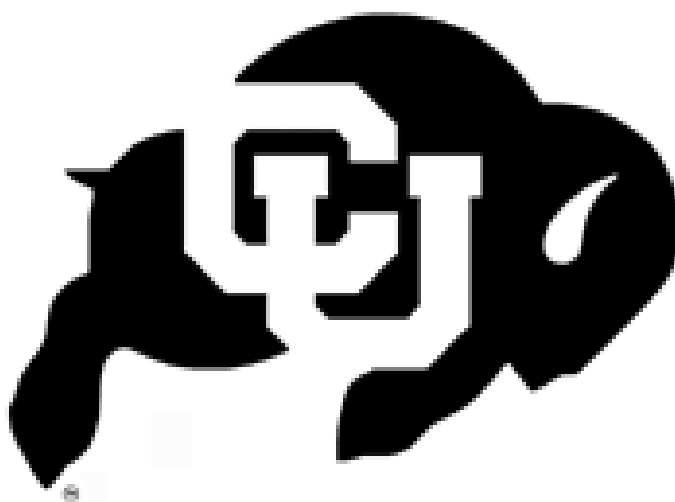


2004 COLORADO FOOTBALL



INDIVIDUAL PLAYER NOTES

(as of December 17 a.m.)

INDIVIDUAL PLAYER NOTES

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

1 STEPHONE ROBINSON, CB/KR



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He is CU's top punt return man and one of its best gunners on punt coverage. He was named to the conference coaches' all-Big 12 second-team as one of the leagues 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, 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.
- ➔ Making Robinson's feat even more impressive is the fact that CU has shied away from setting up blocking schemes on punt returns this season. Focusing mostly on blocking the kick with a heavy rush – which the Buffs have successfully accomplished twice – Robinson has been forced to mostly make plays on his own. He's drawn credit from head coach Gary Barnett for his consistent effort under such heavy pressure.
- ➔ A lightening quick gunner on the punt team, he has recovered two botched punt catches this year. Versus Kansas State, he pounced on a fumble by return man Yamon Figurs at the K-State 9-yardline. The recovery set up a 3-yard Bobby Purify touchdown run that gave CU a 17-10 lead early in the third quarter. Against Iowa State, he once again was the first player down field, as Robinson's presence distracted the return man who fumbled on the Cyclone 17-yardline. Robinson's recovery set up a 54-yard field goal from Mason Crosby; the boot would have been shorter had CU not later committed a penalty on offense.
- ➔ He is also back for every kick off return with Terrence Wheatley, and has returned 15 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.
- ➔ He battled hamstring problems since the spring, when he missed most of the April sessions with the injury; he reinjured it during the summer and tweaked it early in camp, but was 100 percent by the last week in August.

□ 2003

- ➔ He practiced at wide receiver and kick returner on the scout team, as he was awarded the Scout Team Offense Award for the Kansas State game.

2 HUGH CHARLES, TB



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ As he continues to learn the offense, he stands second on the depth chart along with Byron Ellis for CU likes to utilize his outstanding speed on reverses and toss outs. He is becoming an integral part in CU's four-pronged running attack along with Bobby Purify, Lawrence Vickers and Ellis.
- ➔ Said offensive coordinator Shawn Watson on Charles and Ellis after the Kansas game in which Charles rushed a five times for 14 yards and pulled in his first career pass (good for 8 yards): "It looked like they were hitting (the hole) at 100 miles per hour. They've been there almost an entire year. They've grown. They know what they're doing. They're getting it. Are they done products? No. But they're getting it. They really gave us something."
- ➔ He has developed into one of CU's special teams standouts on punt coverage, for he has six tackles as a gunner. He's begun to make a name for himself, as he's consistently been one of the first Buffs to reach the return man.
- ➔ 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.
- ➔ He has blazing speed, while head coach Gary Barnett said he just might be the fastest Buff on the team. He has never run an official 40-yard dash at CU, but may have an edge on Terrence Wheatley, who had the team's fastest 40 in spring testing.

□ GENERAL

- ➔ He enjoys flying planes; he earned his solo license in a Cessna 172 as a sophomore in high school.

3 TYRONE HENDERSON, FS/SS



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ A key component of CU's depth in the secondary, he has seen plenty of action as a starter at free and strong safety this year with the knee injury to J.J. Billingsley.
- ➔ In the Big 12 Championship he started at strong safety for the fifth time this year, and racked up eight total tackles (five solo). On the season he has 10 starts (five at both the free and strong spots.)
- ➔ At Texas A&M he did not start, but was in for 73 of 85 plays in perhaps one of his most complete games this year. He finished the day with seven tackles (four solo), one stuff for loss, one third down stop and a pass breakup. With Billingsley out the rest of the season, he has stepped up his play and leadership in the junior's absence.
- ➔ 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. Henderson had a solid outing at Missouri, while he also totaled six solo stops against Oklahoma State.
- ➔ 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).
- ➔ In Billingsley's place again, he played in all but six snaps against North Texas and continued to impress with nine total tackles (seven solo).
- ➔ After entering fall camp at No. 1 on the depth chart, he enjoyed a fine few weeks, as he worked with the first-team defense while Billingsley recovered from arthroscopic knee surgery. In CU's only major scrimmage, he totaled five tackles (three solo), one third down stop, one interception, one pass breakup and a forced fumble.

□ 2003

- ➔ He was suspended for the fall semester for violating team rules, and attended nearby Fort Range Community College during that time.
- ➔ 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.

□ 2002

- ➔ He redshirted during the year but practiced in the secondary for all the fall. He was the Scout Team Defense Award winner for the Texas Tech game.

3 BRIAN WHITE, QB



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ A big gunslinger (6-5, 215) who is currently listed No. 3 on the depth chart, the coaches have been very pleased with his progression since spring ball. He is a prototype pocket passer, who was particularly impressive during fall camp, as he made a strong push to become CU's backup quarterback. Said quarterback coach Shawn Watson during fall camp: "Brian White has really, really matured. He's put himself in a position where we've got to evaluate his day-to-day progress. It's not like it's a slam-dunk deal (for James Cox to be No. 2)."
- ➔ He saw his first game action late in the fourth quarter against Oklahoma State, as he completed his lone pass for 10 yards on a strike to Blake Mackey.
- ➔ 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 is very capable of throwing a good deep ball.
- ➔ 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.

□ 2003

- ➔ He redshirted during the year, and was one of the first incoming freshmen to arrive for summer workouts to practiced in 7-on-7 drills with returning players for a head start.

4 RON MONTEILH, WR



- ❑ His uniquely spelled last name is pronounced *mon-tay*.
- ❑ Even when Colorado has had a very talented group of receivers over the past couple seasons, fellow wide outs cannot help but remark how he's had the "best hands" out of anybody in the receiving corps.
- ❑ **THIS SEASON**
 - ➔ The only returning CU receiver who had a catch in 2003, Monteilh is the leader of a raw receiving unit that has plenty of talent, yet lacked experience. He is currently tied for 23rd all-time in CU history with 58 catches.
 - ➔ In what was the biggest play of his career – and maybe the most important for CU this season – Monteilh scored on a last-second, 64-yard touchdown pass from Joel Klatt against Kansas State to secure victory for the Buffs. With the score knotted at 31, and 16 seconds remaining in the game, CU was driving and looking to set up a Mason Crosby field goal. On first-and-10 from his own 36, Klatt rolled left after being pressured in the pocket. Seeing that Monteilh had popped open behind K-State's zone coverage, Klatt tossed a laser to the senior, who then galloped 24 yards down the sideline and into the end zone with 5 seconds remaining. The score was Monteilh's first career touchdown and the longest reception of his career. On the day, he finished with four grabs for 106 yards, and became the third CU receiver in 2004 to break the century mark in a game.
 - ➔ Colorado certainly is no stranger to 64-yard game-winning touchdowns. All you have to do is look back 10 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."
 - ➔ Said offensive coordinator Shawn Watson on the improbable play: "I'm really happy for Ronnie. He's been a great player for us. He's done everything we've asked him to do. For him, on his final game (at Folsom Field), with all of the significance in there, he'll remember it forever. It was a touchdown that won the game, put us in a bowl game and kept us alive in the North."
 - ➔ Usually known for catching the short flair out passes, he bested his career long reception (at the time) against North Texas in Week 3 with a 30-yard snag setting up the go-ahead touchdown (21-14) in the second quarter.
 - ➔ Against Missouri he tied his career high in receptions, as he caught five for 25 yards, with two earning first downs.
 - ➔ Against Iowa State, he reeled in four balls for 43 yards, including a long of 26 from Klatt that helped lead to a Mason Crosby 33-yard field goal. On that same drive, he also caught a pass good for 7 yards on third-and-6 to extend the push.
 - ➔ In what may have been one of his most complete games this season, he made four catches for 50 yards at Texas A&M, with his biggest snag coming at a very crucial moment in the game. Down 23-19 and faced with a third-and-5 from their own 35 with 2:25 remaining, Monteilh reeled in a 9-yard pass to extend CU's eventual 13-play, 82-yard drive that ended with a Bobby Purify touchdown run and put Colorado up by 3 with a minute remaining. Earlier in the third quarter, he also had a great 29-yard catch over the middle when he just barely got his hands beneath an under thrown ball to extend the Buffs' drive into Aggie territory.
 - ➔ Missed the Texas game with a nagging shoulder sprain, but returned to full speed at Kansas to net a 12-yard pass.
 - ➔ Though he has never done it during a game, he has the ability to return punts. He saw action at the job during spring and fall drills; now he is currently listed as the third returner behind Stephone Robinson and Mike Duren.
- ❑ **2003**
 - ➔ Monteilh saw action in 11 of 12 games as the backup to Derek McCoy at the "Z" receiver position.
 - ➔ He missed his first game of the season at Iowa State (Nov. 15) due to a shoulder injury sustained the week before against Missouri.
 - ➔ His best performance of the year was against Baylor (Oct. 11), grabbing a career-high five receptions for 45 yards.
 - ➔ His 18-yard dramatic sideline grab against Baylor kept the Buffs' final drive alive in the waning minutes ... allowing Colorado to tie the game at 44-44 and send it to overtime.
 - ➔ During the spring the coaches selected him as the Most Improved Offensive Player, and he was one of only 13 Buffs to be selected to the prestigious Spring Victory Club.
- ❑ **2002**
 - ➔ After fighting through a nagging hamstring pull early in the spring and during fall camp, he came back strong and established himself as a reliable receiver. His top game came in the opener against rival Colorado State when he reeled in three passes for 18 yards; he finished the year with 12 catches for 95 yards.
- 2001**
 - ➔ He sat out the year after transferring from Oregon State. There were no hard feelings about the Beavers; Corvallis just wasn't for him.
- ❑ **GENERAL**
 - ➔ A former volunteer bereavement counselor, he serves as a big brother volunteer for the Boulder County Partners organization, a nonprofit that pairs adults with at-risk teens.
 - ➔ Father (leukemia) and grandmother (breast cancer) both passed away when he was nine years old.

MONTEILH, CONTINUED

- ➔ His mother, Marissa, is a writer. Two of her romance novels have been published and became best sellers, and she has signed a contract with HarperCollins for two more books.
- ➔ In 2004 he was selected as a model for the national calendar, *Alaye*, whose mission is to increase breast cancer awareness in the African American community.
- ➔ When he set the Beverly Hills High School record in the 100-meter dash, he bested a mark that existed 30 years.
- ➔ His favorite class is math, which makes sense since he's an Economics major.
- ➔ Ron tries to pattern himself after New Orleans Saints wide receiver Dante Stallworth.
- ➔ In high school, Ron once appeared in a promotional sports video, catching passes. Who was throwing them? None other than John Elway, the former Bronco great. Monteilh's mother, Marissa, alerted us to this note, but was also quick to point out he received no monetary reward for appearing in the video!
- ➔ Nicknamed "90210," he grew up in Beverly Hills, Calif. and attended Beverly Hills High School ... the one made famous as the setting for the once-popular TV show *Beverly Hills 90210*.
- ➔ He enjoys playing video games in his spare time, especially John Madden Football (and he claims he is one of the best in the country at it ... we are still waiting for someone to challenge his bold statement).
- ➔ The top of his car's license plate holder reads, "BIG PLAY," with the bottom stating "MONTEILH."

4 CHRIS RUSSELL, CB



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He opened spring ball and fall camp at strong safety, but made the switch back to cornerback early in August when Vance Washington and Terrence Wheatley were each sidelined with injury. He currently stands at No. 3 on the depth chart at the left post, but tore a quad muscle on kickoff coverage in the Big 12 Championship game against Oklahoma. He was slated to miss the Houston Bowl, but his injury wasn't as bad as first thought, so he may be available for action on Dec. 29.
- ➔ He could work his way into CU's nickel and dime packages, but mostly is a special teams performer.
- ➔ He saw his first career action in the Colorado State opener, and has played on special teams all 11 games.
- ➔ He fared well in camp at the position he was normally recruited to play, for in CU's lone scrimmage he totaled two tackles against the first-team offense, one of which came as a 7-yard sack off a cornerback blitz.
- ➔ He added 20 pounds of muscle to his frame in the off-season, as he owns the fourth best power clean (285-pounds) in the "Speed" group comprised of tailbacks, defensive backs, receivers, quarterbacks and kickers.

□ 2003

- ➔ Recruited to play cornerback out of high school, he redshirted the season while practicing at both corner and safety. Due to his physique, the coaches realized he had the strength and size to play safety, so they went ahead and had him work at each position. He earned the Scout Team Defense Award for his preparations before the Iowa State game.
- ➔ He also saw some time at wide receiver, but the coaches later decided to keep him on defense.

□ GENERAL

- ➔ He has known fellow teammate and Buff Linebacker Joe Sanders since age 11, as the two grew up together in Nashville, Tenn. In high school the duo was highly recruited by many schools, but they each choose to attend CU after their initial visits to Boulder. It was none other than former CU basketball center and current Indiana Pacer David Harrison who helped persuade them to become Buffs. Harrison, who also hails from Nashville and attended a nearby high school, has known both Russell and Sanders since 1998.

7 BERNARD JACKSON, QB/WR



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ 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.
- ➔ 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.
- ➔ Against the Aggies he completed his first career pass to Joel Klatt on a trick play good for 18 yards. Late in the second quarter facing third-and-4, Klatt tossed a lateral pass out to Jackson in the flat, as Jackson faked a run but then threw back to a streaking Klatt down the sideline. The play helped set up CU's first touchdown of the day when Klatt found Evan Judge two plays later on a 15-yard strike.
- ➔ He was in on some more trickery versus Kansas State when he took a reverse handoff, weaved his way through defenders and then found Blake Mackey downfield for a 41-yard pass completion. The play was a key part in the drive that ended with a Joe Klopfenstein touchdown catch and gave CU a 24-10, third quarter lead.

JACKSON, CONTINUED

□ 2002.

- ➔ He redshirted after practicing the entire year at quarterback. He was the Scout Team Offense Award winner for two games against Kansas and Missouri.

□ GENERAL

- ➔ One of the main things he enjoyed during high school in California was coaching his younger brothers at football.

8 DANIEL JOLLY, VB



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ With the ability to do so many things on the football field, he and Lawrence Vickers had a new position created just for themselves in the middle of fall camp, as he is now listed No.2 at “V-Back,” which stand for “versatile back.” Capable of catching the ball out of the backfield, blocking for a ball carrier, pounding the pigskin up the middle or darting outside, he has technically ditched the “slash” moniker with the tailback/fullback.
- ➔ Though he is so versatile, he has mostly focused on the blocking fullback position this year while Vickers has taken reps behind Bobby Purify.
- ➔ One of the biggest backs on the team (6-0, 230), he is not afraid to run through people and dish out as much punishment as defenders try to inflict on him. He has tremendous leg strength, as he tied for the top squat (527-pounds) in CU’s “Speed” group category this spring. He also had the top power clean (315) and incline press (311). In short-yardage situations, the coaches usually turn to him first, for he has the ability to smash through the line.
- ➔ His abilities actually haven’t been showcased that much this season, as CU may have an edge on future Big 12 opponents who have yet to see what he brings to the field.
- ➔ He filled in for Purify (eye/blurry vision) several times during Colorado’s opener against CSU, rushing for 42 yards on 13 carries. He gained 4 yards on a second-and-3 attempt when CU was in need of a first down to extend its drive in the third quarter.
- ➔ He missed the spring game after suffering a knee sprain in the final week of spring practice. Before that, while seeing time at both fullback and tailback, he had 58 yards on 14 carries in three main scrimmages.

□ 2003.

- ➔ Did not play the first four games of the season due to injury; he suffered a hyper extended knee the second week of drills and didn’t really get back into the swing of things until just before the Florida State game.
- ➔ Jolly finished his freshman campaign with 109 net yards rushing on 47 attempts (2.3 ypc). But, he finished fourth on the squad in scoring with his six rushing TDs for 36 points.
- ➔ He carried the ball a career-high 13 times at Texas Tech (Nov. 1), finishing the day with 20 yards and a TD.
- ➔ Jolly racked up a career-high at Kansas State (Oct. 18), with 28 yards rushing.
- ➔ He scored his first career TD against Baylor (Oct. 4), a 1-yard run that put CU up 10-7 late in the second quarter.
- ➔ A short-yardage threat with his tough, pounding style of running, Jolly added two more TDs in the third quarter against Kansas (Oct. 11), a 1-yarder and a 2-yarder – the former tying the game at 38-38.

□ GENERAL

- ➔ Hobbies include the Korean Martial Art “KukSool,” as he started when he was just 3 and at the time was the youngest to receive a black belt at age 8. Followed that up by being the youngest to win a world championship at 9.
- ➔ His father (Daniel Sr.) holds the rank of the highest non-commissioned office in the Air Force: “Chief.”

9 TOM HUBBARD, FS/SS



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ Originally a walk-on, he was awarded a scholarship for his hard efforts this past spring and has developed into a smart player who has started two of the last three games at the free spot. (He started at strong safety twice against Oklahoma State and Iowa State). He is a consistent, hardworking competitor who made his first career start against Iowa State in place of Tyrone Henderson.
- ➔ He has become a staple in the CU secondary over the past several games and has earned the coaches’ respect for always being in the proper position to make plays. Also a standout on special teams, he finished regular season play leading the Buffs with 13 special unit 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. The seven stops marked a new career-high for Hubbard.
- ➔ Against Kansas State, in what was by far the best game of his college life, he racked up a then career-high six tackles (including one for a 4-yard loss), had one third down stop and returned his first ever interception 23 yards. His theft led to a 50-yard Mason Crosby field goal that gave CU a 10-0 lead in the first quarter.
- ➔ In his first extensive career action versus ISU, he totaled four tackles (three solo) and one third down stop on all 80 plays. He was one of three Buffs to play in every snap.

HUBBARD, CONTINUED

- ➔ Said head coach Gary Barnett after Hubbard's performance: "When I was on the headset I didn't hear too many times that he was out of position and didn't do what he was supposed to do."
- ➔ Added a humble Hubbard on his own play and the opportunity to succeed for CU: "I missed some tackles that I shouldn't have missed, but we won, so that's all that matters. ... 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."
- ➔ He leads the team in special teams points with 13, including an interception on a 2-point try by Nebraska and a recovered onside kick against North Texas.
- ❑ 2003
 - ➔ He played six games on special teams only — the first five and then the last — due to a broken hand that caused him to miss the middle part of the season. His lone statistic was a knockdown block on return unit duty.
 - ➔ He made another position switch in spring practice, as he moved from receiver to safety and racked up five tackles (three solo) and a third down stop in three major scrimmages.
- ❑ 2002
 - ➔ He was moved from quarterback to receiver in spring practice, but injured a knee in conditioning drills and came back at full strength by August. He did not play during the year, but dressed for nine games.
- ❑ 2001
 - ➔ He was recruited at quarterback out of high school, as he redshirted the season and practiced at the position the entire fall.
- ❑ GENERAL
 - ➔ Majoring in business (accounting and finance), 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. A, accounting/finance major at CU, he garnered first-team Academic All-Big 12 honors this year by receiving a 3.20 GPA or higher.

9 BLAKE MACKEY, WR



❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ After entering the fall fourth at the "X" receiver position, he has really come into his own, as he's now listed No. 2 at the spot. He's begun to impress the coaches by displaying the great athleticism and speed he was recruited for.
- ➔ In perhaps the best all-around game of his career, he was an integral part in CU's 26-20 win over Nebraska when he made his first start in place of an ill Evan Judge. For the second time this year he eclipsed the 100-yard barrier with an eight-catch, 108-yard performance. He caught his first career touchdown pass on a 6-yard strike from Joel Klatt to cap CU's opening drive that covered 90 yards on 14 plays. The push set the tempo for the game and gave Colorado an early 7-0 lead.
- ➔ He also caught a short pass in the flat and then sped 43 yards down the sideline to the NU 9 to help set up a Bobby Purify touchdown run that gave CU a commanding 17-0 lead early in the second quarter. Said offensive coordinator Shawn Watson on Mackey's play: "He just keeps growing up and getting better and better. He's putting more and more of it together every week, and you can see him learning. The sky is the limit for him; he could be one of the best we've had in awhile if he keeps putting his mind to it."
- ➔ After totaling just one catch in his first four contests this year, he had a huge breakout game against Oklahoma State when he reeled in six passes for a team-high 129 yards; he became the first Buff in 2004 to break the 100-yard mark in one game.
- ➔ On the second play of the game, Joel Klatt found Mackey down the sideline for a 40-yard bomb (CU's long play from scrimmage this season at the time), as the sophomore made a leaping grab over his defender and managed to remain in bounds. He had a key grab on third down late in the second half that gained 12 yards and helped extend a drive that eventually ended when the Buffs stalled on fourth down at the OSU 12-yardline. He had important first down catches on both of CU's scoring drives, including a 26-yarder that moved CU into Cowboy territory during the Buffs' last scoring push.
- ➔ Watson again on Mackey's performance: "I just hope the confidence keeps coming because Blake Mackey is a big talent. We need Blake Mackey."
- ➔ At Texas A&M, he continued his big-play performance when he stabbed a 36-yard pass down the sideline from Klatt. On the first drive of the second half, he went up over his defender and made an outstanding over-the-shoulder grab on third-and-4 that positioned CU at the Aggie 24-yardline. On the next play Klatt connected with Evan Judge to give CU a 19-10 lead early in the third. Mackey finished the day with two catches for 39 yards.
- ➔ Against Kansas State he only had one catch, but it was one of the day's biggest when wide out Bernard Jackson took a reverse handoff and then found him downfield for a 41-yard trick pass completion. The play was a key part in the drive that ended with a Joe Klopfenstein touchdown catch and gave CU a 24-10, third quarter lead.

MACKEY, CONTINUED

- ➔ Earlier in the year, he reeled in his first collegiate reception against CSU when Klatt connected with him for 16 yards on the third play of CU's second drive. CU then scored its second touchdown of the game on that drive.
- ➔ Said CU receivers coach Ted Gilmore: "He has everything you are looking for in a wide receiver. He has size; he has unbelievable quickness and good hands. So, it's just a matter of giving him a chance to play."
- ➔ During spring testing, when perhaps he wasn't even at full speed, he ran the team's second-fastest 40-yard dash in 4.39 seconds. He also has the team's second best vertical jump (39-inches), and the top lateral drill time (6.92). Several of the strength and conditioning coaches have called him one of the top athletes for CU.
- ➔ He missed the last two weeks of spring drills with a shin injury, just as he was beginning to shine in practice; he caught a 16-yard TD pass in the first major spring scrimmage.
- ❑ **2003**
 - ➔ After suffering a lower leg injury in fall camp, he sat out most of the season recuperating. He did return for the final two games of the year, but did not catch any passes.
- ❑ **2002**
 - ➔ He practiced the year at receiver, but was redshirted after not seeing action in any games. For the week of the San Diego State game, he earned the Scout Team Offense Award.

10 JAMES COX, QB



- ❑ **THIS SEASON**
 - ➔ He is CU's No. 2 quarterback, as he solidified the job with his stout play during the spring and fall camps. He has played several times this season, and figures to be one of the most capable and versatile backups in the Big 12.
 - ➔ With CU down late in the Big 12 Championship against Oklahoma, he came in for Joel Klatt on the final drive and tossed an incomplete pass.
 - ➔ Cox saw time in the waning minutes of a tough loss to Texas, as he completed 4-of-9 passes for 76 yards, including a career long 45-yard strike to Joe Klopfenstein late in the game. At the time the connection was the longest play from scrimmage for CU this season.
 - ➔ 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 would later be pulled after tossing a pick that proved costly when it was returned for a touchdown by ISU. Barnett on the switch: "I just said, 'We're playing Joel.' I wanted experience in the game, and I thought that was best at the time. I didn't want to put James in a difficult situation."
 - ➔ Added offensive coordinator Shawn Watson: "James started out well, hit a rough spot and struggled when he hit that rough spot, and Joel went out a lot calmer a lot more collected than he has been. He didn't try to put the burden on his shoulders. He just tried to go out and run the offense."
 - ➔ 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 engineered CU's only scores on the day; he hit on 5-of-7 attempts for 47 yards during the Buffs first TD push, and then was 5-of-6 for 74 yards on the next drive when he capped the run with a 21-yard touchdown strike (his first ever) in the back of the end zone to Dusty Sprague. Cox also gained 21 yards on four rushing attempts, including an 8-yard scramble during the last scoring drive. "He was really sharp in his decision making," Watson said afterwards. "He didn't miss much."
 - ➔ He saw his first action of the season against North Texas when he came into the game during the fourth quarter as CU was up 45-21. He completed his first career pass for positive yardage (other pass competition against Florida State in 2003 netted no yards) when he hit tight end Dan Goettsch for 13 yards. To cap off the 30-yard drive, he maneuvered his way into the end zone on a 3-yard run for his first career TD to solidify the score, 52-21.
 - ➔ The coaches have marveled at his progression from last season, as it's evident that he has more confidence in his game and knowledge of the offense than ever before.
 - ➔ 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 says he can't recall a time when he's had so much depth at the position.
- ❑ **2003**
 - ➔ He played in two games last season (Florida State and Iowa State), with his first coming in the final minutes against the Seminoles. His lone pass attempt on the year was against FSU, and he completed it for no yards.
 - ➔ He was the third-string quarterback throughout the season behind Joel Klatt and Erik Greenberg, respectively, but did hold the No. 2 post when Klatt missed the Florida State game and Greenberg made the start.
- ❑ **2002**
 - ➔ He redshirted, and did not see any action. He won the Scout Team Offense Award twice for his preparations before the Baylor and first Oklahoma game.

12 AKARIKA DAWN, ILB



□ His first name is pronounced *ock-ah-reek-ah*.

□ **THIS SEASON**

- ➔ Currently listed second on the depth chart at the “Mike” inside linebacker position, he has settled in after shuffling between safety and linebacker in 2003. He’s part of a ‘backer rotation that sees Thaddeus Washington, Jordon Dizon and himself rotate between the “Will” and the “Mike” throughout games. He started off fall camp working in the “Will” spot, but that all changed with the emergence of freshman Jordon Dizon. Once the coaches found the right combination of linebackers to patrol the gridiron, it was evident that Dawn fit best at “Mike” – which is where he mostly plays now.
- ➔ He has a nose for making big plays when most needed, for he finished the regular season first on the team with 13 third down stops. He is also fifth in tackles with 71 (44 solo).
- ➔ He started against CSU and totaled eight stuffs (one for a 2-yard loss on a crucial third down in the first quarter), and a pass deflection against the Rams. Against Washington State, he totaled two QB pressures and tied for a team-high two pass breakups when CU constantly wreaked havoc in WSU’s backfield.
- ➔ In another solid performance against North Texas he had six stops (four solo), one TFL and a pass breakup.
- ➔ At Missouri he helped orchestrate a strong defensive push that limited the Tigers to just 17 points all day; in the loss he had nine total tackles, as CU held the combustible Brad Smith to just 76 yards on the ground.
- ➔ 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 chasedowns. His biggest sack went for 10 yards and dropped ISU back down to its own 10-yardline forcing a third-and-20 situation.
- ➔ He followed up that performance with another solid effort at Texas A&M with six tackles (five solo), a team best three third down stops, one QB hurry and one QB chasedown.
- ➔ Against Texas he totaled a career-high 10 tackles, including a team-high eight solo stops. To follow up that effort he had five tackles and another third down stop at Kansas during CU’s strong defensive effort.
- ➔ In CU’s win over Kansas State, he posted five stops, two third down stops and one quarterback chasedown. Two weeks later in the Big 12 Championship, he had four tackles and one third down stop.
- ➔ One of the most vocal and outspoken leader of the linebackers, it is his duty to call out defensive formations in the huddle before each play. Coaches have been very pleased with the leadership role he’s undertaken and with his overall play thus far.

□ **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).
- ➔ He looked like a natural at his new position, and quickly emerged as a contender for starting honors at the weak-side post. However, he made his first career start against Baylor (Oct. 4), lining up at the middle linebacker spot.
- ➔ Put together an impressive performance at Iowa State (Nov. 15), tallying three tackles (2 solo), a forced fumble and his first career interception.
- ➔ Dawn had his first career blocked PAT at Texas Tech (Nov. 1). The block came in the final minutes of the second quarter, keeping CU’s lead at 14-9 before heading into the half with a 14-12 lead.
- ➔ Had a breakout game in his first start against Baylor, tallying six tackles (four solo), one sack and a forced fumble.

□ **2002.**

- ➔ He and Jeremy Bloom were the members of a very prestigious club last season, as they were the only two freshman players to score touchdowns on special teams during the year. Against San Diego State, Dawn recovered a botched punt catch by the opposing return man, and darted 8 yards for the score. Bloom, of course, scored touchdowns on special teams returning two punts for scores.
- ➔ He finished fourth on the team in special teams points with 10.

□ **GENERAL**

- ➔ Though he hasn’t played them in a while, he plays four musical instruments: trumpet, baritone, tuba and French horn. He was never in a band, and the only relative who can play an instrument is his father (piano).
- ➔ He is fluent in Spanish... and he has to be. His fiancé is from Columbia.

13 ERIK GREENBERG, QB



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He missed the majority of camp, as he entered August with a pulled hamstring suffered during summer workouts. On his first day back, he dislocated a finger on his throwing hand during a fumble drill. He returned to the practice field at full strength for the week of preparations against Wash. State (he is currently fourth on the depth chart).
- ➔ A good friend (and roommate) of Klatt, the two often stay late when everybody else has left to watch film with quarterbacks coach Shawn Watson.
- ➔ He competed with Cox for the backup job during the spring, but dropped to third on the depth once drills ended.

□ 2003.

- ➔ He saw action in five games (two starts vs. Florida State, Baylor), going 49-for-92 (53.3%) with 737 yards, six touchdowns and three picks.
- ➔ He completed 16-of-29 passes for 346 yards (2 TD/1 INT) at Baylor, the second most passing yards by a walk-on or former walk-on in CU history (trailing Joel Klatt's 402 against CSU earlier in the year).
- ➔ In first collegiate start vs. Florida State, Greenberg was 14-for-30 for 192 yards and a TD, though he had very good stats in the first half. He connected with Jeremy Bloom for an 81-yard touchdown to produce CU's only points.
- ➔ Threw his first collegiate pass against Washington State (Sept. 13,) after replacing an injured Klatt. His 199 passing yards in that game ranked as the fourth most passing yards in a game for a former walk-on at CU.
- ➔ He excelled in first down passing situations, completing 20-of-31 passes (64.5%) for 231 yards and two scores.
- ➔ He received a lot of repetition during the spring along with Klatt and Cox, as he completed 26-of-46 passes for 417 yards and three touchdowns; he didn't throw any interceptions either.

□ 2001-02.

- ➔ He was on sabbatical from the team serving his Mormon mission, required by all 19-year-olds in the Church of Latter Day Saints. He traveled to Bolivia for two years to serve the mission, from January 2001 to December 2002.

□ 2000.

- ➔ His redshirt freshman season, he got into one game (Oklahoma State) but did not record any stats. That year, he earned a scholarship for his hard work and strong play.

□ GENERAL

- ➔ He was engaged this past summer, and will be married this coming January.

13 JOE SANDERS, OLB



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He has seen some quality playing time this season and shown he's capable of making big plays at the right time.
- ➔ 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 became the second Buff in as many weeks to return his first ever interception for a touchdown, as ironically, his position mate Iwuh did so against CSU.
- ➔ Said Sanders on his play: "Coming into the game, I just somehow knew I was going to make a big play that would help us out. Buff 'Backer is a good position to make plays; I'm glad I took advantage of that."
- ➔ He credits former CU quarterback and current defensive technical intern Darian Hagan with helping him to be ready. "Darian told me that as a freshman, he was goofing off on the sideline when his number was called and he wasn't mentally ready to get in there. So he told me to pay attention to every play, because you never know when you'll be asked to play."
- ➔ He hasn't seen much time on defense since the return of Iwuh, but has been on special teams each game.
- ➔ Originally slated to play tight end, he switched to Buff 'Backer during spring ball. Having played linebacker in high school, he took well to the post and worked his way up the depth chart.

□ 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

- ➔ He has known fellow teammate Chris Russell since age 11, as the two grew up together in Nashville, Tenn. In high school, the duo was highly recruited by many schools, but they each choose to attend CU after their initial visits to Boulder. It was none other than former CU basketball center and current Indiana Pacer David Harrison who helped persuade them to become Buffs. Harrison, who also hails from Nashville and attended a nearby high school, has known both Russell and Sanders since 1998.

14 JOEL KLATT, QB



- ❑ **Chart Watch:** Klatt is currently fifth all-time in passing yards (4,679), second in completions (425), second in attempts (695), sixth in total offense (4,626) and fifth in touchdown passes (30). His 21 TD passes on the 2003 season were the second most in a single year at Colorado, trailing only Koy Detmer (22, 1996). He is only the fifth player in school history to reach the 4,000-plus milestone, as he did so against Texas this year. Only Kordell Stewart and Mike Moschetti reached the plateau in fewer games.
 - ➔ 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.**
 - ➔ After a stellar debut in 2003, Klatt was back to prove that last year's success was no fluke. He continued to develop in the CU offense this past spring and during fall camp, and now has stated his claim as one of the top quarterbacks in the Big 12. *Street & Smith's* tabbed him a preseason honorable mention All-American.
 - ➔ As Colorado struggled as a whole in the Big 12 Championship against Oklahoma, Klatt and the CU offense never clicked to find a rhythm. Under heavy pressure for most of the game, Klatt was only able to complete 8-of-26 passes for 52 yards (one interception), while he was sacked three times and pressured on numerous occasions.
 - ➔ 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.
 - ➔ Versus Kansas State, he had an all-around good day when he ran for one touchdown and completed 14-of-26 passes for 184 yards and two scores. His biggest touchdown pass of the game (and his most crucial read this season) came in the waning seconds as CU and KSU were knotted at 31 apiece. 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. With 16 seconds on the clock, CU was driving and looking to set up a Mason Crosby field goal. On first-and-10 from his own 36, Klatt rolled left after being pressured in the pocket. Seeing that Monteilh had popped open behind K-State's zone coverage, Klatt tossed a laser to the senior, who then galloped 24 yards down the sideline and into the end zone to give CU the lead. 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 10 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."
 - ➔ In CU's win at Kansas, he moved into seventh in all-time total offense, as he passed for 153 yards on 18-of-31 attempts. He netted one 12-yard touchdown pass to Klopfenstein that gave CU a 17-14 lead early in the third.
 - ➔ Having to put up with a fierce and constant blitz from Texas, CU's offense never found its rhythm while Klatt only completed 17-of-28 passes for 142 yards. One of his two interceptions on the day was tipped at the line of scrimmage and caught by a defender in an acrobatic fashion.
 - ➔ 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.
 - ➔ Amazingly, he helped CU go 11-of-19 on third down during the day, as the Buffs converted on three different third downs during their final regulation drive that ended with a Bobby Purify 1-yard touchdown run. On the 13-play, 82-yard push Klatt completed five passes for 70 yards, including a 34-yard strike to Dusty Sprague setting CU up on the A&M 12. That drive gave CU a 3-point lead with 1:05 remaining and forced A&M to later kick a field goal to send the contest into overtime.

KLATT, CONTINUED

- ➔ Klatt's two TDs both went to Evan Judge, as the junior connection hooked up for scores of 15 and 24 yards. The first pass came with 1:33 remaining in the first half on a corner end zone fade and gave CU a 13-7 lead going into the break. The second was on the opening drive of the third quarter that put CU up 19-7. Klatt had his fourth career 300-yard game and moved past Steve Vogel and current CU technical intern Darian Hagan into fifth place on the all-time passing yards list.
- ➔ Klatt also got into the game's action as a receiver, as he caught his first career pass during the day. Against the Aggies, WR/QB Bernard Jackson completed his first career pass to Klatt on a trick play good for 18 yards. Late in the second quarter facing third-and-4, Klatt tossed a lateral pass out to Jackson in the flat, as Jackson faked a run but then threw back to a streaking Klatt down the sideline. The play helped set up CU's first touchdown.
- ➔ 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."
- ➔ Against Oklahoma State, he did not return in the second half after spraining his neck on a 9-yard scramble late in the first half. Finishing the day 12-of-24 for 133 yards, he was forced to deal with several dropped passes and CU's inability to convert on two fourth-and-short occasions.
- ➔ Looking to capitalize after a solid week against North Texas, Klatt came out against Missouri and fell victim to some unfortunate luck. Though he completed 18-of-28 passes for 171 yards, he tossed three interceptions that probably were no fault of his own. His first pick of the game came on a busted screen play; the pass was snagged while he was being pressured by a violent rush, as Klatt was unable to see if Bobby Purify was open. His second theft came off a tipped ball that fell into the hands of an unsuspecting MU defender, while his third happened on one of the game's most questionable play calls. Late in the game, with CU down 17-9 but knocking on the doorstep, Klatt threw a perfect spiral fade in the corner of the end zone to Evan Judge. Judge went up to make the grab, and while it looked as if he held possession for the score, he was unable to secure it and MU's Shirdonya Mitchell wrestled it away and came out of the scrum with "possession."
- ➔ Added Klatt on CU's first loss of the year and the Buffs' struggling offense: "We definitely hurt ourselves. There were some big plays that got taken back and some little things that we need to pay more attention to and correct those before we can move the ball."
- ➔ 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.
- ➔ He didn't open the year against CSU and Washington State with the performances he had hoped for, but did kick off the first quarter against the Rams with an impressive 7-of-8 output for 71 yards (long of 20). Klatt on CSU's defensive adjustments after the first quarter: "They did a really nice job of making some adjustments. We were able to run the ball and get them on their heels. But, they got us out of our (passing) rhythm."
- ➔ Maybe the most respected leader on the team, he was voted a captain by his teammates. He is the first junior to be named a captain since Craig Ochs in 2002 (Ochs quit the team three weeks into the season). The last true junior to serve as captain for an entire year was Ben Kelly in 1999.
- ➔ During the spring, Klatt said he felt much more comfortable with the offense, and because of that, he didn't have to worry about learning everything (unlike in his first two years). "This year, I knew what was going on and I understood everything that was happening around me. Instead of worrying if I was doing something right or not, I was able to just go out there, execute and play," he stated.
- ➔ Fellow captain and tailback Bobby Purify jokingly on Klatt's abilities: "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."

KLATT, CONTINUED

- ➔ Even with the success he attained in 2003, Klatt believes he can be much better... and he knows how he wants to get there: "I'm a very driven person, not only athlete, but I'm very driven. I wouldn't be satisfied not going to do a lift. I wouldn't be satisfied with myself if I didn't prepare like I know I can. So, it's all about, kind of personally, how you want to be looked at by the team, and how you want to play. That's how you're going to approach it. ... The biggest thing you have to do is keep yourself hungry. You have to keep yourself humble and continue to do exactly what you've done to get yourself there. You can't just sit back."
- ➔ He added about 15 pounds of muscle to his frame in the off-season, and believes he is better built to handle the rough style of play that can take a toll on a quarterback's body.

□ 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:

11—Darian Hagan, Soph. (1989); **8**—Kordell Stewart, Soph. (1992); **5**—Bobby Anderson, Soph. (1967), Bill Solomon, Jr. (1978), Mike Moschetti, Jr. (1998); **4**—Ken Johnson, Soph. (1971); **2**—Paul Arendt, Soph. (1969), Mark Hatcher, Soph. (1985), Charles Johnson, Jr. (1990), **Joel Klatt, Soph. (2003).**

- ➔ Klatt finished the season going 233-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). For his efforts, 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.
- ➔ At Iowa State, Klatt engineered a touchdown drive on CU's first possession for the third straight game, and for the fifth time in the past six games. His effort covered 69 yards, while completing 4-of-4 passes for 59 yards. His efforts earned him CU's Offensive Player of the Game honors for the fourth time this season.
- ➔ With his 187 passing yards against Missouri (Nov. 8), Klatt became the fifth player in CU history to throw for 2,000 yards in a season, joining Kordell Stewart (three times), John Hessler (twice), Mike Moschetti (twice) and Koy Detmer (once – but the only player to top 3,000). Klatt joins Stewart and Hessler as the lone sophomores to do it.
- ➔ He was a part of all three TDs scored against Oklahoma (Oct. 25) in the 34-20 loss, completing three TD passes to three different receivers. His 24-of-33 effort, good for a 72.7 completion percentage, was the fifth best percentage in school history in a game where a QB attempted 30 or more passes.
- ➔ He started 10 of 12 games on the season ... missing two starts due to a shoulder injury... the Buffs were 5-4 in games he started *and* finished.
- ➔ Against Kansas State (Oct. 18), Klatt started the game completing seven consecutive passes (56 yards) until his first pass fell incomplete at the 6:17 mark of the first quarter. He completed 6-of-6 passes for 55 yards and had two rushes for 7 yards on the opening drive, including a fourth-down sneak for a first down.
- ➔ Also at Kansas State, he found nine different receivers in the game, completing 29 of 45 passes for 290 yards and a TD. That was the sixth time in the seven games that at least eight players have had one or more catches this year.
- ➔ He had the second 400-yard game of his career against Kansas (Oct. 11), completing 38-of-54 passes for 419 yards and two TDs (he had 402 in his first career start against CSU earlier this season). In addition to throwing for the fourth most yards in CU history, he set individual school records for the most passing attempts in a game with 54 (old record – 51 by Randy Essington vs. Nebraska in 1982 and Steve Vogel at Kansas State in 1982) and completions with 38 (topping the 33 by Koy Detmer against Oklahoma in 1992). His stellar performance earned him Colorado's offensive player of the game honors.
- ➔ Also against Kansas, he had 424 yards of total offense, the seventh 400-plus yard performance in school history. His 58 plays ties for the fourth most.
- ➔ Against Baylor, Klatt's streak of consecutive passes thrown without an interception was halted at 92 when a pass was tipped and picked off late in the fourth quarter. It tied for the sixth longest streak all-time and the third at the start of a career. (The list with names and dates is on page 209 of CU's 2003 media guide).

KLATT, CONTINUED

❑ 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.
- ➔ In three major spring scrimmages, he showed he could handle being under intense pressure (the quarterbacks were live), as he only threw one interception and was never sacked (in any scrimmage, even the brief ones at the end of the daily sessions). He displayed some solid escaping ability, gaining 43 yards on seven runs.

❑ 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 found time to caddy for former CU quarterback great Bobby Anderson in golf tournaments.

16 MASON CROSBY, PK



❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He was one of 20 semifinalists for the Lou Groza Award, and being an upperclassman next season should contend for the prestigious honor as a finalist. One of the best kickers in the nation, he earned 2004 first-team all-Big 12 honors by both the *Associated Press* and conference coaches, and is expected to rack up several All-American honors as they're released over the next few days.
- ➔ Already, 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 has become a major weapon for the Buffs with both his scoring and kickoff abilities. Through 12 games, he has kicked the NCAA's longest field goal this year (60 yards), and set several major CU records. The 60-yarder is the third longest all-time in Big 12 history, while his five kicks of 50 yards or more this season are tied for an NCAA best. He owns three of CU's top six all-time kicks, 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 this year are 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.
- ➔ Against Washington State he continued to impress, as he launched his second 50-plus attempt (good for 52-yards), which was his second in two weeks. The kick put the Buffs up 3-0 early in the game. With 4:42 remaining in the contest, he connected on a 41-yarder that gave Colorado a 20-12 lead and would have forced the Cougars to go for 2 points if they had scored a touchdown again.
- ➔ He continued his great kicking show against North Texas (and was named CU's Special Teams Player of the Game), as he nailed a 49-yarder early in the third quarter. He was one yard shy of becoming the first person in school history to reach that coveted "50-plus field goal" milestone three times in a season. Dave Deline and Jim Harper each connected for three 50-plusers over their respective careers, but they each only managed a max of two in one season.
- ➔ Against Missouri he had a 21-yard field goal that came on CU's second drive of the day and cut the score to 7-3.
- ➔ 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 record of 58 set by Jerry Hamilton in 1981.

CROSBY, CONTINUED

- ➔ 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 front of a hostile Texas A&M crowd, he connected on field goals of 29 and 26 yards, while his only miss came from 50 yards and was directed into a strong headwind. The miss snapped a string of six straight made, the second longest in CU history.
- ➔ He booted a 19-yarder in the win at Kansas that helped close in on KU's early 14-0 lead, while versus Kansas State he nailed a 51-yarder early in the second quarter to give CU a 10-0 lead.
- ➔ 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.
- ➔ One of CU's lone bright spots in the Big 12 Championship game against Oklahoma, he made a 34-yarder to post the Buffs' only points on the day, and is now a perfect 16-of-16 from 40 yards and in during his career.
- ➔ What can sometimes be overlooked are his accomplishments on kickoffs this year. On 59 total kicks, he has had only 17 returned, while 41 went for touchbacks (26 of those through the end zone).
- ➔ "People don't understand how much of a weapon he is, not just for his scoring but also for the great field position he helps set our defense up with," senior defensive tackle Matt McChesney said. "The guy is a freak when kicking field goals, but it's also great knowing that (opposing offenses) won't start past the 20."
- ➔ His biggest kickoff came against Iowa State after CU was penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct following its first touchdown. As the 15-yard penalty was assessed on the ensuing kickoff, Crosby was forced to boot the ball from his own 20-yardline. Admitting that he even surprised himself with what would happen next, Crosby sent the pigskin soaring 85 yards into the back of the end zone where it was caught and downed by the ISU returner.
- ➔ He and punter John Torp — who is also having a monster year — 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 shine his shoe with a towel. The duo first did it after Crosby's 55-yard bomb against CSU. Torp was ready and waiting for the shine after Crosby nailed his 49-yarder against North Texas, but Crosby "waved him off," noting that "the kick just wasn't big enough." "Deserving" kicks have to be over 50 yards.
- ➔ 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."
- ➔ When parking outside the Colorado practice fields, it is not safe to leave your car anywhere near the practice facility fences — or even 20 yards past there. Crosby has been known to clear the "safety" nets often and send balls flying through the trees down onto unsuspecting vehicles.
- ➔ With his monster leg, he won the Bill McCartney Award during the spring for being the most outstanding special teams player. In three main scrimmages, he connected on 9-of-10 field goals attempts and was 3-for-3 on PATs.
- ➔ He was the backup punter in 2003, but has solely focused on kicking this season.

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).
- ➔ As a true freshman, Crosby was CU's starting placekicker as he won the job halfway through fall camp. After losing the job to fellow freshman Kevin Eberhart for the Florida State game (Sept. 20), Crosby regained that role the following week against Baylor (Oct. 4).
- ➔ 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.
- ➔ In the final game against Nebraska (Nov. 28), he scored five points (field goal, 2 PAT) to finish the year with 53; a new freshman record at Colorado, topping the 48 by Field and Herchell Troutman.
- ➔ At Kansas State (Oct. 18), his 53-yard field goal attempt that sailed wide left early in the second quarter ended his streak of five straight makes to open his career – falling on shy in his bid to tie Jeremy Aldrich for the most made to start a CU career (Aldrich made his first six over the 1996 and '97 seasons).
- ➔ Against Kansas (Oct. 11), Crosby handled kickoff duties for the first time as a collegian, kicking off nine times with Kansas' starting field position its own 19.8; eight went for touchbacks, seven through the end zone, with the lone return for 5-yards which was at the end of regulation that KU returned to its 18. He also converted three field goals on three attempts (23, 41, 23). He earned Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Week and CU's special teams Player of the Game honors in the process.
- ➔ He made history against UCLA, after splitting the uprights on his first collegiate field goal attempt for 40 yards – the fifth longest in CU history by a true freshman (Tom Field has the four longest, all in 1979, including the true frosh long of 51).

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 often go to the driving range a few days before each game and pound out 40-60 golf balls.

17 LAWRENCE VICKERS, VB



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He and Daniel Jolly had a new position created to better describe their roles in the offense, as he is now the starting “V-Back,” which stands for “versatile back.” Capable of catching the ball out of the backfield, clearing the path for a ball-carrier, pounding the pigskin up the middle or eluding defenders on the outside, he may in fact be one of the most versatile Buffs on the field.
- ➔ For his valiant efforts, commitment to excellence and overall enthusiasm this season, 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.
- ➔ He had a key play CU’s thrilling, last-second win over Kansas State, as he set up the improbable 64-yard touchdown pass to win the game. Facing a 3rd-&-10 situation on their own 23 with 16 seconds left, the Buffs decided to run a draw play, either to accumulate some surprise yards or run out the clock. Thankfully for CU, Vickers had bigger intentions and took the handoff up the middle to rumble 13 yards for a CU first down. The Buffs then quickly called timeout, which allowed them to execute at least one more play before the game ended.
- ➔ Vickers also reeled in a huge 24-yard pass late in the contest that sent CU deep into KSU territory (13-yardline). Four plays later Bobby Purify would score to give Colorado a 31-24 lead with 3:58 remaining.
- ➔ He really stepped up big in CU’s 30-21 win at Kansas; he totaled 74 all-purpose yards (50 receiving, 24 rushing) and had his first rushing touchdown of the year. The 4-yard jolt up the middle through KU defenders helped seal a CU victory with 3:27 remaining. His efforts earned him CU’s Offensive Player of the Week.
- ➔ He had what was probably the best game of his career against Oklahoma State when he started for an ailing Bobby Purify (shoulder) at tailback. He led CU in rushing on the day with 15 carries for 72 yards and one touchdown, while he also netted a team best nine catches for 96 yards. His nine receptions were the most by a running back in school history, and helped earn him CU’s Offensive Player of the Week.
- ➔ He scored CU’s first TD of the day against OSU when he rumbled six yards in the fourth quarter. He would have scored on a 29-yard touchdown pass from James Cox early in the third, but the play was called back after a holding penalty that changed his reception to a 22-yard gain. CU turned the ball over three plays after the penalty.
- ➔ Along with picking up his play in Purify’s absence, he has really taken on a vocal leadership role for CU. Said captain Sam Wilder: “Bobby is a great leader, and ‘LV’ is also really coming along with that. They’re both great backs, but we don’t miss much with ‘LV’ in there.”
- ➔ A week later against Iowa State, he followed up his fine performance with another solid day, as he caught four passes for 19 yards and rushed for 18 yards on nine carries in the second half absence of Purify (re-aggravated shoulder bruise). He pulled in a 17-yard pass from James Cox on CU’s second drive that helped set up a 28-yard Mason Crosby field goal and put the Buffs up 10-0.
- ➔ Perhaps his biggest moment of the day came when he recovered a botched punt return at the ISU 11-yardline. As CU defenders swarmed the Cyclone 10, Todd Miller lost concentration and fumbled the punt. Without hesitation, Vickers scooped up the loose ball to earn a Buffaloes’ recovery. That effort helped produce CU’s first touchdown three plays later when James Cox found tight end Jesse Wallace for a 3-yard score.
- ➔ 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.
- ➔ Against Washington State, he recovered a punt in the end zone that was blocked by Tyrone Henderson. It was his first-career special teams touchdown, and helped give CU a 10-0 lead in the game.
- ➔ Though he didn’t run the ball much against CSU, he served as the Buffs’ main fullback and helped clear the way for Bobby Purify’s 189 yards. He also had two catches for 17 yards, including one for a 13-yard first down.
- ➔ He likes to joke that V-Back stands for “Vickers-Back” and was specifically named after him. But even before the V-Back moniker was created, Gary Barnett called him potentially “the best that’s ever played” his position at CU.
- ➔ His versatility — and the new position — creates problems for opposing defenses, for at any one time CU can line up with a tailback, two V-Backs and a fullback in the backfield.
- ➔ He says that he had a whole new attitude coming into this season; as he stated in the spring that he’s now having more fun on the football field than ever before. He says that for the first time in a long time, he is truly enjoying the game and he relishes every single moment he can around his teammates. It’s evident in practice, as he has become a vocal leader on the field who isn’t afraid to do something that may get a laugh out of his teammates.
- ➔ 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 this off-season in his memory.

VICKERS, CONTINUED

□ 2003.

- ➔ Vickers started six games at fullback, but saw playing time in all 12 contests with his first career start against Colorado State in the season opener (Aug. 30). He finished the year with 100 yards rushing on 28 carries (3.6), and 15 receptions for 123 yards (8.2).
- ➔ Head coach Gary Barnett said of Vickers: "He has come around to where he's a guy who's going to have to be in the mix somewhere; he's going to have to be on the field."
- ➔ Vickers scored his first career collegiate touchdown on a 3-yard reception early in the second quarter in the 21-16 upset victory over No. 22 Missouri (Nov. 8).

□ 2002

- ➔ Received most of his touches against Baylor, gaining 25 yards on six attempts, and had one reception for 7 yards.
- ➔ He had a few carries in the Nov. 23 "Buff Bowl," when the third-teamers and scout players have an extensive scrimmage. In fact, he was so good, the coaches had to yank him out of there.
- ➔ He saw playing time solely as a blocker when CU lined up in its "Cadillac" formation, which is basically a Stack-I with two fullbacks and a tailback.

□ 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 DOMINIQUE BROOKS, SS/FS



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He is currently listed second at free safety, but has seen plenty of action at strong safety in several starts as well. He and Tom Hubbard have split time at both positions this season, as CU's defense doesn't lose a step with either player in the game. One of four sophomores who has consistently started in the secondary, coaches have wanted him to undertake a leadership role with junior J.J. Billingsley out for the year with a knee injury.
- ➔ He has established himself as one of the big hitters on the field, as he's fourth in total stops (72) and tied for second in solo tackles (54).
- ➔ He racked up four solo (five total) tackles against CSU in a strong season opener, including one third down stop that forced the Rams to punt late in the third quarter. Against Washington State he was in on all but two plays, and tallied two touchdown saves.
- ➔ He came out of the North Texas game early with a bruised knee, but that was before he totaled seven tackles (five solo) on 24 plays. He was at full speed against Missouri, and played in a little over than half the plays posting nine tackles (five solo) and one QB hurry.
- ➔ Against Oklahoma State he posted nine tackles and had a third down stop. His four-tackle effort and one pass break up against Iowa State came when he was one of three Buffs to participate in all 80 defensive plays.
- ➔ He had a season-high 11 tackles (eight solo) against Texas A&M as he played in all 85 snaps and led the Buffs in stops during their gut-wrenching overtime loss.
- ➔ To follow up that performance, he compiled seven tackles versus Texas, including one of the biggest stops on the day for CU. On Texas' second drive of the game, Brooks stuffed QB Vince Young for a 1-yard loss on second down, forcing the 'Horns into a third-and-7 situation. Looking to convert for the first down, Young threw a pass that was picked off by CB Terrence Wheatley, who returned his first career INT for a 37-yard touchdown.
- ➔ In what was the biggest play of his raw career, he completely switched the momentum into CU's favor at Kansas after the Jayhawks jumped out to a 14-0 lead. With KU driving again in the first quarter, DT Vaka Manupuna forced a fumble on tailback John Randle. Without hesitation, Brooks swooped in and picked up the loose pigskin before zigzagging his way through traffic up the sideline and into the end zone for a 41-yard return. It was the first touchdown of his career.
- ➔ In the Big 12 Championship against Oklahoma he had six solo stuffs, two pass deflections, one third down stop and one forced fumble against the Sooners' vaunted attack. He forced the fumble on receiver Mark Clayton half way through the third quarter, which was recovered by Lorenzo Sims at the 25 as OU was driving deep in CU territory.

□ 2003.

- ➔ As a true freshman he saw action in 10 contests in 2003, including three starts as the dime back. He finished the season with 24 tackles (20 solo), one sack, two tackles for a loss, eight third down stops and five passes broken up.
- ➔ He owned the distinction of having the most third/fourth down stops in a single game with his four stops against Missouri – the most by a CU player in six years.
- ➔ Brooks had easily his most memorable performance of the year against Missouri (Nov. 8), recording his first two career interceptions, two third-down stops and a pass broken up. His second pick of the day ended the Mizzou drive with 1:58 left to play in the game and kept the Buffs in the lead, 21-16. For his efforts Brooks earned the Collegefootballnews.com Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week.

BROOKS, CONTINUED

- ➔ His two INTs against Missouri marked the 69th time a CU player had two or more picks in the same game. (The last true freshman to have two in a game was CB Damen Wheeler, who had two against Kansas State in Boulder on Nov. 16, 1996). In addition, the only other time in CU history that a true freshman made two thefts in the same game was in 1988, when CB Deon Figures had two against Iowa State in Boulder on Oct. 29, 1988. Thus, Brooks is only the third true frosh to accomplish the feat.
- ➔ Had a breakout performance at Baylor (Oct. 4) in his first collegiate start, tallying three total tackles, one for a loss, one pass broken up and one QB sack. He was also responsible for two touchdown saving tackles in a game that could have been a lot worse than the 42-30 final score.

18 ISAAC GARDEN, PK



THIS SEASON

- ➔ This is his first year as a member of the Buffaloes. 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 has 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. He has been a camp counselor at Summer Camp, Score! Educational Center.

22 BYRON ELLIS, TB



THIS SEASON

- ➔ He has begun to learn the offense, as he's moved into second on the depth chart along with Hugh Charles at tailback. He's a key component in CU's run attack and has established himself as a reliable runner.
- ➔ In his most extensive action this season, he had eight carries for 25 yards in CU's win at Kansas; Ellis and Charles helped run the clock down late in the game, and were integral parts on CU's final scoring drive. Said offensive coordinator Shawn Watson on the freshmen play: "It looked like they were hitting (the hole) at 100 miles per hour. They've been there almost an entire year. They've grown. They know what they're doing. They're getting it. Are they done products? No. But they're getting it. ... They really gave us something."
- ➔ He saw his first action against North Texas, and totaled 13 yards on five carries. Versus Iowa State he had two attempts for 15 yards, including an 11-yard gain late in the fourth quarter that was 1-yard short of giving CU a first down on third-and-12.
- ➔ Unlike Charles, Ellis runs with more of a bruising style and likes to shoot the ball up the middle.

GENERAL

- ➔ He is interested in pre-medicine as his major. 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.

22 LORENZO SIMS, CB



THIS SEASON.

- ➔ 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. Safety was an easy transition for him, as several of the defensive backs have been called upon to play both corner and safety this year. In a perfect world, with all his players healthy, secondary coach Craig Bray said he prefers to play Sims at safety, but that it's "just not possible with all the guys we have banged up right now."
- ➔ Though he's just a true sophomore, he has certainly shot out of the gates and become one of CU's top all-around players. He's been very consistent on defense, and earned all-Big 12 second-team accolades from the league coaches for his efforts this year, 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 currently leads the team in three different categories: interceptions (5), pass deflections (11) and fumble recoveries (3); he's 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 (which is why safety suits him well). 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.

SIMS, CONTINUED

- ➔ 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 Cougs he totaled three tackles, one sack for 10 yards, one hurry, one third down stop, one forced fumble and one pass breakup.
 - ➔ He followed up that performance against North Texas with three tackles, a forced fumble (which he also recovered) and a team-high three pass deflections; he was named CU’s co-Defensive Player of the Game with Alonzo Barrett.
 - ➔ At Missouri he continued his impressive year with eight tackles and one third down stop. He followed up that game with six tackles, one pass breakup and an interception against Oklahoma State. His pick came in the first quarter when he stole an errant Donovan Woods deep pass and returned it 7 yards.
 - ➔ He had his second interception in as many weeks against Iowa State when he picked off Bret Meyer in the first quarter and returned the ball 7 yards. He also had three tackles, a team-high two pass deflections and three third down stops en route to being named CU’s co-Defensive Player of the Week with Matt McChesney.
 - ➔ His five-tackle effort (including one for a 2-yard loss), one QB chasedown and one pass breakup at Texas A&M helped hold the Aggies under their season scoring average, as he was in on all 85 snaps during the day.
 - ➔ Against Texas he put up some more solid play, as he compiled five tackles (all solo), one third down stop, one pass breakup and reeled in his third INT of the year. His pick came when the ‘Horns were driving in CU territory... Sims snagged the ball on his own 29-yardline to halt the scoring push.
 - ➔ Versus Kansas in CU’s 30-21 win, he had four solo tackles and one third down stop, and then followed that up with five solo stuffs in the 38-31 Kansas State win last game.
 - ➔ His biggest play last week in CU’s 26-20 win at Nebraska came when he picked off quarterback Joe Dailey on NU’s first play of the second half. Sims stole the ball at NU’s 30, and helped set up a 46-yard Mason Crosby field goal to put CU ahead 20-7. The theft gave CU’s “D” momentum and was Dailey’s third of the game.
 - ➔ 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.
 - ➔ He and Wheatley switched back and forth between the No. 1 spot early during fall camp, but he eventually earned the starting job in Wheatley’s spot after displaying some solid play. Secondary coach Craig Bray said it was an everyday battle between Burl, Sims and Wheatley for the starting corner jobs.
- ❑ 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.
 - ➔ He saw plenty of action in the 44-10 blowout of Iowa State (Nov. 15), leading the team with seven tackles (all solo) and added a pass broken up.
- ❑ 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.
 - ➔ His nickname is “Spiderman.”

23 TYLER LITTLEHALES, WR/P



❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He finally began to come into his own during camp, as he now stands second on the depth chart at the “Z” receiver position; he also moved into the backup punter role.
- ➔ An all-state performer in high school on defense and offense, Littlehales also finished his prep career ranked No. 2 in state history with a 44.2 yards a punt average. He originally was considered to get some looks at punter when he arrived at Colorado, but the coaches did not act on the idea until this season.
- ➔ He made his first career reception against North Texas on an 11-yard grab right before halftime, setting up a late first half TD. Against Missouri he reeled in a 6-yard strike that earned CU a first down, while his 15-yard grab against Iowa State led to a CU field goal midway through the fourth quarter, extending the lead to 19-7.
- ➔ Against Texas in his first career start, he had a breakout game and the best performance of his career when he totaled four catches for 40 yards. He started in place of Ron Monteilh, who was out with a nagging shoulder injury.
- ➔ At Nebraska he was a catalyst that helped set the tempo for CU’s offense early on. On the Buffs’ second offensive play of the game, he reeled in a 39-yard pass down the middle from Joel Klatt setting CU up at the NU 48. The play was a key part in CU’s 14-play, 90-yard drive that ended with a Blake Mackey touchdown catch.
- ➔ In the Big 12 Championship loss to Oklahoma, he posted one grab for 8 yards.

❑ 2003.

- ➔ As a redshirt freshman he saw action in five games, including the last three, but did not catch any passes.

LITTLEHALES, CONTINUED

❑ 2002.

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

❑ GENERAL

- ➔ He was drafted late by the Colorado Rockies as an outfielder in the 2002 June draft, but would have likely been taken in the first three rounds had he not chosen to pursue a football career.
- ➔ His dad (Brad) played football at the University of Pittsburgh from 1966-68, while uncle (Eddie Littlehales) punted at Marshall.

26 TERRENCE WHEATLEY, CB



❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He assumed the starter spot at right cornerback, as he took it over from Gerett Burl the eighth week of the season. Coaches have raved about his recent play, for Wheatley is now starting to regain the confidence he displayed at the end of the 2003 season – and it's certainly beginning to show on the field now (he has four interceptions in CU's last five contests).
- ➔ Has become CU's top kick return man, as he boasts 16 returns for 357 yards (22.3 average and 59-yard long).
- ➔ Even though he missed most of spring ball with a dislocated wrist and nursed a minor groin injury early this season, he persevered through the injuries and has slowly picked up more playing time as the year has gone on. His wrist was full-strength at the start of camp, but Burl took his starting role when Wheatley was hampered by the hamstring pull.
- ➔ He was only in on 18 plays against CSU, but returned two kickoffs for 38 yards (long of 23) late in the game.
- ➔ Feeling closer to full strength against Washington State, he played on half of the defensive plays as CU worked in a lot of nickel schemes. His biggest contribution of the day came on special teams, however, when he returned a kickoff 59 yards late in the fourth quarter. That play helped set up what would become a 41-yard field goal to put Colorado up 20-12.
- ➔ He totaled 52 plays against Iowa State when CU played in a lot of nickel situations, for he had four tackles (three solo), two third down stops and one pass breakup.
- ➔ In maybe his best defensive game to date, he played in 58 snaps versus Texas and scored CU's only touchdown of the day. On UT's second drive of the game, safety Dominique Brooks stuffed QB Vince Young for a 1-yard loss on second down, forcing the 'Horns into a third-and-7 situation. Looking to convert for the first down, Young threw a pass that was picked off by Wheatley, who promptly streaked down the sideline with his first career theft for a 37-yard touchdown. For his big-play efforts, he was named CU's Defensive Player of the Week.
- ➔ He had another bang-up week at Kansas, as he totaled six stuffs (five solo) and picked off his second pass in as many weeks. His INT – the second of his career – came with about 2:30 remaining in the game when KU was driving deep inside CU's 20-yardline. Thanks to the steal, Wheatley halted the Jayhawks' efforts, secured the 30-21 win for the Buffaloes and was named CU's Defensive Player of the Week... again.
- ➔ He had six solo stops and had a PBU against K-State, while at Nebraska he picked off yet another pass. Glued to his receiver in man coverage, Wheatley reeled in a Joe Dailey long ball over his shoulder and helped set up what would become a 9-yard Bobby Purify TD run, giving CU a commanding 17-0 lead early in the second quarter.
- ➔ In the Big 12 Championship he picked off his fourth pass in five weeks, when he stole a Jason White toss in the end zone for a touchback. The theft, which came late in the second quarter, halted OU's drive and was only the fourth interception thrown by White all season. He also added four tackles on the day.
- ➔ The fastest "timed" player on the team, he boasts a 4.38 40-yard dash, and has proven he can be a solid cover man and return kickoffs.
- ➔ He was second in the overall Speed-Strength and Conditioning "Speed" group this past spring. Along with being the fastest in the 40, he posted the team's second best lateral run (6.95 seconds), while he also showed his great leg power by squatting his group's fourth most weight of 492-pounds... not too bad for a guy who only weighs 170.

❑ 2003.

- ➔ A true freshman cornerback, he made his first career start at Baylor, replacing senior Phil Jackson in the lineup to become one of the few true freshmen to ever start at cornerback for the Buffs. He tallied eight tackles six solo) in the loss. He played in six games on the season.
- ➔ Against Baylor, Sammy Joseph and Terrence Wheatley both started at cornerback, marking the first time in CU history that it started a pair of freshmen at the position in the same game, not to mention starting two at any point in the same season.
- ➔ At Florida State, he replaced Phil Jackson at corner in the second half and immediately made his mark, breaking up a pass while recording three tackles.

❑ GENERAL

- ➔ He still holds the Plano East school record in the 100 meters (10.3 seconds), as well as the school marks in the triple jump and long jump.
- ➔ His father (Randolph) ran track at Arizona State.

27 BRIAN IWUH, OLB



□ Last name is pronounced *E-woo*.

□ **THIS SEASON**

- ➔ The starting Buff 'Backer, he has had a monster year and has really taken well to his new position after playing safety the last two seasons. With CU resorting back to the 4-3 defensive scheme, Iwuh has 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 have him drop back into coverage.
- ➔ He may just be 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 has 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.
- ➔ After tallying his two stuffs for losses (including a sack) early against Washington State, he suffered a dreaded high ankle sprain and missed the remainder of the game. He fought back quickly to make the start against North Texas the following week, but only played 41 plays; he had two tackles (one TFL).
- ➔ In what may be his best game to date this year, he pulled off a solid effort against Missouri and helped hold explosive Tiger QB Brad Smith to just 76 rush yards. Iwuh posted a team-high 12 tackles (seven solo), two tackles for loss (including a half sack) and one third down stop. His efforts earned him CU Defensive Player of the Week.
- ➔ Against Oklahoma State he carried on with his stout play, as he had eight tackles (all solo), one of which went for a 1-yard loss on premier tailback Vernand Morency. He also totaled a team and three third down stops.
- ➔ He continued to put up the numbers and make big plays versus Iowa State, as he was one of three Buffs in on all 80 defensive snaps. On the afternoon he totaled a team-high 10 tackles (one for a 1-yard loss), a third down stop, two QB hurries and a fumble recovery. His pickup came early in the fourth quarter on a third-and-5 situation when ISU was driving inside CU's 20-yardline. The stop was a crucial moment in the game, as the Buffs were holding on to a 16-7 lead, and then went on to record another field goal on the ensuing possession.
- ➔ In maybe the most complete and memorable game of his career, he piled up 13 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).
- ➔ He had another huge week (and earned CU's Defensive Player of the Week) when he finished with 10 tackles (seven solo), two third down stops, one QB chasedown and a pass breakup in CU's exciting 38-31 win over K-State.
- ➔ 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).
- ➔ Still holding onto his secondary mentality, he jokes that he is a "high safety" and not a linebacker.
- ➔ 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.
- ➔ He bulked up 15 more pounds over his '03 weight, and weighs 25 more than he did as a freshman. He has tremendous leg strength, tying Daniel Jolly for the best squat (527 lbs.) in the "Speed" workout group in the spring.

□ **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.
- ➔ He started four games at strong safety, but saw action in 10 of 12 contests.
- ➔ His second career fumble recovery came against Iowa State, resulting in a CU field goal to put the Buffs up 30-0 late in the first half; his first could not have come at a better time against Missouri the previous week, as he recovered a Brad Smith fumble in the CU end zone to halt Missouri and keep CU ahead, 14-9 going into the half.

□ **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.



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ 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 praises his punt team for much of his success, as CU has obviously done an outstanding job stuffing opponents on returns.
- ➔ "That's just something where I have to give a lot of credit to everybody else on the team who worked hard too," said Torp. "I think everybody has taken a lot of pride being on this punt team."
- ➔ Head coach Gary Barnett just can't say enough about the clutch play of Torp. 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's, named Torp his first-team All-American punter, while *The Sporting News* said he was its pick to win the Ray Guy Award.
- ➔ Hopefully he will contend as a finalist for the Ray Guy Award as a senior next year, but did make the final three this season because he was deemed to have had too many punts returned!
- ➔ Away from Boulder, Torp has 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."
- ➔ Torp currently owns the country's best career average, 44.6, among active punters in the NCAA through Dec. 4.
- ➔ He has 19 punts from inside the CU25 this season for a 49.6-yard average. In the fourth quarter, inside CU's 25, he has five fourth quarter kicks for 255 yards, or 51.0 per.
- ➔ 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 had another solid day against Washington State, but saw his overall average fall on 10 punts that covered 440 yards. He did place one boot inside the 20-yardline, which forced WSU to start at its own 13. On that drive, linebacker Joe Sanders picked off Alex Brink and returned the snag for a Colorado touchdown.
- ➔ Against North Texas he only reached the field twice, and averaged 39.5 yards a boot (long of 49 yards). Punting from the North Texas 45-yardline, as not to run up the score in the third quarter, Torp dropped one on the 15-yardline forcing the Mean Green to start deep in their own territory.
- ➔ At Missouri he had five punts for 185 yards (37.0 average), as he placed one inside the 20; though his average was lower than usual, he had a good day because MU brought full pressure on all punts, but that never phased Torp even when they came close to getting a block.
- ➔ 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.
- ➔ In what wasn't one of CU's prettiest wins this year, Torp and kicker Mason Crosby stole the show against ISU, as the special teams duo was the difference in the game for the Buffs. While Crosby hit four field goals (including a school record 60-yarder), Torp blasted six punts for 307 yards (51.2 average), with his longest covering 61 and three falling inside the 20.
- ➔ Barnett on his two special teams weapons: "You never know when (clutch kicking games) are coming, and that's why you get a Torp and a Mason Crosby so when it does come down to these types of games you've got guys like that here. We're blessed to have both those guys. That was a kicking game. There is no question about it."
- ➔ At Texas A&M in front of a hostile crowd, he booted three punts for a 49.3-yard average, as he launched his longest this season with a 63-yard bomb in the first quarter that went for his first touchback of the year.
- ➔ 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.
- ➔ At Kansas, he booted the ball five times for a 47.2-yard average (with two inside the 20). His best kick of the day tied a season-high 63 yards when he perfectly placed the pigskin on KU's 1-yardline. The punt forced Kansas' offense to go three-and-out, and ultimately helped set up Stephone Robinson's punt return for a touchdown, which the redshirt freshman fielded at KU's 48.
- ➔ He kicked seven punts for 338 yards (48.3 average) versus K-State, dropping four inside the 20 and launching a 58-yard long. At Nebraska, he once again had seven punts for a 43.3 average and put three inside the 20. His best kick came when he pinned NU at its own 2-yardline with a 61-yard bomb.
- ➔ He added 10 pounds in the off-season and believing the extra weight would boost his average this year (it did).

TORP, CONTINUED

- ➔ 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.
- ➔ Said Torp on his expectations for the season: "I'm kicking better in this camp than I did at any time last year. I'm holding myself to a higher standard. I feel more confident now; I think I saw about every situation you could see last year — bad weather, kicking out of the end zone — and I learned from it."
- ➔ Torp is not your typical punter, either. The junior has some wheels on him, as well. He holds four of his high school's records in track (110 and 300 hurdles) and in 2003 it showed when he earned rushing first downs on two fake punt attempts (read below). In the spring, he ran the team's second fastest shuttle time in 4.23 seconds.
- ❑ **2003.**
 - ➔ He booted 63 punts for a 42.5 average, while 16 of his punts landed inside the opponent's 20-yard line, while 14 punts went for 50-plus yards.
 - ➔ 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.
 - ➔ He earned CU's Special Teams Player of the Game honors for his performance in the season-opening win over CSU. In the contest, Torp booted 10 punts for a 40.8 average and a long of 50; two landed inside the CU 25.
- ❑ **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.

31 GERETT BURL, CB



- ❑ **THIS SEASON**
 - ➔ 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 his entire hand completely taped up (it looked like a club). He was forced to play with "the club" again versus OU (for 17 snaps), but is hoping to be back in action for the Houston Bowl. His status remains day-to-day.
 - ➔ 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.
 - ➔ 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 receivers. Secondary coach Craig Bray has been very pleased with the competition and quick learning displayed by Burl and fellow corners Wheatley and Sims, who start in a raw secondary patrolled by sophomores. He is second on the team with 10 pass deflections.
 - ➔ Earlier in the season, he noted that he wasn't seeing the pigskin as well as he had liked to. To fix the problem, Burl went and received new contacts/eyewear out before the Iowa State game, which has helped improve his ball and field vision when patrolling the gridiron.
 - ➔ He made his first career start against CSU, and led the team in third down stops and pass breakups with three. Against Washington State, he was in for every defensive play and totaled five stops (four solo) and one pass deflection. He had five solo tackles and two more pass deflections against North Texas.
 - ➔ Late in the fourth quarter against the Mean Green, he had his first career blocked punt that covered nine yards and rolled out of bounds on the UNT 20-yardline.

BURL, CONTINUED

- ➔ Against Missouri, CU gave up its least amount of passing yardage on the year (at the time), as the Tigers only gained 187 yards behind the arm of dual threat QB Brad Smith. Burl played well in the contest, for he totaled five tackles and two crucial third down stops. He had three tackles against Oklahoma State, including one TFL on Vernand Morency on first down in the fourth quarter that netted a 3-yard loss.
- ➔ Versus Iowa State he had three tackles and one pass deflection, while he racked up a season and career-high seven solo tackles against Texas A&M. He played in 25 snaps versus Texas, five at Kansas, 14 against K-State (no stats to record), as Wheatley has recently come on strong to take over the starting role.
- ➔ 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 the following week. He missed the rest of the season and 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, ILB



- ❑ *Last name is pronounced "boy-doe."*
- ❑ **THIS SEASON**
 - ➔ He is 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.
 - ➔ He recently returned to the solid form he displayed in 2003, as he was in on nine defensive plays at Kansas and racked up an astounding four tackles in his limited action.
 - ➔ He tallied two tackles in his limited time against Kansas State, with one stuff producing a third down stop in the first quarter that limited KSU to a field goal.
 - ➔ Though he's just a sophomore, he provides great depth and experience in a very talented linebacker corps. Against the Cyclones, he played in 14 snaps and totaled four tackles (two solo), while in the Big 12 Championship versus Oklahoma he was in for a season-high 25 plays and had three tackles (including one for a 3-yard loss).
- ❑ **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.
 - ➔ He was twice named the Scout Team Defense Player of the Week (Washington State & Florida State).
- ❑ **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.

42 BOBBY PURIFY, TB



❑ Chart Watch (CU all-time):

- ➔ He's third in all-time rushing yards (3,016), tied for 29th in catches (50) and is fourth in all-purpose yards (3,524). He is only the fourth player in CU history to reach 3,000 all-purpose yards with at least 2,500 on the ground, while against Kansas State he became the only Buff to ever record at least 2,500 rushing and 500 receiving yards in a career. (He's also only one of 11 players in Big 12 history to record at least 3,000 rushing and 500 receiving yards).

❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ CU's No. 1 tailback, he had gotten off to an outstanding start before separating his left shoulder on Sept. 18 – and then his right versus Texas (Oct. 30) – yet he continued to shoot his way up the Colorado record books and impact games like nobody else. He was averaging 108.8 yards per contest going into Week 5, but he finished the year with an 84.4 average, as at times was forced to play sparingly with the injuries and fight through pain.
- ➔ The assortment of maladies didn't stop him from recording three 100-yard games during his "sore shoulders span" (he had five total on the season) – including back-to-back jolts against KSU and Nebraska.
- ➔ For his amazing efforts and dedication to being the ultimate team player, Purify's teammates selected him as the Zack Jordan Award recipient as CU's overall MVP, while he also took home the John Mack Award as the most outstanding offensive player. In addition, both the *Associated Press* and league coaches tabbed him an honorable mention all-Big 12 performer.
- ➔ For much of the season he did not practice with contact during the week, but somehow still showed up big on Saturdays. Said fellow captain Matt McChesney on Purify: "He is a practice (jersey) blue man. In practice we can't touch him, but he always comes to work on game days. He puts the team first and he is a great player."
- ➔ He continued to amaze his teammates and fans in CU's 26-20 win at Nebraska by racking up 130 yards on 22 carriers. He eclipsed the 1,000-yard bar on the year (1,009 now) and scored on a 9-yard run in the second quarter to give CU a 17-0 lead. His top run ate up 48 yards, which was the longest rush of his career.
- ➔ Versus K-State, he put together one of his most memorable performances ever. Rushing 24 times for 155 yards and two touchdowns, he also caught a 12-yard pass to become the first player in CU history to rush for at least 2,500 yards and have 500 receiving yards in a career. His efforts earned him CU's Offensive Player of the Week.
- ➔ Just when people may have thought he had nothing left to give late in the KSU game, he dug deep to help move CU 62 yards on their second to last drive, which chewed up 4:05 on the clock. Looking to use the clock, Purify rushed five times for 15 yards and capped the push with a 2-yard touchdown run, giving CU a 31-24 lead at 3:58.
- ➔ In what couldn't have been a better senior sendoff at Folsom Field in the thrilling 38-31, last second win, "The Fans Behind the Bench" presented Purify with the **Buffalo Heart Award** following the game. An honor voted on by CU fans throughout the year, the prestigious award is given annually to the Buff senior who has displayed the best heart, character, determination and commitment to excellence throughout his career.
- ➔ At Kansas, he only rushed 14 times for 52 yards, but did move into fourth on CU's all-time rushing list (2,724) past former teammate and good friend Chris Brown.
- ➔ Against a strong Texas front, he had 13 yards on 12 carries (and one catch for 9). Still playing with a sore shoulder, he was forced to come out of the game in the fourth quarter after suffering another injury to his other shoulder. He noted the following Monday that the new injury was less severe than his first on the opposite joint.
- ➔ Still not fully recovered from his injury, he had a monster day against Texas A&M and toughed out one of his best performances in recent memory. Rushing 20 times for 130 yards and one touchdown (a score that put CU up 26-23 with a minute to go and eventually helped force overtime), Purify also reeled in three catches for 56 yards. His longest run of the day covered 41 yards and his best reception went for 35 yards, both season longs.
- ➔ Unfortunately, his valiant effort was overshadowed by a fumble he committed in overtime as CU was driving to pull out a win in College Station. After turning what looked to be a run for no gain into a 5-yard pickup, Purify coughed up the ball on the A&M 9-yardline, as the Aggies covered the pigskin to end the game. The fumble was Purify's 20th carry of the day and the 555th time he had touched the ball in a Colorado uniform. He came into the game averaging one fumble every 76 times he ran the ball or caught a pass out of the backfield.
- ➔ Said fellow captain and quarterback Joel Klatt on Purify: "The way he ran with the football today in a physical game, I've got so much respect for Bobby Purify. I know exactly how that shoulder injury feels. He's just gutting it out and playing extremely, extremely well."
- ➔ Nowhere near 100 percent, he produced a gutsy effort and rushed 13 times for 69 yards (with two catches for 20 yards) against Iowa State before leaving early in the third quarter with the aggravated shoulder. .
- ➔ Though it wasn't the game he was hoping for, Purify rushed 22 times for 81 yards and one touchdown at Missouri, even though he missed part of the third quarter after re-bruising the shoulder he injured against North Texas. His total ground yards moved him past former CU great Bobby Anderson into seventh on the all-time rushing chart.
- ➔ In CU's 52-21 win over North Texas, he rushed 15 times for 112 yards and a career-high three touchdowns. It was only the second multiple-touchdown game of his career, with his first coming against CSU last season. He rushed for 102 yards (on 12 attempts) in the first half alone, but never really got a chance to add to his total after the half, as he came out of the game early with a shoulder separation. However, the 122 yards were good for his seventh career 100-yard rushing game at the time.

PURIFY, CONTINUED

- Against CSU in the Buffs' opener, he totaled 189 yards and one touchdown on a career-high 26 carries. It was his second best effort ever, as he fell two yards short of tying his career best in rushing yards, which also came against the Rams in 2001. He totaled the second most rushing yards in an CU opener, falling short of Mike Pritchard's 217 versus Tennessee in 1990.
- Crazy thing about Purify's effort against CSU is that he didn't even play in parts of the second and third quarters. After busting out for 10 runs, 80 yards and one score in the first quarter, he was forced out of the game in the second when his helmet came down and poked him in the eye. He suffered from blurry vision and overall fatigue (he played on the punt team, kickoff return unit and at receiver for most of the game, as well) on several occasions after that, but still finished the first half with 110 yards on 15 carries. All in all, he had three runs that covered 18 yards or more, two of which were over 20 (long of 25).
- He broke a 65-yard touchdown run in the second game against Wazzou that was called back on a holding penalty.
- He was awarded a medical hardship in 2003 after he suffered a season-ending high ankle sprain in the third game against Washington State.
- He had an outstanding spring, one in which the coaches gave him the Fred Casotti Award, which honors the team's most outstanding offensive back.
- For the second straight season, he has been voted a captain by his teammates, as he becomes only the fourth player to serve as a Buffalo captain in multiple seasons. The last was linebacker Barry Remington, who was selected by his teammates in both 1985 and 1986; the other two were in the 1890s, when Pat Carney was team captain for the 1891, 1892 and 1893 seasons and Harry Gamble the choice in 1894 and 1896.
- A silent leader who lets his actions and play on the field speak volumes, his teammates realize how valuable he is. Said sophomore V-Back Daniel Jolly: "He's been like a big brother to most all of us." Added Lawrence Vickers: "I don't know what I would do without him, because he gives us so much and teaches us so much."
- Head coach Gary Barnett also realizes that in order for the Buffs to win big — and thus produce an effective running game — then Purify must be on the field. "In some ways, Bobby's time at CU is sort of indicative of my time. When Bobby is hurt, we don't play well. When he is healthy, we play well and have had a lot of success. When we lost Bobby last year, we weren't the same running team, and Bobby knows that."
- Purify added 15 pounds of muscle to his frame in the off-season, and it certainly has shown. On several occasions during camp, he was seen running through defenders, or simply dragging several along to gain the extra yardage needed. Though he more of a "slasher," he running style had become more physical since spring ball opened. He believes the extra muscle and strength will help him get through the long haul of CU brutal schedule.
- He boasts one of the team's best bench presses (358-pounds) and is tops among all the running backs, defensive backs, receivers, kickers and quarterbacks.
- ❑ **2003.**
 - His season officially came to an end on November 21, when he had calcium deposits removed from an ankle, the same one in which he suffered a nasty high sprain against Washington State.
 - On the original Doak Walker Award watch list, he entered the fall listed as a co-starter with Brian Calhoun. Having played in 33 games since his freshman year, he established himself as one of the Big 12's top dual running/receiving threats.
 - Best rushing game of the year came against UCLA, when he carried the ball 22 times for 80 yards and a TD.
- ❑ **2002.**
 - Though he did not receive many carries while playing behind All-American Chris Brown, he always found a way to get the job done when the Buffs needed a big play out the backfield.
 - He had his first career back-to-back 100-yard games when he had 119 against Missouri, followed up by 174 against Iowa State.
 - He was the team's second leading receiver with 21 catches for 224 yards, and combined with his rushing yards, he had 963 all-purpose yards. Three of his catches were for 20 yards or more in averaging 10.7 yards per on the year.
- ❑ **2001.**
 - He had three 100 yard games (the first ones of his career), as his very first century effort was memorable, as he galloped for 191 yards and a TD on just 21 carries in CU's 41-14 win over Colorado State. He has missed two other 100-yard games by just eight yards, as he also had 92 against San Jose State and Missouri.
 - He had 154 yards and a score on just 20 carries against Nebraska, when he also had a 78-yard TD run called back due to a hold away from the play.
 - With 916 yards, he was just shy of becoming the fourth sophomore at CU to rush for 1,000 yards; Charlie Davis (1971), Eric Bieniemy (1988) and Darian Hagan (1989) are the ones who have done it; Purify and Chris Brown became just the fourth and fifth sophomores to have 900 or more in a single season.
 - He worked with the No. 1 and No. 2 offense for the majority of fall camp, splitting time with Cortlen Johnson in the early portion and Chris Brown in the latter.
- ❑ **2000.**
 - He had his best day in the home finale against Iowa State, rushing 78 yards on 11 carries – 7.1 per carry.
 - Made his first career start against Oklahoma State but was held in check, rushing 12 times for 26 yards.
 - Was very impressive in his first collegiate action against Kansas; his first carry went for 13 yards, where he put a nice move on all-Big 12 safety Carl Nesmith and picked up a first down. He also looked good in pass protection.

PURIFY, CONTINUED

- ➔ Broke a bone in his foot on the very first day of freshman two-a-days in August and missed the first three games of 2000. He took him some time to get back into playing shape and although he could have physically played by the beginning of October, the coaches wanted to get him as near to 100% as possible.

□ GENERAL

- ➔ Barnett's recruitment of Purify did not take very long. Running backs coach Jon Wristen brought a tape of Purify, who was a junior at the time, to Barnett not long after his hiring in Feb. of 1999 and said this kid was the leading rusher in the state. Barnett said it only took about eight plays to see his tremendous ability. The coaches invited Purify to the first spring practice of '99 and he signed not long after in early April.
- ➔ Purify committed almost a year before Marcus Houston did; not only did Houston's signing not upset Purify, he actually called him to encourage him to enroll at CU. They discussed how great it would be to play in the same backfield. Purify told Barnett it didn't matter where they wanted him, he just wanted the chance to play.
- ➔ One of his uncles is Webster Slaughter, who played in the NFL for the Cleveland Browns and Houston Oilers.
- ➔ And remember the pop-soul group James & Bobby Purify from the 1960's? James is his uncle and Bobby his grandfather. They teamed on such songs as "I'm Your Puppet," "Let Love Come Between Us," and a remake of "Shake A Tail Feather."
- ➔ He is well-versed in sign language, which he learned his sophomore year of high school and used to help coach a Pop Warner football team that had several deaf youngsters on it.
- ➔ He helped lead Palmer High School to the 5A state basketball title in 2000, as he was named the MVP for the tournament.

44 JORDON DIZON, ILB



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He is currently 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 has really taken 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 this year, 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.
- ➔ Up until four games ago (Kansas) when Brian Iwuh overtook him, he had led CU in stuffs all season long.
- ➔ 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 (see CSU note below for more).
- ➔ 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 J.J. Billingsley to make the game-saving tackle in the backfield on Tristan Walker.
- ➔ Against Missouri he suffered a sprained knee in the first quarter of the game. That injury didn't keep him out for long, as he returned in a knee brace to post nine tackles (including one for a 1-yard loss).
- ➔ Versus Oklahoma State he did not make the start, but still managed six tackles (one for loss).
- ➔ He returned as the starter for the Iowa State game, playing in 58 snaps and racking up five tackles (four solo) on the day. Against Texas A&M, Washington once again made the start in his place, but Dizon still totaled six stops during 43 snaps, as the two have been rotating at the position recently.
- ➔ In one of his biggest games this season, he had 10 tackles (seven solo) versus Texas, while two of the stuffs went for losses. He had a 2-yard TFL on third down in the second quarter that came against TB Cedric Benson, while his top play of the contest helped set up CU's second interception on the day. Late in the first quarter, as UT was driving in CU territory, Dizon netted a 6-yard sack on QB Vince Young, who was dropped for a loss back to the Colorado 29. On the ensuing play Young tossed his second INT of the game when CB Lorenzo Sims picked off the ball to halt Texas' strong push, thus preserving CU's 7-0 lead.
- ➔ At Kansas in CU's 30-21 win, he had five stuffs (two solo) and one quarterback chasedown, while he followed up that effort with six tackles and one third down stop versus Kansas State.

DIZON, CONTINUED

- ➔ His biggest tackle at Nebraska came when he halted IB Corey Ross on third-and-8 from CU's 41-yardline. The crucial stop came after NU successfully recovered an onside kick to open the game. But, the Huskers were forced to punt thanks to Dizon, and the momentum turned CU's direction soon after.
- ➔ In the Big 12 title game versus Oklahoma, he only posted four tackles during 40 snaps.
- ➔ 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.
- ➔ He has made a name for himself as one of the biggest hitters on the field. He has an amazing knack of getting to the ball and finishing the play in strong fashion.
- ➔ 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*.

47 ALONZO BARRETT, DE



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ After entering the fall listed third on the depth chart, the freshman has moved into the No. 2 "rush" spot behind James Garee. He came on particularly strong against North Texas.
- ➔ 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.
- ➔ He did not see time on defense against Missouri, but totaled three tackles against Oklahoma State and one during the Iowa State game. He did not play at Texas A&M and has seen limited time in CU's last five games.
- ➔ At Kansas he recorded his second career sack (for a 1-yard loss) in what was his lone tackle of the day.
- ➔ 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 last fall.
- ➔ A quick and aggressive player, the coaches only expect him to become more prevalent in the CU defense as time goes on. He provides depth and relief to a CU D-line that likes to rotate its players throughout the game.

□ GENERAL

- ➔ His older brother, Jamal, is a junior offensive tackle at Texas A&M; the two could very well line up against each other in the next two years. A distant cousin, Ken-Yon Rambo, is a wide out with the New York Jets (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 father's sister is married to Salaam's father's brother.

49 THADDAEUS WASHINGTON, ILB



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ Currently first on the depth chart at the “Mike” inside ‘backer spot, he has received plenty of playing time this year and developed into a serious force in the linebacking corps. 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 rotate in and out of the games quite frequently, as the position may be one of the deepest spots for CU.
- ➔ He has been a hard-nosed, consistent player for CU this year and because of that earned honorable mention all-Big 12 honors from both the league coaches and *Associated Press*. His recent play has prompted position coach Brain 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.”
- ➔ Added Washington: “It’s like I can react now more than I used to. I don’t have to think about things. I can just react and know what I’m doing.”
- ➔ In what seemingly has become 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 is 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-9 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.
- ➔ He also had 10 tackles (six solo) against Kansas State, with two of the halts earning third down stops. His biggest came when he stuffed Thomas Clayton on a KSU third-and-goal from the 1-yardline. Though the Wildcats went on to score the next play, Washington once again showed his knack for making big stops in crucial situations.
- ➔ Washington just seemed to raise his performance level each week, for at Kansas he totaled a career-high 12 tackles (five solo), had one third down stop and two pass breakups.
- ➔ At Texas A&M he posted six tackles (five solo) on 47 plays in CU’s tough overtime loss to the Aggies. He bounced back seven days later versus Texas with a 10-tackle performance, tying his career-high in total stops at the time.
- ➔ Against Iowa State he carried on with his stout play, and even totaled some impressive numbers despite missing most of the fourth quarter with a bruised forearm. On the day he had eight stuffs (tied for a team-high six solo), one tackle for loss and one third down stop. His 3DS came on a third-and-2 situation in the third quarter when he and James Garee stopped tailback Stevie Hicks for a 1-yard gain. ISU went for it on fourth down, but once again was halted thanks to the efforts of Washington and Matt McChesney. The two defenders strangled Hicks for no gain on a play that ISU tried to run behind its right guard.
- ➔ In what was the best game of his young career at the time, he had a career-high nine tackles at Missouri (six solo), including one for a 3-yard loss and one pass breakup. How did he follow up that performance? Washington went out versus Oklahoma State a week later and racked up 10 tackles (a new career best at the time) and two 3DS.
- ➔ He was in on 26 plays against CSU and totaled one tackle, and he had three stuffs against Washington State, including one for a 9-yard loss, which came on a crucial third down stop. He also had three stuffs against North Texas, including a 2-yard tackle for loss.
- ➔ He boasts the team’s best squat, having hoisted 548-pounds during spring lifting drills. He was tied for fourth overall in the “Explosion” group, comprised of tight ends, linebackers and fullbacks.

□ 2003

- ➔ He saw action in 11 games, including nine on defense (with one start against Florida State, his first ever).
- ➔ He was forced to miss the CSU opener while sitting out for violating a team rule in the off-season, but still went to practice hard and earn the Scout Team Defense Award for that week of preparation.

□ 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

- ➔ At second on the depth chart, he's one of CU's top defensive ends and has come on fairly strong this year. He has developed into a dominant player off the edge, as he's become known for wreaking havoc in the backfield on backs and quarterbacks. He is 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.
- ➔ In Colorado's opener, he made his second career start against CSU, and racked up six tackles and one QB hurry. Made his way into the backfield on several occasions, but only managed one knockdown on CSU's Justin Holland.
- ➔ 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 continued his strong play against North Texas, racking up five stuffs, including one for loss. At Missouri he recovered a Brad Smith fumble in the fourth quarter forced by J.J. Billingsley. The recovery helped give CU its second to last chance on offense to cut down MU's 17-9 lead. The Buffs were unable to capitalize on their lone turnover of the day, however, and would eventually fall to the Tigers by that score.
- ➔ He added to his sack total against Iowa State, when he had three tackles and combined with Akarika Dawn for a half sack in CU's 19-14 win.
- ➔ 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. As A&M QB Reggie McNeal rolled right looking to score, Ligon forced his way into the backfield causing McNeal to fumble; the pigskin was recovered by Courtney Lewis, who Ligon quickly pounced on for a 4-yard loss. The Aggies were forced to settle for a field goal going into the fourth quarter.
- ➔ Against a potent Texas offense he only had one tackle, but it was a big one, as he sacked elusive QB Vince Young for an 11-yard loss. Though it was his lone stuff of the day, he also had a third down stop, a QB hurry, one forced fumble and one pass breakup.
- ➔ In the Big 12 Championship versus Oklahoma, he tallied a mere two tackles, however, one produced a 4-yard loss.

□ 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 had possibly the best game of his career at Iowa State (Nov. 15), recording his first two career sacks, two tackles for a loss and three total tackles.
- ➔ 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 had a fumble recovery in the Oklahoma game (Oct. 25), an important drive-stopper with time winding down in the first half, keeping the Sooners in check, 17-7, going into halftime.

□ 2002.

- ➔ Redshirted; did not see any game action. He 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... the movie he really wants to see is *Alexander*, as his mother named him after Alexander the Great. She is well-versed on Greek Mythology, and he wants to wait and see it with her so she can confirm or challenge the historical take by the movie.
- ➔ 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.

52 DEREK STEMRICH, OG



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ Having battled chronic knee problems his entire career, he is one of the most experienced offensive linemen in the group. He would normally be a full-time starter at guard, but this year he can only play 10-20 plays a game before the knee becomes too painful to play on.
- ➔ His best efforts came against Kansas State when he posted a 90.0 percent grade. Against Oklahoma State, he had a season-high two knockdown blocks, as he's totaled five on the year.
- ➔ While trying to figure out how much playing time Stemrich could handle this camp, offensive line coach Dave Borbely called him the "X factor" in the development of the O-line.

STEMRICH, CONTINUED

- ➔ With Stembrich in a limited position, senior Terrance Barreau takes over the starting job.
- ➔ After undergoing knee surgery for a third time in the spring, the coaches were unsure if he'd even be able to line up this fall.
- ➔ Said Stembrich on his limited role this season: "I'll do whatever I can to help the team, but realistically I don't expect to be playing 70 snaps a game. And, I'm not upset about that. I'm just trying to get the best out of it I can and contribute what I can."
- ❑ **2003.**
 - ➔ He started the first three games at center, but moved to guard after Marwan Hage took over at the center position. His first career start at offensive guard was against Florida State (Sept. 20).
 - ➔ He missed all spring drills recovering from a knee surgery, after having several knee problems in the past; but he was 100 percent in time for fall camp.
 - ➔ He started 11 of 12 games (three at center, eight at guard), finishing the year second on the squad with 22 knockdown blocks. He graded out to a high performance at 84.4 against Kansas.
 - ➔ He owned the distinction of being tied for second on the team with the most knockdown blocks in a single game with five against Colorado State.
 - ➔ His first career start came in the season opener against Colorado State.
- ❑ **2002.**
 - ➔ Played in eight games on the FG/PAT unit, and took 16 snaps from center in three games. In bowl practices he suffered a subluxation of his patella, and missed the bowl game. He earned the speed-strength and conditioning title in his weight class during the spring.
- ❑ **2001.**
 - ➔ He only played in two games, however was honored with the Scout Team Offense Award for his play leading up to the Iowa State game and Big 12 Championship against Texas.
- **GENERAL**
 - ➔ Majoring architecture, he garnered second-team Academic All-Big 12 honors this year by posting a GPA between 3.00 and 3.19. He was also a second-team honoree as a sophomore in 2002.

53 ABRAHAM WRIGHT, DE



- ❑ **THIS SEASON**
 - ➔ Three games ago he moved into first on the depth chart at defensive end ahead Alex Ligon. He has seen his playing time increase each week, as he's started to develop into a legitimate threat off the edge. 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.
 - ➔ Against North Texas, his lone tackle netted a third down stop, while he also totaled two QB pressures.
 - ➔ Versus Iowa State, he had one sack for three yards that forced a third-and-20 situation for ISU late in the fourth quarter. He also had a third down stop, one QB hurry and two total tackles.
 - ➔ At Texas A&M he was in for 48 snaps totaling two tackles and one QB pressure. A week later he racked up three solo tackles against Texas on 35 plays.
 - ➔ He really played well at Kansas, while he racked up two sacks for 15 yards on three of his tackles.
 - ➔ He stepped up tall once again versus Kansas State when he had a career-high five tackles, including one stop for a 1-yard loss.
 - ➔ In the victory over Nebraska, he corralled Joe Dailey for a 12-yard sack that forced NU into a third-and-16 situation shortly before halftime. The play took Nebraska out of easy field goal range and forced them to kick a 51-yarder, which was promptly missed wide left.
- ❑ **2003**
 - ➔ He played junior college ball at Northeast Oklahoma A&M before transferring to CU this spring. He came in right away and impressed the coaches with his speed and initial quickness off the line.
 - ➔ He is the third player (and D-lineman) in a four-year span to join the Buffs from NEO, as DeAndre Fluellen did so in 2001 and McKenzie Tilmon transferred last season.
 - ➔ 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) is one of the starting cornerbacks at Oklahoma State (a senior in 2004).

58 MARK FENTON, C



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He is 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 has played the most out of every lineman this season, for he has only missed one snap.
- ➔ He is 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).
- ➔ He enjoyed a fine spring and developed into a center that coaches first saw great glimpses of in the 2002 season.
- ➔ A vibrant and talkative person, he is one of the most outgoing people on the offensive line. He loves the attention and says he is ready for the spotlight to be shined on him this year.

□ 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. He won the Scout Team Offense Award for his work before the Missouri game.

□ 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 linemen out of school, the CU coaches felt he fit best on offense.

59 GREG PAGE, SN



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ CU's starting short snapper the past two years, he took over long snapping duties this season with last year's snapper having graduated. He was put on scholarship following spring ball, and is the first snapper since 2000 to handle both long and short duties.
- ➔ He's 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 has also added two solo tackles covering punts.
- ➔ A key component in the success of punter John Torp and kicker Mason Crosby this season, he may be the most overlooked player in CU's solid special teams success.
- ➔ He owns the second best bench press (360-pounds) in the "Explosion" group.

▪ 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.

60 MATT McCHESNEY, DT/DE



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ One of four captain's and the leader of the defense, he is CU's most versatile D-lineman, as he can line up at both tackle and end. He finished the regular season leading the team with seven sacks and nine quarterback pressures. Spends most of his time at the No. 1 tackle spot, but can be called upon in pass situations to come off the edge. He is one of the most dominant and emotional linemen to play at CU since current Oakland Raider Tyler Brayton did so two years ago.
- ➔ He was named an honorable mention all-Big 12 selection by the *Associated Press* and conference coaches this season. Adding to those accolades, he took home CU's Dave Jones Award (outstanding defensive player) and Derek Singleton Award for outstanding spirit, dedication and enthusiasm. One of 10 Buffs to be named to the prestigious Victory Club, as well, he graded out to a winning performance in at least eight games.
- ➔ He carried on as usual with his stout play in CU's 26-20 win at Nebraska when he sacked Joe Dailey late in the third quarter on first down. The 10-yard loss came on a play that dropped NU back to CU's 35-yardline, and eventually helped Colorado's "D" halt the Huskers on a pivotal fourth-and-3 situation with the score 26-7.
- ➔ In his final tilt at Folsom Field, he continued to do what he does best: sack the quarterback. He racked up five tackles and had one sack on elusive K-State QB Allen Webb in CU's thrilling 38-31 victory. He also added two third down stops during the day, which tied him for second on the team with nine this year.
- ➔ At Kansas, he continued to get to the quarterback faster and more ferociously than any other defender. Of his five total stops, two were sacks netting 12 yards lost, while he had one 3DS and two QB pressures.
- ➔ Versus Texas, he had nine stuffs (seven solo) and two third down stops. One of his tackles produced a 2-yard loss.
- ➔ At Texas A&M he had five tackles (four solo) and upped his team-best QB pressures to five, as he made his way into the backfield to hurry Reggie McNeal on two separate occasions. He also added a pass breakup.
- ➔ Earning CU co-Defensive Player of the Week honors with Lorenzo Sims, he had a huge game versus Iowa State by racking up eight tackles (three solo), including an 8-yard sack and third down stop. On the play, McChesney shot through the line and pulled down QB Bret Meyer to force ISU into a second-and-17 situation on its final drive.
- ➔ At Missouri he continued his dominant play, racking up six tackles (all solo); he also had one sack for an 8-yard loss, one other stuff for minus yardage, one third down stop, one QB hurry and one QB chasedown. Currently, he is tops on the team with four hurries and two chasedowns.
- ➔ Against Washington State, he had seven tackles and three quarterback pressures, as he was one of the key components in the success of Colorado's eight sacks. Though he only had one tackle for loss, he forced the Washington State QB out of the pocket and into the harm of fellow CU teammates.
- ➔ Perhaps his biggest play of the game came when he recovered Jordon Dizon's forced fumble on the 1-yardline to secure a Colorado victory in the final seconds. Said McChesney on his recovery: "I was getting the ball (no matter what). I was getting the ball. I think somebody might have had it (first), but I got the ball."
- ➔ He competed in 54 plays against CSU and racked up five total stuffs, including CU's only sack. Said McChesney on the Buffs' last second stand: "They had to get it in (the end zone) to beat us, and we weren't going to let them get in. There are always down moments (during a game), but we pride ourselves on picking each other up."
- ➔ He is an emotional leader, and the only senior starter on defense. He relishes the position he is in this year and realizes he is responsible for creating the defense's intensity.
- ➔ Often considered by many media members as the "best quote" on the team, he is very animated individual. He lived up to that reputation this season, as he was voted the team's best interview by CU's beat media.
- ➔ He and fellow line mate James Garee are close friends, and "Chez" has taken it upon him to serve as a mentor for Garee and the other young linemen.

□ 2003.

- ➔ His solid play enabled the coaches to have the luxury of moving Sam Wilder from DT to OT.
- ➔ He finished the season with two sacks – one against UCLA (Sept. 6) and one against Oklahoma (Oct. 25).
- ➔ His sack against OU halted the Sooners' first drive of the 4th quarter to keep the Buffs in the game down 27-14.
- ➔ McChesney earned CU's defensive player-of-the-week honors for his performance against UCLA (Sept. 6), racking up four tackles, two tackles for a loss, a fumble recovery and a sack.

□ 2002.

- ➔ He did not play the entire year due to a combination of injuries and academics, but he had a redshirt year available to him so he did not lose a year of eligibility.

□ 2001.

- ➔ He came on at the end of the season, with some big plays against both Nebraska and Texas (he had a tackle for loss and a fumble recovery in the Big 12 title game). He had six tackles in the win at Iowa State, and has shown flashes of being a terror at other times, including when he had two sacks (for 24 yards in losses) at Kansas State.
- ➔ Got off to a great start during fall camp but suffered a sprained elbow that sidelined him a week. He had also missed one day of practice earlier in camp due to what Barnett said was Giardia, a protozoan parasite that is most commonly picked up by drinking out of a stream. McChesney said it just felt like a bad case of the flu.

McCHESNEY, CONTINUED

❑ 2000.

- ➔ Suffered a dislocated elbow against Missouri in November, which ended his rookie season.
- ➔ He was beginning to get a lot of playing time as a freshman. His time increase started at Texas A&M, where he responded by establishing a career-best five tackles, including one for a loss.
- ➔ He played 37 snaps against Texas, the most he saw in a game as a true freshman.
- ➔ Got in the first snap of his collegiate career at the start of the second half against Washington. Tyler Brayton was in the locker room receiving treatment and McChesney was rushed onto the field unexpectedly.

❑ GENERAL

- ➔ The first commit of the 2000 class, fulfilling a childhood dream of wanting to play at CU since grade school.
- ➔ He is on schedule to graduate this May with a degree in history.
- ➔ He also enjoys working on his family ranch (70 acres, plenty of horses; about 15 miles north of Boulder in the Niwot/Longmont area) and riding Harleys.
- ➔ Said one ABC announcer about McChesney and fellow line mate James Garee, both of whom are known for their colorful and extravagant tattoos: "Who do you think would win in a tattoo-off?" He has got them all in the last four years: he has "half-sleeves" on both arms (basically two big tattoos), with more coming, he says...
- ➔ Added QB Joel Klatt on the Buffalo Heart Award, which was voted on and presented by the fans to Bobby Purify: "I don't think anybody deserves it more. It's just too bad they don't have a tattoo award for Matt McChesney."

62 JOHN GUYDON, DT



❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ Listed second behind Matt McChesney at defensive tackle, he also saw some work at offensive guard early in the year but has permanently been moved back to defense. He's the only player on the team who can play offense and defense should he ever need to.
- ➔ Against CSU he performed particularly well on 17 plays, as he totaled one tackle; he has played sparingly on defense in CU's other games, but didn't have any noteworthy stats to report until at Kansas. In CU's 30-21 victory over KU, he had two tackles during his 13 snaps, while one of the stops netted his first career sack.
- ➔ He opened camp at guard, but was switched back to defense early on. It was later announced that he would see time on both sides of the ball.
- ➔ In the spring, the coaches moved him from defense to offensive guard/center to help build more depth on the line. He practiced the entire time there and developed into the No. 2 guard and No. 3 center by spring's end.
- ➔ Though he will no longer continue to learn some offense, head coach Gary Barnett said he liked the idea of Guydon being so versatile. "With him moving back to defense, that really bolsters us there."

❑ 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.
- ➔ 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



❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He is CU's starting tight guard and has really built on his outstanding freshman campaign from a year ago. 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.

DANIELS, CONTINUED

- ➔ Coaches rave about his strength, attention to detail and ability to finish off his opponent, while 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).
- ➔ This year 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 has 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.
- ➔ In the spring he boasted the team’s third best squat of 509-pounds.
- ❑ 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.

73 CLINT O’NEAL, OT



- ❑ THIS SEASON
 - ➔ He has started all 12 games at tight tackle, as he secured the job during fall camp by beating out Gary Moore and Edwin Harrison.
 - ➔ He has added 20-pounds of muscle since last year, and now weighs 300 — the heaviest during his career.
 - ➔ He can play both the split and tight tackle positions, but during camp he remained a staple at tight on the first-team. He has developed steadily since last year, and is an important cog in CU’s line.
 - ➔ His top game came against Kansas when he was in for 45 plays and recorded a team-high four knockdown blocks. His overall grade came out to be a season-best 84.4 percent.
 - ➔ He missed a couple practices early in camp with a sore knee, but returned back to full speed to remain a starter.
- ❑ 2003.
 - ➔ He entered the fall listed at the No. 1 split tackle position, but found himself in a battle with fellow sophomore Gary Moore for the starting tight job – the only battle that lasted into game week. He won the job and is received about one-third of the reps during games. His first career start came in the season opener against Colorado State.
 - ➔ He saw action in 11 of 12 games, and graded out to 68.2 on the year. His best game was an 86.7 against Kansas.
 - ➔ Saw first action of career lining up at tight end at Texas Tech (Nov. 1), backing up starter Jesse Wallace. The lack of depth was due to starting TE Joe Klopfenstein not making the trip because of flu-like symptoms and TE Quinn Sypniewski out for the year with a medical redshirt.
- ❑ 2002.
 - ➔ Saw playing time in six games, plus the Alamo Bowl. He had 17 plus plays and seven minus plays on the year.
- ❑ 2001.
 - ➔ He redshirted the season. After losing 30 pounds during a bout with mononucleosis, he worked hard (by eating and lifting weights) to get back to his playing weight.
- ❑ GENERAL
 - ➔ He’s a member of FFA (Future Farmers of America) and works with The Link Program (helps handicapped kids).
 - ➔ He was the second Buff to commit to the 2001 class, doing so after attending CU’s summer football camp.
 - ➔ He was selected for the United States Olympic Academy (on leadership and athletic ability) to teach individuals to be leaders on and off the playing field and to help bring back to your state the knowledge for programs to help your school be successful.
 - ➔ His cousin (Kerry Knox) played baseball at Texas Christian and was drafted by the San Diego Padres.

74 SAM WILDER, OT



□ THIS SEASON

- Is CU's starting split tackle and he entered the fall after making great strides in the off-season since switching from defensive tackle in 2003's camp. He has developed into a good tackle, and the coaches say he continues to improve daily. Things are only going to get better, as his athleticism continues to catch the eye of pro scouts.
- He won an honorable mention all-Big 12 selection by the coaches and *Associated Press* this year, while he also took home CU's Regiment Award – given for the greatest contribution with least amount of recognition.
- He graded out the highest of all the linemen (88.4 percent) against CSU, as he was in on every play and didn't allow a single pressure or sack. He had one knockdown and touchdown block, with no penalties.
- He has played in almost every snap this season, but sat out the fourth quarter against North Texas when CU owned a commanding lead.
- He was voted one of four team captains, the sixth offensive lineman in as many years to don the prestigious "C." A strong leader, coaches and teammates alike praise him for a strong work ethic and commitment to excellence.
- He admits that during the 2003 season his technique was very poor, for he was tossed into the position just two weeks before the opener. Having to learn all the fundamentals of a lineman on the go, Wilder says he looks back at film and can easily recognize how raw he was last year.
- He earned the Joe Romig Award during the spring, an honor given to the team's top offensive lineman.

□ 2003.

- In the middle of fall camp, he switched from defensive to offensive tackle, the position he was originally recruited to play. Because of his athleticism and versatility, he earned a starting spot and started all 12 games at the split tackle spot. Barnett on Wilder's move: "Sam brings playing experience, toughness and athleticism to our offensive line," stated Barnett. "When we recruited him we projected him as an offensive tackle, but he played so hard on defense that we couldn't justify moving him. Now with depth on the D-line, we have the luxury of moving him."
- A 12-game starter at split tackle, he graded out to a high of 80.5 in the season opener against CSU (Aug. 30), and finished the year with a 72.7 grade for fifth on the O-line.

□ 2002.

- He became a permanent fixture in the starting lineup in the fourth game at UCLA, and he made at least four tackles in six of the nine games after becoming a starter. His career-high of 5 tackles came in a win over K-State.
- He had 10 tackles for losses, and finished second place on the team in quarterback sacks with five.

□ GENERAL

- Originally committed to Colorado State, but had a change of heart at the last minute, phoned the coaches at CU, who had a scholarship available for him back in the 2000 recruiting class.
- He was a "halftime" baby, as he was born on Jan. 10, 1981 during the halftime of the '81 NFC Championship game between Dallas and San Francisco (the game that included the famous Joe Montana to Dwight Clark catch).
- A great uncle (Ted Wilder) played college football at Iowa.

76 EDWIN HARRISON, OT



□ THIS SEASON

- 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, but now stands No. 2. He is a strong blocker who continues to improve each week, as he has filled in for O'Neal on several occasions. 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 has 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.
- Offensive line coach Dave Borbely has been pleased with his progress in practice and has rewarded him with increased playing time in games over the past weeks.
- He has eight knockdown blocks on the year, as he's also paved the way for two touchdown runs. His best game came against Kansas when he graded out to 82.6 percent.

□ 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.

78 TERRANCE BARREAU, OG



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He has earned the starting nod at split guard, but has been relieved occasionally by Derek Stemrich for a few plays each game. He can also play center, as he is listed as the backup there.
- ➔ He made his first career start for CU and saw his first game action against CSU in the opener. He had the most knockdown blocks on the line with five, as he also totaled a team-high two touchdown blocks. He added two more knockdowns against Washington State, five more against North Texas, two at Missouri and one against Oklahoma State, as he was first on the team in that category through CU's first four games.
- ➔ He had his best single game grade (81.1 percent) came in the win at Nebraska, with a team best seven cut blocks and a crushing touchdown block on Bobby Purify's 9-yard scamper.
- ➔ After finally getting himself into good playing shape, he had a very solid spring and took advantage of his opportunity while Stemrich recovered from knee surgery. He is a very physical and strong player, who the coaches say finishes his blocks and assignments in a dominating manner.

□ 2003

- ➔ After being discharged from the Air Force Academy, he transferred to CU and did not see any game action; he did dress for six games and practiced mainly at guard during the year. He came into camp a little out of shape, but was also slowed down even more when he underwent arthroscopic knee surgery in September.

□ 2001-2002

- ➔ The bulk of his stretch of his two-year obligation to serve the in Air Force, he was deployed to Kyrgyzstan (Russia, wedged between and Kazakhstan and China) from January to April, working in security police detail. Upon his return, he was stationed at Seymour Johnson AFB in North Carolina. His two years started in May 2001 and ran through May 2003.

□ AT AIR FORCE: 2000

- ➔ He started six games before deciding the Air Force just wasn't for him, but was emerging as one of the Mountain West Conference's top linemen. He moved from tackle to guard in spring drills.

□ 1999

- ➔ He played as a backup offensive tackle. Prior to football practice in August, he completed Combat Survival Training, when he also completed Operations Air Force and was a member of the cadet squadron 10.

□ GENERAL

- ➔ A finance major, he garnered second-team Academic All-Big 12 honors this year by posting a GPA between 3.00 and 3.19.

79 GARY MOORE, OG



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He has secured himself as a solid backup at both tight tackle and tight guard, though he could figure into the starting mix at any point.
- ➔ He rotated with Clint O'Neal (at tackle) and Brian Daniels (at guard) during spring and fall camp. He has plenty of experience at both spots, and provides some much needed depth on the CU line.
- ➔ He's been in on 91 snaps this year, 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 50,00 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 with wide out Ron Monteilh and says he is really enjoys performing in front of people.

81 MIKE DUREN, WR



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He has really developed into a reliable possession wide out, as he currently stands third on the depth chart at the “Z” receiver position, and continues to make clutch catches when needed.
- ➔ He is fast and sturdy player who can speed past you or simply knock you over; he also has great hands. At 5-9, his center of gravity is low to the ground and it can be tough to bring him down. He can easily slip behind defenders or get lost in coverage.
- ➔ He had a career day in CU’s 30-21 win over Kansas when he racked up a career-high four catches for 34 yards, including a long of 16. That long grab of the day earned a first down for CU on third-and-14, as the drive was capped off by a Mason Crosby field goal.
- ➔ At Nebraska – in a homecoming of sorts since he played baseball there from 2000-01 – he equaled his career-best in catches (four) and totaled 30 yards.
- ➔ He reeled in his first career passes against Washington State, grabbing three balls for 20 yards. Against North Texas he had one reception for 15 yards that set CU up on the Mean Green 1-yardline. Following that play, Joel Klatt found Joe Klopfenstein on a 1-yard pass to put the Buffs up 21-14.
- ➔ He tied his old career-high (three) in receptions against Missouri, with one catch earning a 10-yard first down. Versus Texas he had two grabs for 12 yards, including an 8-yard long.
- ➔ QB Joel Klatt feels Duren is a reliable target, as Klatt found him twice against Washington State on third down. Though he didn’t get the first down, he came close and helped the Buffs earn better field position off their punts.
- ➔ Listed as the backup punt returner, he and Stephone Robinson battled for the No. 1 job once it became clear that incumbent Jeremy Bloom would not return. He is the No. 1 “safe punt” return man when CU is forced to catch a punt that should land somewhere inside its own 15-yardline.
- ➔ In the spring he was named the Most Improved Offensive Player. He led all players in three spring scrimmages with 13 catches for 142 yards and a 33-yard touchdown grab.

□ 2003.

- ➔ He saw time in eight games, mostly on special teams. He was twice awarded the Scout Team Offense Award for the Colorado State and Texas Tech games. After a solid spring in which he showed he was a reliable receiver, he was put on scholarship during the summer.
- ➔ He was a good special teams player, as he displayed the ability to block well on returns during the season. In the spring, with Jeremy Bloom gone, he got looks at returning kicks and punts.

□ 2002

- ➔ He joined the team as a recruited walk-on in August after transferring from Nebraska’s baseball program. He was used solely on special teams in four games on the punt return team, but was the Scout Team Offense Award winner for the Kansas game.

□ OTHER YEARS

- ➔ He was a member of the University of Nebraska’s baseball team in 2000 and 2001 as a scholarship outfielder, but he did not see any game action. He decided that he wanted to return back to Colorado where his heart was and walk-on to the Buffaloes.

□ GENERAL

- ➔ He is the third in a succession of Durens to play at Colorado, as father Gary was a defensive back in 1973-74, and older brother Matt a safety in 2000-01.

82 JAMES GAREE, DE



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He is currently CU’s top defensive “rush” end. He has clearly developed into a fast and powerful player who racked up honorable mention all-Big 12 honors by the league coaches this year. 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.
- ➔ Against CSU, he made his way into the backfield on several occasions, as he racked up one tackle for loss, one QB pressure and four total stuffs on the day. He had six stuffs (four solo) a week later against Washington State on 41 plays, while he earned a half sack (with Brian Iwuh) on Brad Smith at Missouri.
- ➔ He had five tackles against Oklahoma State including one third down stop, and then followed that performance up when he totaled five stuffs versus Iowa State (four solo), including one for loss and a QB hurry.
- ➔ He had another solid outing at Texas A&M, as he was the only Buff to corral combustible 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.

GAREE, CONTINUED

- ➔ 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.
- ➔ In the Big 12 title game, he posted six stuffs (four solo), including one tackle for a 1-yard loss.
- ➔ Defensive line coach Chris Wilson on Garee: "He is a throwback in that he's a big, physical guy who attacks people. When a guy is that powerful, he creates pass-rushing abilities by himself."
- ➔ 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.
- ➔ He was the overall Speed-Strength and Conditioning champion in the offensive and defensive linemen (Power) group this spring.
- ➔ The coaches can't help but rave about his speed, quickness, agility and overall brut strength.
- ➔ In the spring, he was named to *The Sporting News* All-Spring team citing his pass rush abilities. He also earned the Dan Staveland 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.
 - ➔ He always seemed to post big numbers during practice scrimmages, as he had nine tackles during the spring, seven of them being 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; he was the first freshman to win it since 1972. On the scout team, he was named the defensive player of the week three times.
- ❑ GENERAL
 - ➔ What a sight: At 6-5, 255 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 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
 - ➔ Seemingly out of nowhere, Judge has risen to No. 1 at the "X" receiver, and really developed into a "go-to-guy" in CU's young receiving corps; he leads the team now with 29 catches for 336 yards and three touchdowns.
 - ➔ 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 in which he caught one pass for 10 yards.
 - ➔ 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 Washington State, he pulled in three grabs for 44 yards, including a leaping acrobatic catch over his defender down the sideline for a 30-yard game.
 - ➔ 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.
 - ➔ He had four receptions at Missouri good for 37 yards, including a 21-yard dart on a slant over the middle on third-and-13 during CU's first scoring drive; his catch during that push resulted in a 21-yard Mason Crosby field goal.
 - ➔ How tough is Judge? He totaled six grabs for 50 yards against Oklahoma State, which was quite impressive considering the fact that he suffered a dislocated thumb during the first quarter. He returned to the game several plays later after going to the locker room to have the joint popped back into place.
 - ➔ Against Iowa State, he totaled three catches for 30 yards, with his long reception covering 13 yards.

JUDGE, CONTINUED

- ➔ 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.
- ➔ He had two catches for 16 yards against Texas, with his longest covering 16 yards, and two grabs last game against Kansas State good for 8 yards.
- ➔ A solid target (6-2, 210), he has tremendous hands and deceiving speed (he tied for the fifth fastest 40 on the team this spring with a 4.57).
- ➔ Another testament to his all-around athleticism, he had the team's best shuttle run with a 4.15 mark.
- ➔ With Jeremy Bloom unable to play this season, Judge jumped at the opportunity to step up as an "older" receiver.
- ❑ 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. He was CU's Scout Team Offense Award winner for the CSU game.
- ❑ 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

- ➔ 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 coaches are happy to have him back in the arsenal, as he was making great strides prior to the injury.
- ➔ *The Sporting News* named him to its Freshman All-Big 12 team.
- ➔ Also a standout for the Buffs on special teams, he is a big (6-4, 190-pound) target. He has improved every game this season, and appears to be setting himself up as a regular in the rotation for the remainder of his collegiate career.
- ➔ 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. His first of that game came on third-and-9, as he streaked down the sideline and made a nice diving grab from good for 23 yards. That catch helped set up Mason Crosby's 21-yard field goal, CU's first score of the day.
- ➔ 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. He also caught one other pass for 6 yards.
- ➔ He came up with another huge catch in CU's win over Iowa State when he reeled in a 22-yard James Cox pass on third-and-7. That completion set the Buffs up on their own 45, while later that drive CU would go up 13-0 after a record 60-yard field goal by Mason Crosby.
- ➔ 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.
- ➔ Offensive coordinator Shawn Watson on Sprague's development: "Dusty keeps getting better. He's at a point now where he's really starting to break through and make plays for us."
- ➔ 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 look for him as a gunner to be the first to reach the return man; if he doesn't make the tackle himself he creates a situation for the next Buff (usually Lorenzo Sims or Hugh Charles) to clean up.

SPRAGUE, CONTINUED

❑ 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 this year by receiving at least a 3.20 GPA.

86 JESSE WALLACE, TE



❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ With the injury to Quinn Sypniewski (ankle), he moved to second on the depth chart at tight end and plays a big role in CU's offense. He is a strong, athletic player who can block and catch the ball well.
- ➔ One of the more respected upperclassmen, the CU coaches selected him for the Tyronee "Tiger" Bussey Award this year, an honor given to the Buff senior who displays the best perseverance over adversity, injury and/or illness during his career.
- ➔ He tied for the longest reception of the night (20 yards) against CSU, and picked up 9 yards on a curial third-and-2 stand, which later produced a field goal to put the Buffs up 17-0 in the second quarter.
- ➔ He had two grabs against Washington State, but missed most of the second half with a swollen knee; he did not dress against North Texas while he rested the injury out of precaution. He played at Missouri (though he had no catches), but said had the North Texas game been a Big 12 game, his knee "would have been just fine" to play on.
- ➔ He recorded his first touchdown of the year (and second of his career) when he caught a 3-yard pass from James Cox in CU's 19-14 win over Iowa State. The grab was his only one of the day, but came at a good time as it gave the Buffs an early 7-0 lead on their second possession of the game.
- ➔ A member of what head coach Gary Barnett at one time called "maybe the deepest group of tight ends in the country," Wallace complements starter Joe Klopfenstein and Quinn Sypniewski quite well. He may not be the most well known name, but he is every bit as good of a weapon as his two counterparts.
- ➔ He practiced at 100-percent during camp, as he recovered fully after undergoing knee surgery after spring drills.

❑ 2003

- ➔ Wallace developed into a solid tight end during the absence of ailing starter Quinn Sypniewski. He had a good spring, as he was one of 13 players to earn prestigious Victory Club honors. He continued to push Joe Klopfenstein for the No. 1 spot while Sypniewski remained out, but with the stellar play of Klopfenstein he remained second on the depth chart throughout the season.
- ➔ A 12-game contributor (five starts), he finished the year with 12 receptions for 70 yards (5.8 average).

❑ 2002.

- ➔ He caught his first career touchdown against Kansas State, as the 1-yard grab from Robert Hodge increased CU's lead to 35-14 at the time. The Buffs went on to win, 35-31.

❑ GENERAL

- ➔ An uncle, Lamonte Winston, has been a member of the Kansas City Chiefs player personnel department for 10 years, the last six as the director of player development. Winston gave head coach Gary Barnett, Bobby Purify and Joel Klatt an "extended" tour of K.C.'s Arrowhead Stadium following Big 12 media days in July. The tour was meant to show the two captains where they'd be returning for the Big 12 Championship game in December.
- ➔ Another uncle, Kevin Winston, was a wide receiver at Indiana University and is now the director of player programs with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.
- ➔ His younger brother, Jason, is a wide receiver at the University of Wyoming.
- ➔ He is a regular participant in "Read With the Buffs," for are fifth-graders in Boulder.

89 JOE KLOPFENSTEIN, TE



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

❑ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He is listed as the starter at tight end and has quietly been one of the top performers for the Buffs this season. He is a prototype tight end, for he can catch the ball really well and has developed into a solid blocker.
- ➔ At 6-6, 250, he is a rock who can be very difficult to bring down. *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 this year, and an honorable mention selection by the *Associated Press*.

KLOPFENSTEIN, CONTINUED

- ➔ 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 has reeled in four touchdowns from Klatt, and overall has been on the receiving end of more Klatt career TD passes (7) than any other target on this year's team.
 - ➔ At Missouri he grabbed two passes for 25 yards, including a 17-yarder he caught in the fourth quarter over the middle and then rumbled down the sideline with.
 - ➔ Against Oklahoma State he left the game for several plays in the first half after a big, blindsided hit that was directed at his head. He returned after getting his bell rung to finish with three grabs for 17 yards.
 - ➔ A week later against Iowa State, he caught one pass for 8 yards, earning a first down on a drive that was later capped off with a 28-yard Mason Crosby field goal.
 - ➔ 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.
 - ➔ Against Texas he posted two catches for 49 yards, including a career high 45-yarder from James Cox late in the fourth quarter. At the time, his reception was CU's longest play from scrimmage in 2004 (only to be outdone by Klatt's 64-yard game-winning touchdown pass to Ron Monteilh versus Kansas State).
 - ➔ As noted above, he had one TD catch in CU's win at Kansas, while he also totaled three receptions for 24 yards. His 12-yard scoring catch on CU's first drive of the second half put the Buffs up 17-14.
 - ➔ Against Kansas State he caught three passes for 16 yards, including a 6-yard touchdown giving CU a 24-10 lead. Last week at Nebraska in CU's 26-20 win, he caught two balls for 13 yards and delivered a devastating key block on a NU defender during Bobby Purify's 9-yard TD run.
 - ➔ He was the overall Strength and Conditioning Champion in the "Explosion" group, as he was tops in the bench press (409-pounds), incline press (329-pounds), vertical jump (36.5 inches), 40-yard dash (4.62 seconds) and dips challenge (41 reps). He posted the second best power clean (325-pounds) and third best squat (478-pounds). He is one of the most complete athletes on the team.
- ❑ 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.
 - ➔ Tight ends coach John Wristen on Klopfenstein's development: "He really knows what to do now instead of thinking about it, he's reacting." The results indicated the Buffs very well may have a secret weapon in his ability to get open, catch and run.
 - ➔ 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 ... he missed the Texas Tech game (Nov. 1) with a bad case of the flu.
 - ➔ He had a career long reception of 48 yards against Kansas (Oct. 11), a TD strike from Joel Klatt that tied the game at 7-7 in the first quarter.
 - ➔ 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.
 - ➔ Had five catches for 25 yards and a TD against UCLA. About his performance coach Barnett said: "That's a young guy who can play. He had a tremendous freshman year. I've been preaching to the players that we have a lot of guys out there who can make plays ... He's just one more weapon for us."
- ❑ 2002.
- ➔ He saw action in seven games, but didn't post any stats as most of his duty was on special teams.

93 VAKA MANUPUNA, NT



- ❑ *First name is pronounced vah-ka; last name pronounced ma-na-pooh-na.*
- ❑ THIS SEASON
- ➔ He is the starting nose tackle for the Buffs, as he really rose to the occasion while Brandon Dabdoub missed spring drills and was limited in fall camp with a torn pectoral muscle. For his efforts this season, he was tabbed an honorable mention all-Big 12 selection by the conference coaches.
 - ➔ One of the most dedicated and hardworking Buffs, he has stepped up since last 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. Currently he is doing a great job of attaining his goals, as he is one of the most inspiring CU stories.
 - ➔ He's a powerful player who relentlessly penetrates the line of scrimmage and has been a force to reckon with.

MANUPUNA, CONTINUED

- ➔ Against Washington State he had three stuffs, including a sack that came on a third-and-22 early in the first quarter on the Cougs' first drive. He also had one other third down stop and a hurry.
 - ➔ He totaled five tackles against Missouri, as CU's defense held the Tigers to just 17 points; he also had three stuffs against Oklahoma State and one third down stop, while he finished with four tackles versus Iowa State. At Texas A&M he had three tackles (two solo), one of which produced a stop on third down. His efforts versus Texas earned him five solo tackles, including one halt for a 1-yard loss.
 - ➔ 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 another bang-up game against Kansas State when he totaled five tackles, including one sack and one tackle for loss that came on third down. In the Big 12 Championship against Oklahoma he only had four tackles, but two of them resulted in losses and helped make p CU's 10 TFL on the day.
 - ➔ 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 made his first career start at Kansas State (Oct. 18) as the Buffs opened in a 4-3 defense for the first time on the season. He recorded two tackles and one pass broken up.
 - ➔ 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 CU's standout freshman 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.

98 BRANDON DABDOUB, DT



- ❑ THIS SEASON
- ➔ He is listed second at nose tackle, as he wasn't full-speed until the last week of fall camp after recovering from a torn pectoral muscle. He suffered the injury before spring ball, and was forced to undergo surgery in March.
 - ➔ He has seen decent time on the line this season, as he's one of the most experienced Buffs. He has started in 18 of 44 career games – with his first start of 2004 coming against Kansas State on CU's Senior Day.
 - ➔ Made it back from his injury in time to open against CSU, but was only in on 15 plays and totaled two stops.
 - ➔ In Week 2, he played very well against Washington State totaling a career-high six tackles (five solo) and his second sack ever. He was only in on four plays against North Texas, as he suffered a hip flexor/leg injury causing him to miss the rest of the game. He was at full speed against Missouri, however, and netted one tackle on 18 plays and then one stuff a week later versus Oklahoma State and Iowa State.
 - ➔ He had two tackles at Texas A&M, as he played in 24 snaps. Versus Texas he compiled four stuffs (two solo), as one went for a 1-yard loss.
 - ➔ He just seems to step up his game even more each week, for against Kansas State he put together easily his best performance of the season. Tying a career-high in tackles (six), he tallied one sack, one third down stop, one quarterback chasedown and one pass breakup in his final game at Folsom Field. The sack came on a crucial first down for KSU, that dropped quarterback Allen Webb back 9 yards to his own 5-yardline. His PBU forced K-State into a third-and-8 situation with 1:08 remaining left in the game.
 - ➔ In the Big 12 Championship versus Oklahoma, he had two tackles and posted his fourth TFL on the year.
- ❑ 2003.
- ➔ An eight-game starter at DT, but saw action in all 12 contests.
 - ➔ He had his first career interception at Texas Tech (Nov. 1), and the first by a CU defensive *tackle* in seven seasons – going back to Viliami Maumau's 33-yard return for a touchdown at Colorado State on Sept. 7, 1996.
 - ➔ He had a breakout performance against UCLA (Sept. 6) in which he tallied three tackles, one for a loss and two quarterback hurries. He followed that up with a three tackle, one tackle for a loss and one QB hurry at Baylor.
 - ➔ Developed into one of CU's top defensive linemen during the spring and fall camp, earning Victory Club honors, being only one of 13 players to do so.
 - ➔ Defensive line coach Chris Wilson was very pleased with his progression, noting that he had "developed into a more mature and consistent player."

DABDOUB, CONTINUED

□ 2002.

- ➔ Didn't see a lot of action the second half of the season, mainly due to the play of others at the position, yet he still added depth and remained a solid backup figure.
- ➔ He finished with 11 tackles on the year, three of which went for losses and one sack.

□ 2001.

- ➔ He was one of only a handful freshman or redshirt freshman who saw any real action on scrimmage plays. And with so few defensive tackles playing as freshmen, he stood a good chance of earning some kind of frosh All-American recognition, and did — *The Sporting News* tabbed him second-team.
- ➔ His second career start, at Kansas State, came on his 20th birthday (Oct. 13). He responded with five tackles, or two more than he had in the first four games of his career. What did the native Louisianan receive prior to that game for his birthday from back home? A cake, some Tabasco sauce and some Cajun spice mix.
- ➔ Made his first career start against Kansas, as he was elevated to first-team status late in the practice week.
- ➔ He fell in love with the Buffaloes in eighth grade when he was watching the CU-Michigan game when Kordell Stewart threw the Hail Mary touchdown pass to Michael Westbrook. Stewart grew up in nearby Marrero, Louisiana, not far from Dabdoub's hometown of Metairie. "I pictured myself in CU's black & gold back then."
- ➔ As one would imagine, nicknames include "Dabba" and "Dabba-dabba-do."

99 McKENZIE TILMON, DT



□ THIS SEASON

- ➔ He is listed third at nose tackle behind Vaka Manupuna and Brandon Dabdoub. He was hampered by a knee injury early this season, as the coaches thought about redshirting him. That situation still looks probable, for he solely participated in 15 plays against North Texas in his only action this year.

□ 2003.

- ➔ He was the backup to Gabe Nyenhuis at one of the DE positions and saw action in five games.
- ➔ He collects Deion Sanders memorabilia, ranging from cards and photos/posters to figurines, and got to meet him as a gift on his 16th birthday.
- ➔ He is an accomplished drag racer; he belongs to a racing club that participates annually in the "Texas Drag Wars."
- ➔ He initially signed with the Buffs out of high school, but had to go the JUCO route prior to returning this past summer. When he did report, he was a little heavier than the coaches wanted him to be, but he dropped 25 pounds in about two months to get back down to a solid playing weight of 305.