38 double overtime win over Douglas County. Under coach Dave Logan, Mullen made it to the state title game all three years Daniels played varsity. Mullen went 13-1 in his senior season, losing to Columbine 13-10 in the title game. His junior team went 11-3 before losing to Douglas County, and his sophomore team finished 13-1 en route to the state title. He also lettered as a freshman in baseball, and lettered three times in power lifting, taking third place in state as a junior, finishing behind two seniors.

**ACADEMICS**—He is undecided about a major at Colorado. He owns a 3.2 grade point average in high school and was a member of the honor roll.

**PERSONAL**—Born February 27, 1989 in Denver, Colo. His hobbies include outdoor sports, weightlifting, fishing, skiing and riding ATVs. He wanted to play for Colorado because it was his dream and he wanted to play in the Big 12. His older brother, Brian, lettered four years (2003-06) at offensive guard for the Buffaloes; he started more games (9) as a true freshman than any other player in Colorado history.

## EUGENE GOREE, DL

6-2, 285, Murfreesboro, Tenn. (Riverdale)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A two-year letterman, he was named first-team All-State, All-Area, All-Region, All-Mid-State and was on the Tennessee 2006 Dream Team as a senior. He was also a finalist for Mr. Football in Tennessee after recording 58 tackles, 12 for losses including five quarterback sacks, and a pass broken up at the defensive tackle position. He has some experience on offense, as he practiced as the team's backup center. As a junior, he was named All-Area after registering 92 tackles, six tackles for a loss, six sacks and a fumble recovery at defensive tackle. His top game as a senior came against Lebanon, as he made 12 tackles, one for a loss and another for a quarterback sack in Riverdale's 30-10 victory. As a junior, he recorded 11 tackles, two for losses with a sack in a 50-3 win over Siegel. That same season against La Vergne, he was in on 10 tackles and had a quarterback sack in a 28-20 win. Under head coach Ron Aydelott, Riverdale went 11-2 his senior season, making it to the state quarterfinals, following up a 13-1 season his junior year when Riverdale advanced to the state semifinals.

**ACADEMICS**—He plans to major in business management at Colorado.

**PERSONAL**—Born September 1, 1989 in East St. Louis, Mo. His hobbies include watching game film with his 10-year old brother, Anfernee. *(Last name is pronounced gore-ray)*

## JOSH HARTIGAN, OLB

6-1, 210, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Northeast)

**Note:** He enrolled at Colorado in January (and thus counts toward last year's class).

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A three-year letterman, he was named second-team All-Broward County and was a team captain his senior year. Playing linebacker on defense in a 4-4 scheme, he had 100 tackles, including 10 for losses and one quarterback sack, two fumble recoveries and seven passes broken up. He played a limited role on offense, catching five passes for 60 yards and a touchdown at wide receiver. Playing defensive end as a junior he was an honorable mention All-Broward County selection, when he made 40 tackles (six sacks) and four passes broken up; he also played a blocking fullback on offense. As a sophomore he was mostly a back up at defensive end making 10 tackles and grabbing an interception. His top games came in his senior season: against Ft. Lauderdale, he made 15 tackles in a 28-6 win. In a loss against Cyprus Bay, he made 10 tackles and had four catches for 40 yards. Under head coach Adam Ratkevich, Northeast was 11-16 during Hartigan's three years, including 5-5 his senior season.

**ACADEMICS**—He is interested in sports medicine at Colorado. He owns a 3.0 grade point average in high school.

**PERSONAL**—Born August 25, 1989 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. His father, Sterling Palmer, was a linebacker/defensive end for Florida State (1989-92), and was a fourth round draft choice (101st player overall) by the Washington Redskins; he spent three seasons with the Redskins (1993-96). Hobbies include pick-up basketball games and listening to music. He also enjoys fixing up cars and taking his '95 Mercury Grand Marquis to car shows like the East Coast Ryders. He aspires to play in the NFL, but when his football career is finished he would like to be a trainer in the NFL or at a high school in Florida.

## JONATHAN HAWKINS, DB

5-10, 185, Perris, Calif. (Rancho Verde))

**Note:** He enrolled at Colorado in January, as he was a gray-shirt from the 2006 recruiting class. He relocated to Boulder last fall and worked a part-time job.

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A *PrepStar* All-West team member, as he was one of 35 defensive backs named to the squad. As a senior, he earned first-team all-Southwest Conference honors, in addition to being designated as one of the top 25 cornerbacks in Southern California (as selected by the *Los Angeles Times*). He played safety most of the time, although he played some games at cornerback, depending on the opposition's personnel. He totaled 90 tackles, six for losses including one quarterback sack, three forced fumbles, two interceptions and five passes broken up. He also started one game at running back, gaining 80 yards on the ground. As a junior—in his first year playing football—he was named second-team all-league, as he recorded 60 tackles, six for losses with three sacks, five forced fumbles, one interception and eight passes broken up. Top career games included 12 total tackles and two passes broken up in a 24-12 loss to Temecula Valley as a senior; in a 24-21 win over Murrieta, he had an interception, six tackles and two pass deflections, also as a senior; and as a junior, his best game came in a loss against Arroyo Valley, when he recorded 12 tackles and an interception. Under coach Pete Duffy, Rancho Verde was 4-6 his senior year and 5-5 his junior season. He also lettered four times in basketball (guard) and in track; he advanced to the CIF Finals in the triple jump and long jump, earning third-team All-State honors as a junior.

**ACADEMICS**—He is interested in kinesiology as his major at Colorado. He owns a 3.8 grade point average in high school, was named his school's Academic Player of the Year as a senior and was on the honor roll his freshman through senior years.

**PERSONAL**—Born March 9, 1988 in Harbor City, Calif. An uncle, Joe Caldwell, played for the ABA Carolina Cougars/Spirits of St. Louis in the early 1970s. As a senior, he won first place in an AVID writing competition. Every student in Riverside County had to write a paper on segregation in the school system and Hawkins' paper was chosen over all of them. After college, he hopes to be a physical therapist at a college.

## MIKE ILTIS, OL

6-3, 285, Sarasota, Fla. (Riverview)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A three-year letterman, he was a team captain and the MVP of the offensive line as a senior. He was named second-team All-State, played in the All-State and All-Area games and won the team Coaches Award for the offense. Alternating between offensive guard and tackle, he had 72 pancake blocks on the season, allowed no sacks and graded out to 89 percent for the year. He also helped block for the area's leading rusher who accumulated 1,600 yards on the ground. He also played defensive end and tackle, registering 40 tackles, two quarterback sacks, a fumble recovery and five pressures. As a junior, he won the Coaches Award the Up and Coming Player honor on offense. He was also a member of the All-Area team as he allowed no sacks. He played just one game at defensive tackle, making three tackles. As a sophomore, he started 12 of 14 games and given the Offensive Line Up and Coming Award. His top game as a senior came in a 17-13 win against Booker, as he allowed no sacks going up against Florida Gator recruit John Jones; he also registered six tackles, one for a loss and two quarterback pressures on defense. In a 9-6 victory over Booker in his junior year he had six pancake blocks and sprung the lead block for the bootleg and game-winning touchdown pass with eight seconds left. As a sophomore, he had six pancake blocks and graded out to 87 percent in a 28-0 win over cross-town rival Sarasota in the state regional finals. Under coach John Sprague, Riverview went 21-12 in his three seasons, including a 12-2 mark when they advanced to the fourth round of the state playoffs. He also lettered three times in weightlifting, finishing second in the county two years in a row. He has lettered three times in track (throws), as in the discus, he qualified for regionals as a sophomore and junior, and in the shot put, he made it to the regionals as a freshman and then to the state meet his sophomore and junior seasons; he was the Florida state runner-up in 2006 with a throw of 55-9.

**ACADEMICS**—He plans to major in business at Colorado. He owns a 3.9 grade point average in high school, and was on the honor roll his freshman through senior years. He was also named to the National Honor Roll and was a student escort for professionals at Riverview's Career Days.

**PERSONAL**—Born October 14, 1988 in Sarasota, Fla. His hobbies include watching adventure and comedy movies, fishing, hanging out at the beach and playing baseball. His parents are loan officers and own their own company called Iltis Lending Group, and after graduation, he would like to work for them and possibly open a branch of his own. He has visited Colorado several times as a youth and has skied here often.

## DEVAN JOHNSON, TE/HB

6-1, 230, Turtle Creek, Pa. (Woodland Hills)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—Scout.com ranked him as the No. 10 fullback in the nation (Rivals.com pegged him at No. 12), though he earned first-team All-Conference and honorable mention All-State and All-Big East honors as a receiver. He was also a member of the "Pennsylvania Big 33" which earned him an appearance in an all-star game in Hershey. In high school, he played no less than eight positions: running back, fullback, tight end, halfback, wide receiver, linebacker, defensive end and kick returner. A team captain as a senior, he played primarily wide receiver and fullback, as he had three rushes for 50 yards and two touchdowns along with five catches for 100 yards and two scores receiving. He also played linebacker on defense, registering 50 tackles and a quarterback sack. As a junior, he was named first-team All-Conference, honorable mention All-State and was a member of the "East Elite 33." Playing tight end, he had 12 catches for 300 yards and six touchdowns. He also recorded a punt return for a touchdown, coming in his first game as a junior in a 21-7 win over Shaler. His other top games came in his senior year: In a 17-14 win over Central, the No. 7 team in the nation, he had five pancake blocks from the fullback position. Against Fox Chapel, he finished with three catches for 60 yards and a touchdown. On defense, he had five tackles, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. Under head coach Greg Novak, Woodland Hills was 10-3 his senior season, advancing all the way to the state finals. His team went 8-3 in his junior campaign, losing in the state quarterfinals.

**ACADEMICS**—He is interested in majoring in sports management or business at Colorado. An honor roll student as a sophomore in high school.

**PERSONAL**—Born August 8, 1989, in Pittsburgh, Pa. His hobbies include helping coach a youth basketball league. His half-brother, Kevan Barlow, played collegiately at the University of Pittsburgh and spent five years with the San Francisco 49ers (2001-05) and is now with the New York Jets.

## **BRIAN LOCKRIDGE, TB**

5-8, 175, Trabuco Canyon, Calif. (Mission Viejo)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A three-year letterman, he was named first-team All-CIF (Pac-5 Division), All-South Coast League and All-Orange County as a senior. He received team most valuable player honors as he rushed for 1,383 yards on just 151 carries (9.2 per) and 16 touchdowns. He also had four catches for 120 yards on the year; his numbers would have been greater but due to MVHS' win margins (33-plus points), he saw little second half action in many games. As a junior, he was named the team MVP while accumulating 1,000 yards rushing and eight touchdowns. He was named the team's best running back as a sophomore as he rushed for 1,220 yards and 12 scores. His top games as a senior include a 195-yard, three-touchdown performance in a win against Los Alamitas. Against Mater Dei, he rushed for 183 yards and a touchdown in a loss. In his sophomore season, he ran for 150 yards and scored two touchdowns in a 35-21 victory over De La Salle. Under head coach Bob Johnson, Mission Viejo went 9-3 his senior season, making it to the second round of the playoffs. In his junior year, his team went 12-1 and advanced to the third round of the playoffs. He also lettered three times in track and field, participating in sprints and relays, the high jump and the long jump. His 4x100 relay team broke the school record and was the No. 3 team in California his junior year.

**ACADEMICS**—He is interested in majoring in business and civil engineering at Colorado. He owns a 3.2 grade point average in high school.

**PERSONAL**—Born January 31, 1989, in Lancaster, Calif. His hobbies include fishing and playing the piano and guitar. He taught himself to play the instruments starting as a 5-year old and can write and play his own music. He would like to start his own business or get into commercial real estate after college. He started his own clothing line in Orange County with friends from school; the clothing line is called S.F.C. (Stay Fresh Crew). He will attend Colorado with a teammate, lineman Matt Bahr, one of his key blockers during his prep days at Mission Viejo.

## **KAI MAIAVA, C**

6-1, 290, Wailuku, Hawai'i (Baldwin)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—Ranked as the No. 31 center in the nation by Rivals.com, he was a first-team All-State and All-Maui Interscholastic League performer as a senior. He played mostly offensive guard, moving over to center when the game was usually in hand to get others in the game; he coordinated the O-line play calls once in from the coaching staff. A team captain, he averaged 10-12 pancake blocks a game as a senior, when he had eight direct touchdown blocks, was not call for a sack, and was called for just four penalties. He was a three-year starter on offense, at tackle as a sophomore, before moving permanently to guard as a junior; he had 8-10 pancake blocks per game that season when he earned honorable mention All-State and first-team All-MIL accolades. He did not allow a single quarterback sack during his high school career, and in spot play at defensive tackle as a senior (4-5 plays per game), he had 12 tackles, two for losses, with four hurries, a forced fumble, a pass broken up and a blocked field goal. His top games came against Kamehameha, where he went to school from the second through ninth grades; as a junior, he had 23 pancake blocks against them, and as a senior, another 18 with a touchdown block in two one-sided Baldwin wins. Under coach Jimmy Morimoto, Baldwin was 10-1-1 his senior year, the MIL champions, but lost in the state semifinals on a 43-yard 'Hail Mary' pass as time expired to Kahuku, 22-20. BHS was 11-1 his junior season, also the MIL champs again reaching the state semis, and was 8-2 his sophomore season. He played one year of junior varsity basketball (as a sophomore), lining up at center; his best game was a 35-point, 10-rebound effort against Lahaina.

**ACADEMICS**—He is interested in sports medicine as a possible major at Colorado. An honor roll student as sophomore in high school, where his grade point average has always hovered around 3.0.

**PERSONAL**—Born June 3, 1989 in Waikulu, Hawaii (the island of Maui). Hobbies include playing video games and relaxing at the beach. Father (Scott Mahoney) was an offensive lineman for the Buffaloes, lettering three times between 1969-71 under coach Eddie Crowder and had a cup of coffee with the Kansas City Chiefs in the NFL. His grandfather ("Prince" Neff Maiava) was a famous world renowned wrestler in the 1950s and 1960s, and the six-time Hawaii heavyweight champion (his signature finishing move was the head butt, and he used to use his hair to cut his opponents hands). An Uncle is "The Rock," Dwayne Johnson, a famous modern day wrestler turned actor and former Miami Hurricane football player. And an older brother, Kaluka, is a junior linebacker at Southern California. There is royal Samoan lineage in the family. Full first name is Kealaka'i (pronounced kay-ala-ka-E; his last name is pronounced my-ab-vuh).



**RYAN MILLER, OL**

6-8, 310, Littleton, Colo. (Columbine)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—Colorado's Gatorade Player of the Year, he earned a host of All-America honors for his senior season, including *Parade*, *USA Today* (first-team), *SuperPrep*, Rivals.com, *PrepStar* and MaxPreps. He was selected to play in the prestigious U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio after the season (January 6), and he helped the West to a 24-7 win. Nationally, he was among the top five linemen in the nation by Rivals.com (No. 3), Scout.com (No. 3) and *SuperPrep* (No. 5), the latter ranking him as the No. 2 overall player at any position in the Midlands and placing him on its Elite 50 squad. *The Sporting News* ranked him as the No. 46 player in the nation overall. Rivals.com pegged him as the No. 23 overall player in the nation (one of 29 players awarded five stars). He was an All-Colorado selection by the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post* (one of just two repeat selections), All-State (5A) and All-South Metro Conference. He was one of five finalists for the state's high school athlete of the year for all sports in 2006 by *Mile High Sports Magazine*. He earned All-Colorado, All-State, all-league honors as a junior, when he was a *Student Sports* Underclassmen All-American and listed among the Rivals.com Underclassmen Top 100. As a senior, he started all 14 games at offensive tackle, averaging well over 10 pancake blocks per game, did not allow a quarterback sack, was flagged for just one penalty and had five direct touchdown blocks. On defense, he exhibited solid skills at defensive end in registering 31 tackles, 20 solo with 12 for losses including five sacks, with 10 hurries, four passes broken up, two fumble recoveries with one forced. As a junior, he started all 13 games at tackle on offense, averaging over 10 pancake blocks per game, and saw spot duty at defensive end, making 12 tackles, three sacks and a pass broken up. He started seven games as a sophomore at offensive tackle (no defense). Top career games included a 13-10 win in the state 5A championship game over Mullen his senior year, when he had four tackles, including a quarterback sack that stopped one scoring drive, and two hurries, one of which caused an interception. He also chased down Mustang running back Phil Morelli after an 80-yard gain, stopping him at the 13; another score was saved when Mullen fumbled two plays later, preserving a 7-3 lead prior to halftime. In the state playoffs against Cherry Creek his junior year, he had 15 pancake blocks and helped the Rebels rush for over 400 yards in the win. Under coach Andy Lowry, Columbine was 13-1 his senior year (state champs), 11-2 his junior season (losing to Douglas County in the state semis) and 10-2 his sophomore season (reaching the second round of the playoffs). He also lettered three times in wrestling, posting a 13-3 record as a junior in the 285-lb. weight class, but had to give it up once he exceeded the maximum weight. He will letter four times in track this spring (throws), with career bests of 48-9 in the shot put and 147-0 in the discus.

**ACADEMICS**—He is interested in journalism as a possible major at Colorado. An honor roll student as a junior in high school.

**PERSONAL**—Born July 6, 1989 in Littleton, Colo. His hobbies include outdoor sports such as four-wheeling and camping, playing the drums and line dancing; he also is an avid kite flyer, something he's done since he was four years old, and was a Boy Scout. His maternal grandfather, David Peterson, was an end on Colorado's 1960 freshman team. He mentored younger students as a junior and senior in a special program at Columbine. He committed to Colorado midway through his senior season (October 25).

**CONRAD OBI, DE**

6-4, 245, Grayson, Ga. (Grayson)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A *SuperPrep* All-Dixie team member, despite missing most of his senior season after tearing a tendon in his hand (he played in just four games); he was ranked as the No. 28 player in Georgia, the No. 4 defensive end by the publication, the same positions they ranked him going into the season. Scout.com tabbed him as the No. 55 defensive end in the nation, despite just playing 14 games at the varsity level. At defensive tackle, he recorded 15 tackles, two quarterback sacks and forced two fumbles and was just starting to learn the tight end position on offense before his hand injury. As a junior, he was named All-Gwinnett County, was a two-time Gwinnett County Player of the Month and was a four-time Grayson Player of the Week. Playing defensive end, he registered 65 tackles, 14 for losses including six sacks, two fumble recoveries, a pass broken up and a blocked field goal. He played on the junior varsity squad as a sophomore in his first year of organized football. His top games came in his junior season: He had eight tackles and two sacks in a 23-17 loss to South Gwinnett, and recorded 14 tackles and three quarterback pressures in a loss to Parkview. Under head coach Mickey Conn, Grayson was 6-6 in his senior campaign, making it to the second round of the state 8-5A playoffs, and was 4-6 his junior year. He also lettered as a freshman and sophomore in basketball.

**ACADEMICS**—He is interested in business or communications as possible majors at Colorado.

**PERSONAL**—Born December 21, 1988 in College Park, Ga. His hobbies include playing video games and working out. After his football career he would like to make a living as a football broadcast analyst.

*(Last name is pronounced oh-bee)*

## ANTHONY PERKINS, DB

5-11, 180, Northglenn, Colo. (Community Christian/Northglenn)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—Attended Community Christian High School, but was a three-year letterman playing for Northglenn (through the co-ops program) where he was considered a one-man wrecking crew. A *SuperPrep* All-Midlands team member, as the publication ranked him as the No. 48 player in the region (and the second best cornerback). As a senior, he was an All-Colorado selection by the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post* at defensive back, also garnering first-team All-State (5A) and All-Front Range League honors; he was the Front Range League's Player of the Year and he also earned regional Offensive Player of the Year honors. On offense, at quarterback and running back as a senior, he rushed for 1,628 yards and 15 touchdowns, as he ranked third in the state in rushing. He also threw for 842 yards and six scores. Defensively, he played safety, tallying 40 tackles and two interceptions. He was an honorable mention All-State selection as a junior. He was also named first-team All-District, first-team All-Region and was the District and Regional MVP. He played exclusively at quarterback as a junior, passing for 1,200 yards and 10 touchdowns while also rushing for 1,500 yards and 17 touchdowns. On defense, he saw limited action in the secondary. He played wide receiver as a sophomore, racking up 300 receiving yards, but also rushed for 400 yards and four scores. Defensively that season, he played cornerback and racked up 50 tackles. His top games in his junior season include a 42-24 win against Boulder when he had 18 carries for 270 yards and five touchdowns to go along with 90 passing yards. In a win against Horizon, he had 200 rushing yards, four rushing touchdowns and 70 passing yards on offense to go along with two interceptions on defense. As a senior, his top game against Horizon, as he had 23 carries for 340 yards and three touchdowns. He also had four receptions for 70 yards and a touchdown. Under head coach Vince Veiya, Northglenn went 5-6 in Perkins' senior season, advancing to the second round of the playoffs. His team went 4-6 and missed the playoffs in his junior season. His sophomore team won the Front Range Championship before losing in the first round of the playoffs with a 7-3 record. He also lettered four times in basketball and was named All-Region as a sophomore and junior. He will also letter four times in track (sprints, relays), earning All-District and All-Region honors as a sophomore and All-District honors as a junior.

**ACADEMICS**—He is undecided on his major at Colorado. He owns a 3.9 grade point average and has been on the honor roll throughout high school.

**PERSONAL**—Born January 18, 1989, in Leonardtown, Md. His hobbies include working out. He helps coach his little brother (Cederro) and his football team. His grandfather, Don Perkins, was an All-American running back at New Mexico (1956-59), and was later drafted by the Dallas Cowboys where he played from 1960-68. He was the first player to commit in the 2007 class, doing so on April 24, 2006.

## LAGRONE SHIELDS, DL

6-4, 260, Memphis, Tenn. (Ridgeway)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A three-year starter and letterman, Rivals.com ranked him No. 58 nationally at defensive end as a senior, when he was named both first-team All-State and All-Region. He was also named to the Shelby County All-Star Team and was the Liberty Bowl Auto Zone Player of the Month in October. Named the team's best defensive lineman and a team captain, he racked up 97 tackles, with an astounding 31 for losses including 17 quarterback sacks, to go with three fumble recoveries and one forced fumble. He also played tight end on offense, mainly coming in for blocking situations. As a junior, he was named honorable mention All-State and first-team All-region. He was also named the team's Most Improved Player en route to registering 103 tackles, including 18 sacks, and seven fumble recoveries. As a sophomore, he tallied 76 tackles and eight sacks. His top games included a win over Germantown in his junior year in which he made 13 tackles, three-and-a-half sacks, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery. In his senior year, he tailed 11 tackles and three sacks in a 40-7 win over Central; in a 10-7 win over Millington, he had eight tackles, two sacks and a game-clinching forced fumble. Under coach John Colley, Ridgeway was 11-1 his senior season, losing in the second round of the state playoffs; that followed a 13-1-1 record his junior year (state semifinalist), and a 10-5 mark his sophomore season (state quarterfinalist). He also lettered three times in basketball; he was a member of Ridgeway's state championship team his sophomore season.

**ACADEMICS**—He is undecided about a major at Colorado.

**PERSONAL**—Born December 30, 1987, in Memphis, Tenn. His hobbies include watching movies. He came to Colorado because he loved the atmosphere at CU; coming from the South, he loves the mountains and likes Boulder because "it's a real college town."

*(first name is pronounced lub-gronn)*

## **MARKQUES SIMAS, WR**

6-2, 195, San Diego, Calif. (Mira Mesa)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A *SuperPrep* All-American and All-Far West performer as a senior, as the publication ranked him as the No. 24 overall player in the region (the third best receiver); he was also an *SP* preseason AA pick, ranked as the ninth best receiver in the nation ahead of his senior year. He was also rated among the top 20 receivers in the nation by Rivals.com and Scout.com. A three-year letterman in football, he was named both first-team All-Section CIF and All-Eastern League on offense (he was a second-team All-League choice on defense at cornerback). At wide receiver, he caught 40 passes for 778 yards and 19 touchdowns as a senior, while collecting three interceptions on defense. Playing only offense as a junior, he was named first-team All-Eastern League, second-team All-Section CIF and was tabbed an All-State Underclassman. On the year, he caught 41 passes for 875 yards and 16 touchdowns. His top game as a junior came against Scripps, as he hauled in six passes for 150 yards and three touchdowns in a 42-10 victory. In his senior season, he had 10 receptions for 220 yards and three touchdowns against Escondido; he also made two interceptions on defense in a 31-28 loss. Against Vista, he had eight catches for 150 yards and two touchdowns to go along with an interception in a 36-7 win. Under coach Gary Blevins, Mira Mesa was 6-5 his senior season, losing in the first round of the state playoffs; he missed the game with a torn thumb ligament. As a junior, his team went 9-2-1 and advanced to the state semifinals, and as a sophomore, they were 8-4 and made it to the quarterfinals. He also lettered three times in basketball, and was named first-team All-Eastern League his sophomore and junior seasons.

**ACADEMICS**—He plans to major in business or education at Colorado. He owns a 3.1 grade point average in high school and was named to the *San Diego Union-Tribune* All-Academic Team his junior year.

**PERSONAL**—Born February 21, 1989 in San Diego, Calif. His hobbies include traveling and spending time with his family.  
(Name is pronounced *marcus see-muss*)

## **JOSH SMITH, WR**

6-1, 185, Moorpark, Calif. (Moorpark)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A two-year letterman, as he did not start playing organized football until his junior year. As a senior, he was an honorable mention All-Marmonte League selection and won the team's Iron Man Award for playing on both sides of the ball. Offensively, he finished with 21 receptions for 477 yards and scored 10 touchdowns, and at cornerback, he recorded 35 tackles and had six interceptions. As a junior, he caught nine passes for 250 yards and four touchdowns. His top prep games came in his senior season: against Royal, he had 115 receiving yards, three touchdowns and an interception in a 40-7 win. He had five catches for 95 yards and a touchdown, to go along with two interceptions—one of which was returned for a touchdown—in a 34-7 victory over Saugus in the state quarterfinals. He had a 48-yard touchdown reception and a 50-yard punt return in the first half of a 40-0 win over Newberry Park. Under coach Tim Lins, Moorpark finished 12-3 both his junior and senior seasons, losing in the championship game each occasion. He also lettered three times in track (sprints, relays and jumps); he ran in the 4x100 relay and holds the school record for the long jump—his 23-0 distance came in his first-ever meet after he coached himself.

**ACADEMICS**—He plans to major in business management at Colorado. He owns a 3.3 grade point average in high school where he was a scholar athlete and member of the honor roll.

**PERSONAL**—Born December 29, 1987 in Tallahassee, Fla. His hobbies include working out and watching movies. After college, he hopes to get into real estate and start his own clothing line called "Josh Fly" and hopes to come out with his own shoe called "PF Fly's." He received scholarship offers from several schools for track, including Harvard, Columbia and Cal Poly. He came from Florida because he wanted a change in lifestyle: he lives with his older sister, Alexis Scott, who was a big part of helping him make it through high school and succeed coming from a broken household.

## **LAMONT SMITH, DB**

5-9, 170, Penn Hills, Pa. (Pittsburgh Central Catholic)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A *SuperPrep* All-Northeast performer, as he was ranked as the No. 32 player in the state of Pennsylvania (and the fifth best defensive back). He was a member of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* "Fabulous 22" team and to the *Harrisburg Patriot-News's* "Platinum 33" unit. A three-year letterman in football, he was named second-team All-State and first-team All-AAAA Conference his senior year. As Central Catholic's starting running back, he had 152 carries for 990 yards and 13 touchdowns. He also had 13 catches for 250 yards and three more scores. He played cornerback sparingly on defense and missed four games of his senior campaign due to a high ankle sprain. As a junior, he was named first-team *PA Football News* All-State and All-AAAA Conference and second-team Class 4A when he was the runner up for both the Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania Player of the Year honors. As a junior, he rushed the ball 250 times for 2,070 yards and 29 touchdowns. He also caught five passes for 50 yards and two touchdowns. As a sophomore, he played mostly on special teams and sparingly as a running back, earning the distinction of being the team's most improved player. His top games came in his junior season: he had 212 rushing yards and three touchdowns in a 48-14 win over Gateway in the state quarterfinals; in a 21-20 win over North Hills, he rushed for 279 yards and two scores; against Trafford, he racked up 290 rushing yards and three scores in a 37-15 victory. Under coach Terry Totten, Central Catholic was 36-4 during his three seasons: his sophomore team went 16-0 and won the state title, and his junior and senior teams each finished 10-2 and lost in the state semifinals. He will letter for a fourth time in track this spring (sprints, relays), and lettered once in baseball.

**ACADEMICS**—He plans to major in business management at Colorado. An honor roll student with a 3.1 grade point average in high school.

**PERSONAL**—Born September 18, 1988 in Pittsburgh, Pa. His hobbies include playing video games. He was the second player to commit to CU's 2007 recruiting class, doing so in May 2006.

## **SIONE TAU, OL**

6-6, 310, Honolulu, Hawai'i (Damien Memorial)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—Scout.com ranked him as the No. 33 offensive tackle in the nation, the No. 1 O-line prospect from Hawai'i. As a senior, he earned first-team All-State and All-Interscholastic League of Honolulu (ILH) honors; he earned honorable mention in both as a junior and was honorable mention All-ILH as a sophomore. A three-year starter on the offensive line (all at tackle), he graded out to 88 percent as a senior, when he averaged 8-to-10 pancake blocks per game with eight direct touchdown blocks; he allowed two sacks and was flagged just twice for penalties. As a junior, playing inside tackle on an uneven line, he graded out to 93 percent, averaging seven pancake blocks per outing with five touchdown blocks. He graded out at 84 percent as a sophomore. He played offensive tackle, defensive end and was the long snapper on the junior varsity team as a freshman. Top games his senior year included Punahou, where he returned in the second half after suffering a leg injury, serving as an inspiration to his team, and against Iolani, when he had 18 pancake, three touchdown and six downfield blocks in the win. Damien Memorial was 4-5-1 his senior year and 5-5 his junior and sophomore seasons under coach Dean Nakagawa. He will also letter four times in basketball (center) and in track (throws); he owns career bests of 49-11½ in the shot put, as he was fourth in the state meet as a junior, and 175-0 in the discus.

**ACADEMICS**—He is interested in criminal justice as his major at Colorado. Earned his way onto the Honor Roll for the first time as a senior, as he had nearly a 3.4 grade point average for the fall semester.

**PERSONAL**—Born March 2, 1988 in Pago Pago, American Samoa. His hobbies include music, both singing and playing instruments as he can play five: guitar, bass guitar, piano, drums and the ukulele. He also considers himself an "amateur" counselor so-to-speak, as he takes great satisfaction working with friends and loved ones on any problems they bring to him.

*(name is pronounced see-own-E towe, as in now)*

## **NATE VAIOMOUNGA, DB**

5-11, 190, Corona, Calif. (Corona)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A two-year letterman, he earned first-team All-CIF (Inland Division) in addition to garnering honorable mention All-Area and first-team All-Mountain View League as a senior. He was also named the Team MVP as he recorded 71 tackles, 12 for losses including nine quarterback sacks from the defensive end position. He also played running back on offense, finishing with 52 rushes for 237 yards and five touchdowns. As a junior, he was named first team All-League and was the Team Defensive MVP. At defensive end, he totaled 79 tackles, 11 for losses with three sacks, two fumble recoveries, three forced fumbles, six quarterback hurries and four passes broken up. At running back, he had 24 rushes for 111 yards and three touchdowns. His top game as a junior came in a win against Martin Luther King High School when he racked up 15 total tackles. His top games as a senior include a 42-14 victory over Ayala in which he made eight tackles and tallied three quarterback sacks. Against Arlington, he had 10 tackles and a sack and added a rushing touchdown on offense in a 35-7 win. Under coach John Brandon, Corona was 8-3 his senior season, losing in the first round of the playoffs, and was 5-5 in his junior campaign. He also lettered twice in volleyball and once in wrestling where he placed second in league as a senior.

**ACADEMICS**—He is undecided on his major at Colorado.

**PERSONAL**—Born November 3, 1989, in Faga'alu, American Samoa. His hobbies include playing rugby, a sport he has recently taken up.

*(last name is pronounced vy-ob-moun-guh)*

## **ANTHONY WRIGHT, DB**

6-0, 185, Compton, Calif. (Compton)

**HIGH SCHOOL**—A two-year letterman, he starred on offense, defense and special teams, contributing in the latter as his team's primary punter and kickoff specialist. As a senior, he was named both first-team All-State and All-CIF Southern Section (Pac-5 Division). He was also his team's MVP and Co-Moore League MVP. He was named to the *Long Beach Press Telegram's* Dream Team and was an All-*Los Angeles Times* defensive back. Playing running back and wide receiver, he ran the ball 130 times for 1,168 yards and eight touchdowns, while catching 14 passes for 394 yards and five scores. He played free safety on defense, tallying 105 tackles, two quarterback sacks, three fumble recoveries and four interceptions (two of them returned for touchdowns). As a junior, he was named first-team All-League as a running back and was Compton's MVP. On offense, he had 100 rushes for 1,020 yards and seven touchdowns and caught four passes for 77 yards and a score. Playing free safety on defense, he had 55 tackles and two interceptions. His top games came in his senior season: he had 23 tackles, an interception and a fumble recovery in a 21-0 loss to Dominguez; in a 27-20 win over Esperanza in the first round of the playoffs, he had 200 rushing yards and two touchdowns to go along with a 27-yard touchdown reception and 15 tackles (nine solo); in a 60-21 win over Millikan, he had 227 rushing yards for three touchdowns and 150 receiving yards for two touchdowns on offense. On defense, he had seven tackles. Under head coach Calvin Bryant, Compton went 8-4 his senior season, advancing to the second round of the playoffs, and was 7-4 his junior year, losing in the first round. He also lettered three times in track, participating in the hurdles, long jump, 100-meters and relays.

**ACADEMICS**—He plans to major in business management at Colorado. He owns a 2.8 grade point average in high school, highlighted by a 3.2 GPA in his junior year.

**PERSONAL**—Born April 3, 1989, in Compton, Calif. His hobbies include watching movies and spending time at the beach. He came to Colorado because of secondary coach Greg Brown and his reputation for producing elite defensive backs. His cousin, Michael Richardson was a defensive back for the Chicago Bears (1983-88) and the San Francisco 49ers (1989); he was a teammate of CU linebackers coach Brian Cabral on the 1985 Chicago Bears Super Bowl champion team.