



Great Farewells



Throughout its history, University of Colorado football fans have been treated to some special moments the last time a player or coach took the field for the Buffaloes, either in the final game of the regular season or in a bowl game. Here's a look at a few of these that stand out:

Byron White, 1937

Not a farewell game as much as it was a farewell tour for the man who would go on to become a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. In the final home game of the year, Byron White scored three second half touchdowns to defeat Colorado College, 35-6. In the final regular season game at Denver, he accounted for every CU point in a 34-7 win over the Pioneers, scoring three touchdowns, passing for two and making four extra points. Then, in the first bowl game ever for CU, he passed for one touchdown and scored another on a 47-yard interception return in a 28-14 loss to Rice in the Cotton Bowl.

Frank Bernardi & Carroll Hardy, 1954 vs. Kansas State

The final game of the 1954 season didn't really have anything riding on it as far as Colorado was concerned, except that it was the final game in a CU uniform for five Buffalo seniors. Kansas State, however, could have earned an Orange Bowl berth with a win and a Nebraska loss. Coach Dal Ward told the underclassmen to dedicate the final game to the quintet, and in particular, to four-year lettermen Carrol Hardy and Frank Bernardi, who had carried the team to a 6-2-1 record at that point. The Buffs would easily defeat the Wildcats, 38-14, but when Hardy and Bernardi carried the ball, they must have thought they were playing against just the clean Rocky Mountain air. The CU offensive line dominated from start to finish, as Hardy rushed for 238 yards and three touchdowns on just 10 carries, while Bernardi picked up 113 and a score on only nine tries.

John Bayuk, 1957 Orange Bowl

Known as "The Beast," John Bayuk rallied Colorado to its first-ever bowl win, a 27-21 verdict over Clemson in the Orange Bowl. He rushed for 121 yards on 23 carries and scored two touchdowns, including the game winner with 7:13 left to play.

Coach Bud Davis, 1962 vs. Air Force

Though he coached only the one season in Boulder, the transitional year between Sonny Grandelius and Eddie Crowder, the season finale in 1962 was special for Bud Davis. Heading into the rivalry game against Air Force with just a 1-8 record, CU was a 21-point underdog to the Falcons. But the Buffaloes gave Davis, who resigned the day of the game, a tremendous sendoff, convincingly defeating the "Zoomies," 34-10. Bill Harris rushed for 108 yards and Bill Symons scored twice to lead the Buffs.

Bobby Anderson, 1969 Liberty Bowl

He placed 11th in the Heisman Trophy balloting, but who knows where he would have finished had the voting taken place after the Liberty Bowl. Bobby Anderson led a ground game to an explosive offensive attack, as CU defeated Bear Bryant's Alabama Crimson Tide, 47-33. Anderson rushed 254 yards on 35 carries and scored three touchdowns, including a pair in the fourth quarter to seal the win for Coach Eddie Crowder's Buffaloes. And for good measure, he completed 3-of-4 passes for another 41 yards, giving him 295 yards of total offense (over half of CU's 563 on the afternoon).

Bill Roe, 1979 vs. Kansas State

The game meant nothing, except that it would signal the end a very disappointing season for first year coach Chuck Fairbanks. But nobody told that to Bill Roe, who was a one-man wrecking crew on defense in CU's 21-6 win. He had 24 tackles in the game, the second most at the time in a game by a Buffalo, along with two interceptions.

Mike Pritchard & Others, 1990 vs. Kansas State

Colorado had already clinched the Orange Bowl, but needed to stay sharp as the Buffs moved to No. 1 in the polls after a 64-3 pasting of Kansas State in Boulder. In the final game for some 21 seniors, Mike Pritchard gained 152 yards on just four touches, scoring two touchdowns. Eric Bienenmy rushed for 115 yards in his final home game, but would lose out on the NCAA rushing title by 12 yards when he didn't play in the second half. O.C. Oliver scored for the first time since he was a freshman in 1986, and outside linebacker Alfred Williams got his wish, playing a few snaps at tight end and catching a pass for 17 yards.

Rashaan Salaam, 1994 vs. Iowa State

Only three others had accomplished what Rashaan Salaam had in front of him this November afternoon. Salaam, who went on to win Colorado's first Heisman Trophy, came into the game needing 204 yards to become the fourth player in NCAA history at the time to rush for 2,000 yards in a single season. With CU ahead, 27-13, and just under 11 minutes left in the game, Salaam had 192 in the game and 1,988 for the season, and Colorado had a first-and-10 at its own 33. He took the handoff from Kordell Stewart and sprinted around the right side, heading 67 yards down the Colorado sidelines for a touchdown and 2,055 yards. One of the most single exciting plays in CU history, with the fans jumping up-and-down holding onto yellow placards with a simple "2,000" printed on them in black. Also in this game, Kordell Stewart became the Big Eight's all-time total offense leader with 7,770 yards, as he passed for 196 and ran for 89, also eclipsing the mark in the fourth quarter. And to cap off the day's events, head coach Bill McCartney, announced after the game that he would retire following CU's bowl game.

Coach Bill McCartney & Kordell Stewart, 1995 Fiesta Bowl

It was the rubber game in the postseason between Colorado and Notre Dame in the 1990s, as the two split a pair of Orange Bowls to start the decade, both with national championship implications for the Buffs. CU built up a 31-3 lead over an outmatched Fighting Irish team and cruised to a 41-24 victory in Bill McCartney's final game as head coach. He would exit as CU's all-time winningest head coach with a 93-55-5 record. With all eyes on Heisman winner Rashaan Salaam, who scored three touchdowns and rushed for 85 yards, Kordell Stewart had a field day against the Irish. He rushed for 143 yards and a touchdown on just seven carries, and completed 11-of-20 passes for 205 yards and another score in being named the game's most valuable player.



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Koy Detmer & Rae Carruth, 1996 Holiday Bowl

The senior duo, which hooked up for 54 completions and eight touchdowns in the regular season, obliterated almost every passing and receiving record in Colorado bowl history. Detmer completed 25 of 45 passes for 371 yards and three touchdowns, while Carruth caught seven of those for 162 yards, including two touchdowns. Their first touchdown, a 76-yard bomb that got CU on the scoreboard, was the longest play from scrimmage in the Buff postseason. Colorado rallied from a 14-0 deficit to defeat Washington, 33-21.

The Class of '01, 2001 vs. Nebraska

Twenty-nine seniors suited up for the final time in their CU careers at Folsom Field. Three-and-a-half hours and nine touchdowns later, this group put a 62-36 win on the scoreboard over Nebraska, ending a nine-game losing streak to their fiercest rival.

Hugh Charles & Jordon Dizon, 2007 vs. Nebraska

Colorado needed a win to become bowl eligible, and everyone came to play, including senior tailback Hugh Charles and senior linebacker Jordon Dizon. Charles rushed 33 times for 169 yards and three touchdowns, caught one pass for 33 more, and returned five kickoffs for 125 yards; the 327 all-purpose yards were the most in 13 years and the sixth highest total in school history. Dizon closed his career at Folsom with 16 tackles, 12 solo, a third down stop and a pass deflection as CU won 65-51 and earned an invitation to the Independence Bowl.

Tedric Thompson, 2016 vs. Utah

Playing in his final game at Folsom Field to cap a stellar four-year career, Tedric Thompson was a horn in the site of Utah quarterback Troy Williams. He intercepted 33 passes, which gave him a school record-tying seven for the season, and broke up four others in accounting for six non-completions. He also had four unassisted tackles, including one for a loss, and had four third down stops overall.

GREAT INTRODUCTIONS

The starting lineups on ABC for the game were produced by CU alums Trey Parker, Matt Stone and Eric Stough, the creators of the Comedy Central hit South Park. An instant YouTube hit, the intros were popular and selected as the best of the year for the entire ABC/ESPN series of games.