2001

COLORADO 39, Texas 37
December 1, 2001 (Irving, Texas)

IRVING, Texas — Texas Stadium just north of Dallas was supposed to be a neutral site for the sixth Big 12 Conference title game, but it was the 7,000 or so raucous fans who made it feel like home as the Buffs left happy as the No. 5 Buffaloes claimed their first Big 12 crown with a 39-27 win over the No. 3 Texas Longhorns.

A hostile environment was taken up a notch before the game when it was announced that No. 2 Oklahoma had lost to Tennessee, paving the way to the national championship game in the Rose Bowl for the 10-1 Longhorns if they could beat the Buffs. And UT came out inspired, stalling the CU offense on its first possession and then scoring on its first drive, marching 80 yards in just six plays to take a 7-0 lead with 9:56 left in the first quarter.

Two series later, Texas was again driving and had reached the CU 22, but linebacker Aaron Killion picked off a Chris Simms pass and raced 73 yards to the UT 12. Chris Brown scored on a 10-yard run three plays later, and it ignited a 29-3 scoring spree for the Buffs over the next 15 minutes as the Buffs used four Longhorn turnovers to take control of the game.

On CU's next possession, Brown got things going with a 24-yard run to get the Buffs into field goal range, enabling Jeremy Flores to make a good 39-yard kick on the second play of the second quarter. The Buffs took a 10-7 lead, one it would never relinquish, and following a Where Johnson interception of Simms, CU was back in business at its own 36. Bobby Purify's 51-yard run to the UT 7 set up Brown's second touchdown, but Flores' PAT kick sailed left.

On the second series, Flores added a 37-yard field goal to垫 the Buffs lead into the second half at 13-0. Brown used a 46-yard punt return score to pad the Buffs lead into the third quarter, but the Sooners answered with a 13-play, 77-yard drive with Hybl throwing a touchdown pass to Gardner with 3:29 left in the third quarter. The defense came out of the lockerroom and held the Sooners to a three-and-out on their first series. Blake Ferguson hit a 51-yard punt, fielded by Jeremy Hollowell on the UT 28, the freshman slay Olympic ran up the gut and sprinted 80 yards for a touchdown on his second punt return score of the year.

The Buffs came out of halftime and marched downfield, driving 86 yards in just six plays to take a 23-6 lead. Brown used an Andre Gurode block to spring free for a 24-yard touchdown run, and Flores' PAT made it 26-6.

Despite a never ending turnover fest, the Buffs held the Sooners again, and on their next possession, Brandon Drumm's 10-yard run turned a three-and-out on their first series into a 12-play, 80-yard drive, but Phil Jackson snuck through to block Trey DiCarlo's extra point kick.

Two series later, CU used runs of 25 and 19 yards by Calhoun to work to the OU 14, with Griffin scoring from 36 yards out. The Sooners missed the deuce and took a 19-7 lead into the fourth quarter.

Any hopes of a comeback were all but dashed when Oklahoma drove from its 5 to the CU 5 over the course of a 16-play, seven-plus minute drive. Though CU kept OU off the scoreboard, Griffin's 27-yard touchdown run late in the game closed the night's scoring.

Calhoun finished with 122 yards, a sterling effort since CU was without the services of Doak Walker finalist Chris Brown and sidekick Bobby Purify, who played a few snaps in the third down situation. The Buffs marched only 67 passing yards and 193 overall, while OU piled up 401 in the turnover free game.

2002

Oklahoma 29, COLORADO 7
December 7, 2002 (Houston, Texas)

HOUSTON — Quentin Griffin rushed for 188 yards and two touchdowns and Nate Hybl threw for 339 yards and two scores Sunday to lead defending Big 12 champion Colorado, as the Sooners downed the No. 12 Buffaloes, 29-7, to win the 2002 Big 12 Conference title.

Some say it’s hard to beat a team twice in the same season, but Oklahoma pulled it off by beating the Buffs in the first regular season game then repeating the feat for the second time in five weeks. The first time, turnovers helped do the Buffs in, but this time around, Colorado never got untracked offensively.

It looked good for CU out of the gate, as freshman running back sensation Brian Calhoun scooped around the right side for a 37-yard gain on the first play of the game. The Buffs drove to the Sooners 23 before the drive stalled, and it ended without points when Pat Brougham's 41-yard field goal try sailed wide right.

Oklahoma answered with a 13-play, 77-yard drive with Hybl throwing a touchdown pass to Gardner at the 12.

Two series later, CU used runs of 25 and 19 yards by Calhoun to work to the OU 14, but again was stopped by a buckling down Sooners defense. Brougham's 32-yard field goal matched his first in missing wide right, and the half would end with Oklahoma up 7-0.

Colorado got back in the game and had momentum on its side for the first half of the third quarter. The defense came out of the lockerroom and held the Buffs to three-and-out on their first series. Blake Ferguson hit a 51-yard punt, fielded by Jeremy Hollowell on the UT 28, the freshman slay Olympic ran up the gut and sprinted 80 yards for a touchdown on his second punt return score of the year, and Brougham's extra point cut the deficit to 13-7.

The Buffs held the Sooners again, and on their next possession, Brandon Drumm's 10-yard run turned a three-and-out on their first series into a 12-play, 80-yard drive, but Phil Jackson snuck through to block Trey DiCarlo's extra point kick.

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INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Colorado: Brown 33-182, Purify 7-65, Vasher 10-2—12; Gordon 6-10, Lewis 4-4—10; D.Johnson 5-2—7; Rawls 3-4—7.
Oklahoma: Hybl 25-141, 114.2; Savage 1-24; Brougham 1-14, 3.2; Bassey 2, Strait, Wilkerson 1-13; Mitchell 1-9.

Receiving—Colorado: Hodge 15-6-0, 67, 0 td. Oklahoma: Taylor 8-23, 3.6; Bloom 3-90.

TEAM STATISTICS

Colorado

First Downs... 18
Third Down Efficiency...
Fourth Down Efficiency...
Rushes—Net Yards... 53-229
Passing Yards...
Passes (Att-Comp-Int)...
Total Defense...
Return Yards...
Fumbles: No-Lost...
Penalties/Yards...
Quarterback Sacks...—Yards
Time of Possession...

Oklahoma

First Downs... 29
Third Down Efficiency...
Fourth Down Efficiency...
Rushes—Net Yards... 122-582
Passing Yards...
Passes (Att-Comp-Int)...
Total Defense...
Return Yards...
Fumbles: No-Lost...
Penalties/Yards...
Quarterback Sacks...—Yards
Time of Possession...


Interceptions—Colorado: Wu 4-6, 58. Oklahoma: Bassey 2-6, 3.2.

Tackle Leaders—Colorado: Lewis 11-12, 12. Oklahoma: Johnson 3.5-5.8.


December 4, 2004 (Kansas City, Mo.)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Colorado came into the 9th annual Big 12 Championship with no less intention than to win the game, but No. 2 Oklahoma came in on a mission to avenge its bad memories from the year before and in the end, the Sooners’ will was overwhelming as OU defeated the Buffaloes in Arrowhead Stadium, 42-3.

The Buffs, who won their third North Division Title in four years, were a surprise entrant in the game to many, though several also felt CU was the best team in the division despite claiming it with only a 4-4 mark. Oklahoma, on the other hand, was the No. 2 team in the nation from wire-to-wire and was out for redemption after losing 35-7 to Kansas State in the same venue in 2003.

The Sooners methodically dismantled the Buffaloes, using the run (15 plays) and pass (10) to score touchdowns on its first three possessions in taking a 21-0 lead just seven seconds into the second quarter. Fab freshman Adrian Peterson and senior quarterback Jason White, both Heisman candidates, were the stars of the Sooners Show but both had plenty of support.

Peterson had runs of 18 and 24 yards on OU’s first drive, which featured three third down conversions, with White getting Oklahoma on the board with a 5-yard TD pass to Will Peoples, the fifth time CU allowed a touchdown on the game’s first possession.

The Buffs’ response to the opening score likely could dictate the way the game would play out. CU picked up a first down by penalty on its second play when quarterback Joel Klatt was victimized by a hit, but two straight penalties against Colorado liners (holding and a false start) set up a first-and-25 that the Buffs could not get out of. A 55-yard punt by John Torp, who was one of few bright spots on the night, got the Buffs out of trouble, or so it seemed.

The Sooners covered a quick 54-yard, 63-yard effort topped off by a 22-yard pass for a score from White to Mark Clayton. After the Buffs lost 10 yards on three plays when they got the ball back, the duo repeated the feat on OU’s next drive in building a 21-0 lead. Peterson scored on a 1-yard after an Antonio Perkins interception of a Klatt pass put the Sooners in business at the CU 40. The 28-0 score held at intermission, and extended to 35-0 after Peterson scored on a 3-yard run to cap a 41-yard drive that ensued following a failed fourth down punt fumble by the Buffaloes.

Late in the third quarter, Colorado enjoyed its best moments of the game. Lorenzo Sims picked off his fifth pass of the season and returned it 40 yards to the Oklahoma 32. The Sooner D stiffened, but the Buffs averted a shutout when Mason Crosby made Sims picked off his fifth pass of the season and returned it 40 yards to the Oklahoma

Joel Klatt’s career with an illegal vicious cheap shot to the head in the third quarter.

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Joel Klatt’s career with an illegal vicious cheap shot to the head in the third quarter.

The 'Horns turned that first miscue, a Hugh Charles fumble, into a quick score, marching 65 yards in seven plays (and in just 116 seconds) to set the tone for the day after a –yard run by Henry Melton. UT scored again on its next possession, a 3-yard run by Jamaal Charles’ pass play that led to a 34-yard field goal.

Mason Crosby scored CU’s only points on the afternoon with a 25-yard field goal to open the second quarter, pulling the Buffs to within 14-3. That’s when Texas countered with eight unanswered touchdowns, which included three TD passes by Heisman Texas — Clayton 22 pass from White (Hartley kick)

Texas — Young 2 run (Pino kick)

Texas — Charles 3 pass from Young (Pino kick)

Texas — Thomas 8 pass from Young (Pino kick)

Texas — Charles 2 pass (Pino kick)

Texas — Young 4 run (Pino kick)

Texas — Young 4 run (Pino kick)

Texas — Young 4 run (Pino kick)

Texas — Young 4 run (Pino kick)

Texas — Charles 26 run (Pino kick)

Texas — Montravias Taylor 14-14-1, 100, 0 td; Cox 1-1-0, 0.

Texas — V. Young 17-14-1, 193, 3 td; Taylor 14-41, Melton 13-34, McCoy 3-11, Ogbonnaya 5-11, Nordgren 2-9, Myers 2-1.

Texas — Passing: K. Craft 1-0-0, 0, 0.0.0.

Texas — Passing: V. Young 17-14-1, 193, 3 td; Taylor 14-41, Melton 13-34, McCoy 3-11, Ogbonnaya 5-11, Nordgren 2-9, Myers 2-1.

Texas — Fumbles: No-Lost

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Texas — Fumbles: No-Lost

Texas — Passing: K. Craft 1-0-0, 0, 0.0.0.
CU IN THE PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

2016

Washington 41, COLORADO 10
December 2, 2016 (Santa Clara, Calif.)

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Colorado lost starting quarterback Sefo Liufau for almost the entire first half to injury and the Buffs never found their rhythm in dropping a 41-10 decision to Washington in the Pac-12 Championship game at Levi’s Stadium.

For the first time this year, a CU opponent took the opening kickoff and scored, as Washington went 65 yards on seven plays for the game's opening touchdown. The big play on the drive was a 26-yard run from Lavon Coleman, which put the Huskies on CU’s 12. Four plays later, Coleman scored from 1 yard out for a 7-0 lead. Colorado took the kickoff and drove into Washington territory before Liufau was injured on a quarterback sack. Steven Montez replaced Liufau and two plays later, threw an incompletion on fourth down.

CU's defense, however, returned the favor. The Buffs sacked Washington quarterback Jake Browning twice on the Huskies' next possession, including a fourth-down stop from Jimmie Gilbert and Timothy Coleman Jr. that gave the ball back to Colorado.

Montez then engineered a seven-play, 55-yard scoring drive to tie the game. He completed a 15-yard pass to Kyle Evans on third-and-7 to keep the drive alive and followed that with a 21-yard strike to Shay Fields to the UW 9. Two plays later, Phillip Lindsay scored from 3 yards out and Davis Price's PAT tied the game at 7-7.

The two teams then traded punts, but the Huskies came out with good field position after CU was forced to kick from deep in its own territory. UW then drove 56 yards (nine plays) for the go-ahead score with Jake Browning throwing a 15-yard pass to Darrell Daniels and the PAT gave the Huskies a 14-7 lead that held until halftime.

Liufau returned behind center for the Buffs to start the second half, but on CU's first play from scrimmage, a tipped pass ended up in the hands of Washington's Taylor Rapp, who returned it 35 yards for a touchdown. The PAT gave Washington a 21-7 lead with 14:44 still to go in the third quarter. UW's defense then struck again, with Rapp notchting his second interception of Liufau and returning it to the CU 25. Colorado's defense rose to the occasion and held UW to a 24-yard Cameron Van Winkle field goal, but the Huskies still held a 24-7 lead with 11:27 still to go in the third period. And two possessions later, starting at their own 40, UW needed just four plays to go 60 yards to go up 31-7 and essentially put the game out of reach.

The Buffs were outgained 385-163, with the Huskies racking up 265 yards on the ground and winning the turnover battle, picking off three passes, while CU saw its nation-leading streak of games with at least one defensive takeaway end at 25.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLORADO</th>
<th>Washington</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington — Coleman 1 run (Van Winkle kick)</td>
<td>7 — 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado — Lindsay 3 run (Price kick)</td>
<td>7 — 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington — Daniels 15 pass from Browning (Van Winkle kick)</td>
<td>7 — 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington — Rapp 35 interception return (Van Winkle kick)</td>
<td>7 — 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington — Ross 19 pass from Browning (Van Winkle kick)</td>
<td>7 — 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado — Graham 24 FG</td>
<td>10 — 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado — Van Winkle 20 FG</td>
<td>10 — 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington — McClatcher 8 run (Van Winkle kick)</td>
<td>10 — 41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance: 47,118</td>
<td>Time: 3:16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weather: 60 degrees, clear skies, 10 mph winds from northwest</td>
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</tbody>
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INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS


Passing — Colorado: Montez 12-50, 60, 0 td; Liufau 13-3-21, 26 yards, 0 td; Utah 13-4-10, 0 td. Washington: Browning 25-82, 24-60.

Receiving — Colorado: Monier 13-3-21, 26 yards. Washington: Gaskin 5-3-20, 25 yards, 0 td; Coleman 8-2-12, 21 yards, 0 td; Daniels 1-1-4, 8 yards, 0 td; McClatcher 1-1-4, 3 yards, 0 td; Pettis 1-4-1, 3 yards, 0 td; Olugbode 1-5, 4 yards, 0 td; Washington: Vizcaino 5-40.6 (62 long, 1 in20).

Punting — Colorado: Kinney 7-23.1 (44 long, 1 in20). Washington: Vizcaino 5-40.6 (62 long, 1 in20).


Tackle Leaders — Colorado: Oholodgbe 14-11, Gillam 10-11, Laguda 4-6-10, Moeller 7-1-8, Awuzie 4-2-6, Carter 2-5-3, Gamboa 2-2-4, Gilbert 2-2-4, Kafovalu 3-0-3, Toupou 1-2-3, Coleman 1-1-2, Franke 0-1-1, Jackson 0-1-1. Washington: Bartlett 3-4-7, Burr 1-5-6, McIntosh 2-2-5, Baker/Biroirio/Wooching 1-5-4.


TEAM STATISTICS

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<tr>
<th>RECEPTIONS</th>
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Washington

Tackle Leaders: Colorado: Oholodgbe 14-11, Gillam 10-11, Laguda 4-6-10, Moeller 7-1-8, Awuzie 4-2-6, Carter 2-5-3, Gamboa 2-2-4, Gilbert 2-2-4, Kafovalu 3-0-3, Toupou 1-2-3, Coleman 1-1-2, Franke 0-1-1, Jackson 0-1-1. Washington: Bartlett 3-4-7, Burr 1-5-6, McIntosh 2-2-5, Baker/Biroirio/Wooching 1-5-4.