



# SPRING FOOTBALL HISTORY



For 40 years, spring practice traditionally ended with a game between the Colorado Varsity and Alumni. Back at the turn of the century, an Alumni team usually served as the season opener for the varsity (13 times all told, with the Varsity owning an 11-0-2 edge in those games). The Varsity held a 20-3 edge in the old format of the spring series, which started back in 1953 under then head coach Dal Ward. After a pair of games, the series became dormant until 1963 when it was revived by Eddie Crowder. There was no game between 1974 and 1976, and the 1978 game was cancelled due to a blizzard.

A new format for the Varsity-Alumni game (implemented in 1988) had the alumni playing in the first and third quarters, with the first team of the varsity playing the second and fourth quarters. They were pitted against the second- and third-team members of the varsity, resulting in a competitive and fun game. The alumni and first-team varsity always wore black. This format was discontinued following 1992 for competitive reasons.

The all-time results of the Varsity-Alumni game:

Year	Score	Attend.	Year	Score	Attend.
1953 — Varsity, 6-0		2,300	1979 — Varsity, 31-0		5,277
1954 — Varsity, 7-6		1,200	1980 — Varsity, 24-14		4,688
1963 — Alumni, 14-6		11,500	1981 — Varsity, 24-0		3,369
1964 — Alumni, 10-7		10,000	1982 — Varsity, 35-15		4,144
1965 — Varsity, 13-12		6,000	1983 — Varsity, 42-0		3,804
1966 — Varsity, 23-6		10,500	1984 — Varsity, 14-6		4,023
1967 — *Varsity, 29-16		3,500	1985 — Varsity, 24-0		4,211
1968 — Alumni, 23-0		7,500	1986 — Varsity, 31-7		3,855
1969 — Varsity, 37-10		9,000	1987 — Varsity, 24-0		2,235
1970 — Varsity, 41-12		6,500	1988 — #Black, 23-14		2,750
1971 — Varsity, 13-0		4,500	1989 — #White, 38-35		13,642
1972 — Varsity, 28-0		8,500	1990 — #White, 27-25		11,336
1973 — Varsity, 14-13		6,500	1991 — #Black, 21-17		10,382
1977 — Varsity, 43-27		9,000	1992 — #Black, 44-7		9,618

\*—played in Denver due to stadium expansion

#—First-team varsity and alumni wore black jerseys, remainder of varsity white jerseys.

The format for the game in 1993 and 1994 was to pit the first-team offense and defense against the remainder of the squad. The results of this series:

Year	Score	Attend.	Year	Score	Attend.
1993 — White, 24-13		2,500	1994 — Black, 45-3		1,650

An intrasquad game was started in 1987 and was dubbed the “Black & White” game (which evolved into the “Black & Gold” game). The format for this has varied through the years, depending on the health of the team; most years, the team is divided by the coaching staff into two units of comparable strength. Injuries in the 2001-03 and 2005 seasons forced an offense-defense formatted game with its own unique scoring system, and in 2006-07 the team scrimmaged due to a lack of offensive linemen. In 2008, the Black team was the first-team offense, the Gold team the second and third-teamers; that year, in response to a challenge by former head coach Bill McCartney, a CU spring record crowd of 17,800 turned out for the game. In 2010, 2014 and 2015, the players drafted the teams themselves. A look at this series:

Year	Score	Attend.	Year	Score	Attend.
1987 — Black, 6-3		—	2005 — Defense, 26-19		2,800
1988 — White, 7-3		—	2006 — N/A (scrimmage)		6,400
1989 — Black, 14-10		—	2007 — N/A (scrimmage)		5,800
1990 — White, 14-10		—	2008 — Black, 28-17		17,800
1991 — Black, 28-9		—	2009 — Black, 17-10		11,700
1992 — Black, 22-19		—	2010 — Gold, 37-27		9,100
1993 — Black, 17-7		—	2011 — N/A (scrimmage)		15,655
1994 — White, 14-7		—	2012 — N/A (scrimmage)		7,150
1995 — Silver, 20-6		2,600	2013 — Black, 17-16		10,244
1996 — Gold, 30-20		7,500	2014 — Black, 21-17		6,350
1997 — Gold, 14-0		6,100	2015 — Gold, 14-10		4,100
1998 — Silver, 14-3		7,100	2016 — N/A (scrimmage)		5,100
1999 — Gold, 13-10		1,400	2017 — N/A (scrimmage)		6,250
2000 — Black, 15-6		2,000	2018 — N/A (scrimmage)		4,500
2001 — Defense, 48-9		4,400	2019 — Gold, 55-27		7,550
2002 — Offense, 59-49		3,350	2020 — No Game (pandemic)		—
2003 — Defense, 32-26		1,500	2021 — N/A (scrimmage)		1,000
2004 — Gold, 17-13		4,500	2022 — N/A (scrimmage)		1,950



One of the most emotional moments in CU football came at halftime of the 1989 spring game, when the players saluted cancer-stricken QB Sal Aunese (center). Aunese passed away on Sept. 23 later that year.



## MEDIA HISTORY



Throughout the history of University of Colorado athletics, three newspapers (*Boulder Camera*, *Denver Post* and *Rocky Mountain News*) and KOA-Radio have been, year-in and year-out, the ones to turn to for coverage of CU sports. Here is a look at those “beat” people who have covered the Buffaloes during the years:

### Boulder Daily Camera

1935-1953	Lu P. Monroe
1954-1966	Howard Baxter
1967-1977	Dan Creedon
1978	Barney Hutchinson
1979-2000	Craig Harper
2001	Ryan Thorburn
2002-2003	Chris Dempsey
2004-2014	Kyle Ringo
2015-	Brian Howell

### Rocky Mountain News

1944-1959	Chet Nelson
1960-1974	Leonard Kahn
1975-1977	Dave Nelson
1978-1984	Mike Madigan
1985-1986	Clay Latimer
1987-2009	B.G. Brooks

### CUBuffs.com

2009-2017	B.G. Brooks
2015-	Neill Woelk

### Denver Post

1936-1955	assorted
1956-1980	Frank Haraway
1981-1982	Mike Knisley
1983-1986	Kevin Widlic
1987-1989	Natalie Meisler
1990-1994	John Henderson
1995-1996	Vicki Michaelis
1996-1999	Tom Kensler
1999-2003	Adam Thompson
2004-2005	Chris Dempsey
2006-2012	Tom Kensler
2013	John Henderson
2014	Tom Kensler
2015	John Meyer
2016	Nick Kosmider
2017	Kyle Fredrickson
2018-	Sean Keeler

### Radio Announcer Teams (Flagship, since 1973)

1973-1978	Larry Zimmer, Bob Rubin (KOA)
1979-1980	Larry Zimmer, Ron Zappolo, Bobby Anderson (KOA)
1981	Larry Zimmer, Jon Keyworth, Bobby Anderson (KOA)
1982-1983	Wayne Larriev, Bobby Anderson (KHOW)
1984	Wayne Larriev, Bobby Anderson (KRXV)
1985-1994	Larry Zimmer, Kent Groshong, Bobby Anderson (KOA)
1995-2000	Larry Zimmer, Jim Ryan, Bobby Anderson (KOA)
2001	Larry Zimmer, Jim Conrad, Bobby Anderson (KOA)
2002-2003	Larry Zimmer, Jay Leeuwenburg, Bobby Anderson (KOA)
2004-2006	Mark Johnson, Larry Zimmer, Bobby Anderson (KOA)
2007-2009	Mark Johnson, Larry Zimmer, Charles Johnson (KOA)
2010	Mark Johnson, Larry Zimmer, Victor Rogers/Andy Lindahl (KOA)
2011	Mark Johnson, Larry Zimmer, Andy Lindahl (KOA)
2012	Mark Johnson, Larry Zimmer, Chad Brown/Kami Carmann/Andy Lindahl (KOA)
2013-2015	Mark Johnson, Larry Zimmer, Chad Brown/Kami Carmann (KOA)
2016-	Mark Johnson, Gary Barnett, Andy Lindahl/Chad Brown/Bobby Pesavento (KOA)

NOTE: Prior to 1973, as many as four radio stations originated CU football broadcasts. Stations such as KBOL, KLZ and KHOW and personalities like Jim Kithcart, Mark Schreiber, John Henry, Starr Yelland, Pete Hansen, Bob Martin, Dick Carlson, Don Cole, Mike Wolfe, Fred Casotti, Glenn Perkins, Irv Brown and many others have called the action of CU football.

### Television

Stations that have had the rights through the years for broadcasts of CU games and coaches' shows:

1952-1958	KOA-TV (NBC)	1976-1978	KOA-TV (NBC)	2001-2003	ESPN2 (local window)
1959-1972	KLZ-TV (CBS)	1979-1981	KBTv (ABC)	2004-2011	FSN Rocky Mountain/ROOT
1973	KBTv (ABC)	1982-1983	KWGN-TV	2012-	Pac-12 Network
1974-1975	KLZ-TV (CBS)		(Independent)		
		1984-2000	KCNV-TV (NBC/CBS)		