



## BUFFALO BELLES

### THE BUFFALO BELLES' HISTORY

In 1970 the Ladies' Quarterback Club was founded by a University of Colorado football fan, Martha Johnson. Martha and her friends who loved football were tired of having to ask husbands for information about the Colorado Buffalo coaches, players and recruits, wanting more first-hand insights about crucial players and football strategies. Martha Johnson contacted Eddie Crowder, CU's Head Football Coach at the time, and discussed her plans to form a group for women in the area who wished to become more knowledgeable about football and more involved as supportive fans. Coach Crowder supported the idea and a tradition was born!

However, not everyone in the community was supportive of this new organization. Some felt that the coaching staff was too busy to be called upon to "educate a bunch of women" about football. Martha was undaunted and involved ten of her best friends in her plans. Each friend contacted ten more Buffalo friends and in the fall of 1970 about one hundred women attended the first meeting of the CU Ladies' Quarterback Club. The organizational meeting was held in the Public Service Building at the corner of Canyon and Broadway in downtown Boulder, at which time strategy, purpose, by-laws and a slate of officers were discussed.

The first luncheon meeting of the Ladies' Quarterback Club was held at Olympic Lanes, off 30<sup>th</sup> Street. The menu was sandwiches and, ironically, the coach sent to speak to the ladies was the Head Basketball Coach, Sox Walseth. Next stop for the CU Ladies' Quarterback Club was the Canyon Inn, the menu upgraded to soup and sandwiches.

As time passed, membership and interest grew and the group was renamed the Buffalo Belles. The organization became more sophisticated about its needs and future plans. A Belles logo was designed, a focus on fund-raising for the Athletic Scholarship Fund began and the Union Memorial Center became the location for the weekly luncheons during football season. A successful meeting with the CU Athletic Department resulted in a speaking schedule involving more of the varsity sports' coaches. Today's Buffalo Belles continue to be highly interested in all of the University of Colorado's student athletes, their families, interests and educational goals. The weekly luncheon meetings during the fall football season and special luncheons during the winter and spring have become a time for camaraderie among CU fans, as well as an opportunity for the Belles to listen to talks by coaches, staff and athletes, to ask pertinent questions and participate as better informed and supportive fans.