



Brick Games



“Brick” games are those that are significant in CU’s history and are commemorated by simulated gold brick with the game score on a wall in the Champions Center adjacent to CU’s locker room. (This list includes a handful of other wins deemed significant but are not on the wall.)

Nov. 26, 1891 Colorado 24, Colorado Springs A.A. 4

(at Colorado Springs) After eight straight losses over two seasons, CU earned its first win in its history in the 1891 finale. Up until this game, CU had scored just two touchdowns, both by the defense, but quarterback Pat Carney ran the ball into the end zone for the Silver & Gold’s first offensive score.

Oct. 8, 1904 Colorado 6, Nebraska 0

(in Boulder) Referred to at the time as the program’s biggest victory at that point in history, CU upset heavily favored Nebraska on its home turf (Gamble Field). Schools from outside the state were appearing more regularly on the schedule, but thus marked the first time that Colorado defeated an established program from the nation’s midlands.

Nov. 25, 1920 Colorado 40, Oklahoma A&M 7

(at Oklahoma City) Colorado capped its first season under head coach Myron Witham with its most dominant performance to date outside of the state’s borders, crushing Oklahoma A & M (now Oklahoma State), 40-7 on Thanksgiving Day. The win in CU’s only non-conference game of the year gave the Silver & Gold a 4-1-2 record.

Nov. 6, 1937 Colorado 17, Utah 7

(at Salt Lake City) The road win secured CU the title in the first year of the Mountain States Conference and vaulted the Buffs to their first-ever appearance in the Associated Press Top 20 (at No. 16). Byron White single-handedly beat Utah, returning a punt 95 yards for a touchdown, scored a second on a 57-yard run, and kicked a field goal and both extra points in accounting for all of CU’s scoring. The win helped pave the way for CU’s first-ever bowl game appearance (against Rice in the Cotton).

Oct. 9, 1948 Colorado 19, Nebraska 6

(in Boulder) Another benchmark victory for the program, as the win was both CU’s first in the Big Seven Conference as well as the first for new head coach Dal Ward. Don Hagin rushed for 116 yards and a score and Harry Narcisian accounted for 206 yards of total offense while a stout Buff defense held the Cornhuskers to only 150 total yards.

Oct. 6, 1951 Colorado 35, #20 Kansas 27

(in Boulder) Lee Venzke scored touchdowns rushing and receiving in the fourth quarter to break open a one-point game to lead Colorado to the victory over the No. 20 Jayhawks, the school’s first-ever win over a ranked opponent. The Buffs stormed to a 14-0 lead on a touchdown run from Zack Jordan and a 65-yard punt return by Tom Brookshier and never relinquished the lead. CU went on to finish 5-1 in league play, its second place finish its best in the four years as a member of the Big 7.



The 1891 team that recorded CU’s first win

Sept. 27, 1952 Colorado 21, #4 Oklahoma 21 (tie)

(in Boulder) While not a win, but it was not just a tie, either. It would prove to be the only blemish on Oklahoma’s amazing 47-0-1 record in Big 7 Conference play (1948-57). The Buffaloes were a thorn in the Sooners’ side for many of their games in the run, and this day in Boulder was the closest call. CU took a 21-14 lead early in the fourth quarter on a 16-yard pass from Lee Venzke to Zack Jordan, and the Buff defense would hold OU scoreless on three straight possessions. But the No. 4 Sooners used a 13-play drive to tie the game with just 1:51 left.

Jan. 1, 1957 #20 Colorado 27, #19 Clemson 21

(Orange Bowl at Miami, Fla.) The first-ever bowl victory in Colorado history came in a wild one over No. 19 Clemson. The Buffs scored 20 points in the second quarter on touchdown runs by John Bayuk, Boyd Dowler and Howard Cook, only to see the Tigers battle back to take 21-20 lead with 11:12 remaining in the game. CU recovered an onside kick attempt by the “other” CU and Bayuk scored the winning TD with 7:13 left; Bob Stransky’s interception with less than three minutes to play sealed the win for Colorado.

Oct. 7, 1961 Colorado 20, Kansas 19

(in Boulder) In a key early season conference game between two title contenders, Kansas roared to a 19-0 lead and it appeared CU’s championship hopes would be dashed. The Jayhawks last score came with 13:18 to play in the game, but CU finally got on the scoreboard on its next play, a 58-yard pass from Gale Weidner to Ken Blair. On the Buffs’ next possession, Weidner and Blair connected on a 48-yard pass play, and CU was within 19-14 with 10:02 remaining. And to complete the rally, Weidner hit Jerry Hillebrand on a 16-yard TD pass with just 2:56 to go, with Hillebrand’s extra point putting CU ahead and polishing off at the time the largest comeback in school history.

Nov. 4, 1961 #8 Colorado 7, #10 Missouri 6

(in Boulder) The win over No. 10 Missouri paved the way for CU’s first Big Eight Conference title. Gale Weidner hooked up with Bill Harris on a 21-yard touchdown pass with 35 seconds left in the first half, with Jerry Hillebrand making good on the extra point. Missouri’s defense then tightened (CU had just one first down in the second half), but CU’s was up to the task as well. The Tigers finally scored with 6:14 left in the game, but the Buffs thwarted their two-point conversion try; MU also missed a 37-yard field goal in the final minute.

Nov. 18, 1961 #8 Colorado 7, Nebraska 0

(at Lincoln) On a cold (31 degrees at kickoff) and windy day, CU turned in one of the finest defensive performances in its history in defeating the Cornhuskers, 7-0, to clinch the Big Eight Conference crown. Gale Weidner’s 1-yard run for a touchdown late in the third quarter were all the points CU needed, but to Nebraska, it might have well been 70-0. The Buff defense did not allow a first down, held NU without a pass completion (0-of-12) and to just 31 yards of total offense overall (and to a net zero in the second half). Nebraska ran 35 plays, only 13 of which gained yards (with a long play of just six).

Oct. 21, 1967 #4 Colorado 21, #13 Nebraska 16

(at Lincoln) Colorado’s defense outscored its offense but that was fine by the Buffs in knocking off No. 13 Nebraska. Four interceptions, two returned for touchdowns, ignited the victory, the first coming just before halftime. Dick Anderson intercepted a pass at the CU 30 and ran 25 yards before lateraling to Mike Veeder who took it 45 yards the rest of the way for the score. Then with the Cornhuskers driving with CU ahead just 14-13, Jeff Raymond picked off another pass and ran it back 76 yards for what turned out to provide the winning points. The win vaults CU to a No. 3 national ranking, its highest in history at the time, and returns the Buffs to the national college football map.



Brick Games



Oct. 25, 1969 Colorado 31, #5 Missouri 24

(in Boulder) Bobby Anderson rushed for 132 yards and two touchdowns, including what turned out to be the game-winner, as CU stopped unbeaten and No. 5 Missouri. The Tigers came in with one of the nation's top defense, particularly against the rush, but Colorado put 379 yards of offense into the books in grabbing an early 7-0 lead on an Anderson run and never relinquishing the lead. Paul Arendt scored one touchdown and passed for another, a 79-yard bomb to Monte Huber, the latter giving CU a 17-7 lead five minutes into the second quarter.

Dec. 13, 1969 Colorado 47, Alabama 33

(Liberty Bowl at Memphis, Tenn.) In one of the most exciting bowl games ever at the time, the game pitted two of the nation's top coaches against each other, CU's Eddie Crowder and Alabama's Bear Bryant. The Crimson Tide were not thrilled having to play Colorado, as the Buffaloes had several black players and none had yet to play in the Alabama program; CU had to endure racist chants from the 'Bama fans early on, but they were soon silenced after the Buffs put it to the Tide. Bobby Anderson capped his All-America season by rushing for 254 yards and three touchdowns, with CU putting 563 on an Alabama defense much to the chagrin of Bryant and the Tide faithful. The win enabled CU to climb back into the final national rankings for the season (No. 16).

Sept. 26, 1970 #18 Colorado 41, #4 Penn State 13

(in Boulder) CU blows out No. 4 Penn State, ending the Nittany Lions' 31-game unbeaten streak (the last 23 of which were victories). The Buffs jumped out to a 10-0 lead in the game's first 3½ minutes on a 1-yard touchdown run by John Tarver and a Dave Haney 35-yard field goal. The CU defense held Penn State to just 290 yards and forced five turnovers, with the 41 points the most allowed by PSU in four seasons. The decisive win shocks the college football world and lands CU linebacker Phil Irwin on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*, the first time any sport in the CU program is featured on the magazine's famous cover.

Sept. 11, 1971 Colorado 31, #9 Louisiana State 21

(at Baton Rouge) Cliff Branch's 75-yard punt return for a touchdown early in the second half gave Colorado a 17-7 lead and No. 9 LSU never had the ball on offense trailing by one score as the Buffaloes pulled off a major upset in Cajun Country, defeating the Tigers 31-21 in the '71 season opener. The sophomore-laden Buffs debuted several star players in the game, including Charlie Davis, who rushed for 174 yards and two touchdowns, and quarterback Ken Johnson, who opened the scoring with a 7-yard TD pass to Willie Nichols. John Stearns made two interceptions on defense to set up a pair of scores.

Sept. 25, 1971 #10 Colorado 20, #6 Ohio State 14

(at Columbus) After winning on the road at LSU and whooping up on Wyoming in Boulder (in the first-ever game on AstroTurf at Folsom Field), not everyone was certain that the Buffs were for real until the end of this day in Columbus when No. 10 CU left with a 20-14 win over No. 6 Ohio State. Colorado's second win on the road at a top 10 school (*LSU was No. 9*) gave CU instant national respect. Charlie Davis rushed for 135 yards and Ken Johnson added 84 in scoring both touchdowns on offense, while Cliff Branch's 68-yard punt return for a TD gave CU a 13-0 halftime lead that was never seriously threatened.

Dec. 31, 1971 #7 Colorado 29, #15 Houston 17

(Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl at Houston Texas) Charlie Davis rushed for 202 yards and two touchdowns and John "Bad Dude" Stearns pulled off one of the gutsiest plays in school history as the Buffs deal hometown Houston a 29-17 setback. With CU leading 23-17 and faced with a 4th-and-9 from its own 10-yardline, Stearns, a safety but also the team's punter, took off on a fake and gained 12 yards for a critical first down. CU posts its first-ever 10 win season (10-2), and the win enables the Big Eight to finish 1-2-3 in the nation (*Nebraska No. 1, Oklahoma No. 2, Colorado No. 3—still the only time one conference has had the top three spots in the final poll*).



Top defenders on the '69 Buffaloes: Bill Collins, Phil Irwin, Bill Brundige, Herb Orvis and Dave Capra

Oct. 21, 1972 #9 Colorado 20, #2 Oklahoma 14

(in Boulder) Colorado entered the '72 season ranked as high as No. 2 in the nation, but had stumbled in week four and came into the game against No. 2 Oklahoma ranked ninth. On an electric afternoon, the Buffs spotted the Sooners a 7-0 lead that held up at halftime, but came out in the third quarter with touchdowns from Gary Campbell (44-yard run) and Jon Keyworth (a 6-yard pass from Ken Johnson). A pair of 33-yard field goals by Fred Lima pushed the lead to 20-7, and the Sooners could just muster a cosmetic score with 1:13 left to account for the final score. It marked the highest-ranked team CU had defeated at the time.

Oct. 16, 1976 Colorado 20, Oklahoma State 10

(at Stillwater) An important win on its way to the Big Eight Conference title, as CU, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State would tie atop the standings at the end of the season, thus tiebreakers came into play. CU led 6-0 going into the fourth quarter, but the Cowboys rallied to take a 10-6 lead with 6:11 to play. In one of the more bizarre endings in CU history, the Buffs scored two touchdowns in the final minute – just 25 seconds apart – to steal a 20-10 win. Jim Kelleher scored on a 1-yard run after OSU fumbled on an interception return at its own 2, and defensive tackle Frank Patrick picked off a pass and returned it 25 yards to close the scoring.

Oct. 30, 1976 #19 Colorado 42, #13 Oklahoma 31

(in Boulder) It was a wild victory, and in the end, helped CU earn the Big Eight title and a berth in the Orange Bowl. There were four lead changes in the game, and Colorado twice rallied from 11 points down to take the lead, the second time overcoming a 31-20 third quarter deficit in scoring the game's final 21 points. Jeff Knapple hit Billy Waddy with a 70-yard scoring pass and Jim Kelleher scored on a pair of 2-yard runs to put CU ahead, 42-31, with 10:37 remaining. OU drove into CU territory on its three remaining possessions, but all ended in turnovers (two fumbles and an interception).

Nov. 20, 1976 #15 Colorado 35, Kansas State 28

(at Manhattan) Colorado simply needed a win over lowly Kansas State on the road to lock up a share of the Big Eight title and earn an invitation to the Orange Bowl by virtue of tiebreakers. But the Wildcats, 1-9 overall and winless in league play, put up a fight on a typical Midwestern windy day, working to a 14-7 lead in the first quarter. A pair of Jim Kelleher touchdown runs vaulted the Buffs ahead, 21-14, early in the second half, though KSU soon tied the game one last time. CU finally got some breathing room after scores from Jeff Knapple and Tony Reed to open the fourth. K-State scored again and was driving with under a minute to go, but an interception by Mike L. Davis clinched the game.



Brick Games



Oct. 28, 1978 Colorado 28, #12 Missouri 27

(at Columbia) Colorado rallied from 20 points down in the third quarter to defeat the hometown and No. 13 Tigers, the most points the Buffaloes have ever rallied from behind to post a victory. Bill Solomon scored on a 6-yard run to put CU up 7-0, but Missouri scored the next 27 points to take a 27-7 lead seven minutes into the third quarter (failing on a two-point pass after its third TD). Eddie Ford and Solomon scored touchdowns to cap drives of 63 and 80 yards respectively to cut the deficit to 27-21. The CU defense held and Ford scored on a 16-yard run to tie the game, and Pete Dadiotis' extra point provided the margin of victory.

Sept. 28, 1985 Colorado 14, Arizona 13

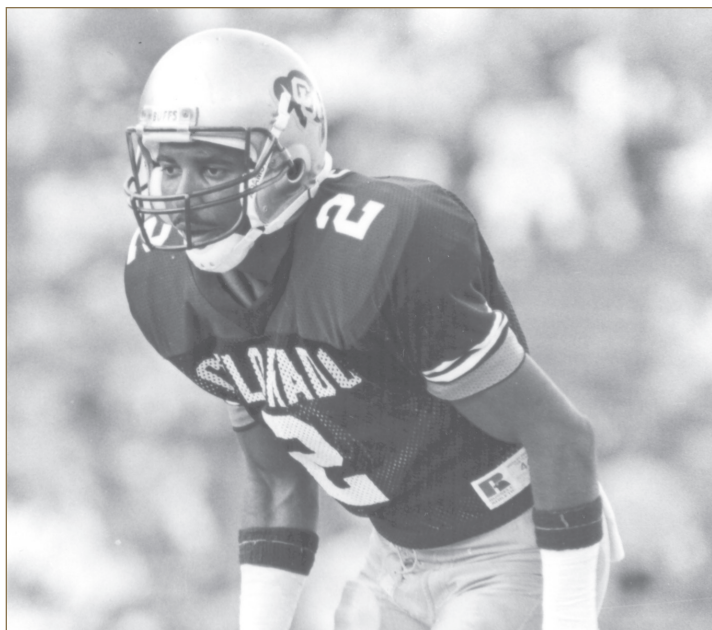
(at Tucson) Colorado converted to the wishbone offense ahead of the '85 season, and opened the year with a 2-1 mark, defeating Colorado State and Oregon while losing to Ohio State, all in Boulder. The first road test of the year and taking the wishbone on the road came against Arizona, ranked No. 20 in the coaches poll. Ron Brown scored on a 7-yard run to give CU a 7-3 halftime lead, and Mark Hatcher's 2-yard run and Larry Eckel's PAT kick made it 14-13 with 10:41 to play. The Wildcats were stifled their last three possessions, one of which was a 61-yard field goal try.

Oct. 25, 1986 Colorado 20, #3 Nebraska 10

(in Boulder) Referred to as "The Turning Point" in CU's return to national prominence. The Buffs defeated Nebraska, ranked No. 3 in the nation, for the first time since 1967, leading the Folsom Field fans to storm the field after the win, CU's first over a ranked team in eight years. A 39-yard touchdown run on a reverse by Jeff Campbell and a 57-yard field goal by Dave DeLine gave CU a 10-0 halftime lead, but NU cut the lead to 10-7 at the end of three. The Buffs pulled off some trickery to open the fourth quarter, as O.C. Oliver hooked up with Lance Carl for a 52-yard touchdown pass on the halfback option play. The Huskers never had the ball again needing one possession to tie or take the lead.

Oct. 31, 1987 Colorado 42, Iowa State 10

(at Ames) A milestone win in the program, as the 42-10 rout over the Cyclones was the 500th win in Colorado's illustrious football history, the Buffs joining a select group of schools to accomplish the feat. Quarterback Sal Aunese rushed for 127 yards and three touchdowns, with Erich Kissick adding 124 yards for a CU rushing attack that gained 413 on the afternoon. Eric McCarty (15 tackles) and Michael Jones (14) led a stout CU defense that held Iowa State to 239 yards, just 66 after intermission.



Lance Carl's TD catch sealed CU's 20-10 win over No. 3 Nebraska in 1986

Sept. 17, 1988 Colorado 24, #19 Iowa 21

(at Iowa City) On a hot and humid day in Iowa, the Buffaloes essentially dominate the Hawkeyes from the start to finish, though it needed a late to win at No. 19 Iowa, 24-21. J.J. Flannigan and Sal Aunese scored on touchdown runs to jump CU out to a 14-0 first quarter lead. Iowa tied the game by halftime, only to see CU go back ahead, 17-14, on a 28-yard field goal by Eric Hannah in the third quarter. The Hawkeyes took their first and only lead six minutes later, and held on until Aunese led Colorado on an 85-yard march, sneaking it in himself from the 1 and vaulting the Buffs back into the lead with just 1:55 remaining.

Sept. 4, 1989 #14 Colorado 27, Texas 6

(in Boulder) Expectations were high, as CU was ranked in the preseason for the first time since 1978, opening at No. 14, but a resounding 27-6 win over Texas on Labor Day night propelled the Buffaloes into the top 10 for the remainder of the season. Darian Hagan, charged with replacing Sal Aunese at quarterback, admitted he was as nervous as could be in making his first career start, but erased all the butterflies with a 75-yard run to set up a score on the game's second play. Hagan had 211 yards of total offense, scoring one touchdown and passing for another in the triumph.

Sept. 16, 1989 #8 Colorado 38, #10 Illinois 7

(in Boulder) On emotional day, and with a national over-the-air television broadcast from Folsom Field for the first time in 17 years, the Buffaloes steamrolled the No. 10 Illini, 38-7. The crowd was as raucous as could be, frustrating Illinois quarterback Jeff George several times and getting into his head. A 48-yard halfback pass from Eric Bieniemy to M.J. Nelson snapped a 7-7 tie and the Buffs never looked back, outgaining Illinois, 475-193. Sal Aunese, CU's quarterback and team leader who had been diagnosed with stomach cancer in March, looked on from the Flatirons Club, and was saluted by his teammates from the field in what would be the final game he'd ever witness (he passed away a week later).

Sept. 30, 1989 #5 Colorado 45, #21 Washington 28

(at Seattle) No. 5 Colorado wins at No. 21 Washington, but the real story is the emotional win one week after quarterback Sal Aunese died due to complications from stomach cancer. The Huskies showed real class and held a moment of silence for Aunese prior to kickoff; the entire CU team knelt and pointed to the sky in tribute. The Buffs got off to a slow start with an interception and a three-and-out on offense; trailing 3-0, Eric Bieniemy scored on a 35-yard run and the rout was on, as CU would zoom to a 38-6 third quarter lead and cruised to the win.

Oct. 28, 1989 #3 Colorado 20, Oklahoma 3

(at Norman) Ever since Colorado converted to an option offense in 1985, Oklahoma had always stifled the CU offense (an average of 199 yards in four games). But as CU matured in the offense and the Buff defense improved, CU was no longer a pushover for the Sooners. On this day, the nation found out the Buffs were for real with CU's first win in Norman since 1965. The key play came late in the first half with CU ahead, 3-0, and faced with a 2nd-and-goal at the Oklahoma 1-yard line. Darian Hagan took the snap and optioned left, tossing what became known as the "moon pitch" to J.J. Flannigan who walked into the end zone. The pitch went an estimated eight feet in the air, and by the end of the game, CU was on Cloud Nine.

Nov. 4, 1989 #2 Colorado 27, #3 Nebraska 21

(in Boulder) A total of 601 media credentials were issued for the game, a CU record at the time and an indicator of the national interest in the battle of undefeated teams, No. 2 Colorado defeated No. 3 Nebraska, 27-21, to all but clinch league title and the Orange Bowl berth that went with it. In improving to 9-0 on the season, after NU jumped ahead early 7-0, CU tied the game on a 70-yard run by J.J. Flannigan, who took a pitch from Darian Hagan some 40 yards downfield. Hagan and Flannigan added short TD runs, and Ken Culbertson made a pair of field goals, including a 49-yarder just before halftime that gave CU the lead for good at 17-14.



Brick Games



Sept. 22, 1990 #20 Colorado 29, #22 Texas 22

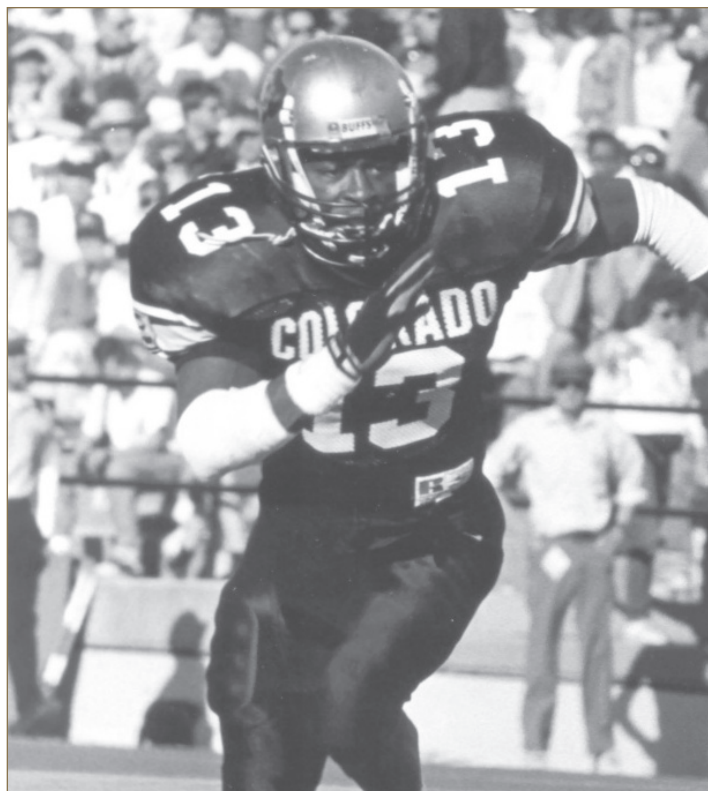
(at Austin) Called the impetus for CU's national title run after a 1-1-1 start, CU rallied from a 22-14 fourth quarter deficit for the win. With UT ahead 19-14 and deep in CU territory at the end of the third quarter, Eric Bieniemy stopped the defense walking down to the other end of the field, and with the entire offense, challenged them to stop the Longhorns from scoring a touchdown. The spirited encounter worked, as CU held Texas to a field goal; the offense then did its part, with Bieniemy scoring touchdowns on the next two possessions. Alfred Williams closed the scoring by sacking UT's Peter Gardere in the end zone for safety.

Oct. 27, 1990 #10 Colorado 32, #22 Oklahoma 23

(in Boulder) The win over the No. 22 Sooners, only the third time CU had ever beaten OU in back-to-back seasons, set up the Buffaloes for a Big Eight title showdown at Nebraska the following week. But it didn't come easy; Oklahoma led the entire first half and was up 14-12 at intermission before a 69-yard run by Eric Bieniemy in the third quarter gave CU its first lead of the game, and one it would not relinquish. Ahead 18-17 one minute into the fourth quarter, Darian Hagan connected with Rico Smith on an 85-yard touchdown pass, and Hagan's 3-yard TD run provided the Buffs insurance and their sixth straight win.

Nov. 3, 1990 #9 Colorado 27, #3 Nebraska 12

(at Lincoln) On a cold, rainy and generally miserable late afternoon, things didn't look good for the Buffaloes through three quarters. Nebraska led 12-0 and the Buffs couldn't hold on to the football, fumbling seven times (and losing three). However, CU came alive in the fourth quarter and behind four Eric Bieniemy touchdown runs, the Buffs rallied for a 27-12 win over the No. 3 Huskers. The win jumped CU from No. 9 to No. 4 in the standings and all but clinched a second straight Big Eight title, and coupled with three other top five teams losing that day, set the stage for another CU chance at winning the national championship.



Ronnie Bradford's blocked PAT kick was the margin of victory (10-9) over Notre Dame in the 1991 Orange Bowl



Eric Bieniemy scored four fourth quarter touchdowns to rally CU over Nebraska, 27-12, in 1990.

Jan. 1, 1991 #1 Colorado 10, #5 Notre Dame 9

(Orange Bowl at Miami, Fla.) A dramatic 10-9 win over Notre Dame in a rematch of the previous year's Orange Bowl (won by Notre Dame) gave Colorado its first national championship in football. There was no shortage of heroes for the Buffaloes, as CU lost two of its star players to injury, quarterback Darian Hagan and linebacker Kanavis McGhee; but their replacements came in and answered the call. Charles Johnson, voted the game's MVP, led the Buffs on their only touchdown drive of the night, capped by an Eric Bieniemy 1-yard run that put CU ahead with 4:26 left in the third quarter. It was then up to the defense, which already had a key block of an Irish extra point by Ronnie Bradford. Paul Rose, McGhee's sub, had a key fumble recovery along with two tackles inside-the-10 yardline, and Deon Figures' interception in the final seconds sealed the win.

Oct. 19, 1991 #22 Colorado 34, #12 Oklahoma 17

(at Norman) Darian Hagan threw for 151 yards and three touchdowns and became on the few quarterbacks to defeat Oklahoma in three straight years as the Buffs routed the Sooners, 34-17. All three TD passes came in the first quarter, staking CU to a 20-7 lead, with Sean Brown, Christian Fauria and Michael Westbrook on the receiving end of the scores. Scott Phillips and Lamont Warren accounted for CU's other two touchdowns on short runs, Phillips' coming with just eight seconds left in the first half to give CU a 27-17 intermission edge.

Oct. 16, 1993 #20 Colorado 27, #9 Oklahoma 10

(at Norman) Lamont Warren rushed for 182 yards and threw a touchdown pass in leading CU to its third straight win at Owens Field. Rashaan Salaam and James Hill scored touchdowns rushing with Charles E. Johnson making a pair of TD receptions to give Bill McCartney his 78th win coaching the Buffaloes, making him the program's all-time winningest coach (he was tied with Fred Folsom). Warren's 34-yard TD pass to Johnson was selected as the national play of the year, as Warren slipped on a slick artificial surface while throwing the ball, and downfield, Johnson caught the ball while practically on the ground after being interfered with.



Brick Games



Sept. 17, 1994 #7 Colorado 55, #10 Wisconsin 17

(in Boulder) Wisconsin made its first visit to Folsom Field in 20 years, though this time invading Folsom Field as the defending Big Ten Conference and Rose Bowl champions. An expected close, down-to-the-wire game never materialized as the Buffaloes ran away from the Badgers by the middle of the second quarter, building a 20-3 lead. Rashaan Salaam rushed for 85 yards – his only regular season game under 100 – but scored four touchdowns as Colorado routed Wisconsin in front of a national television audience on ESPN.

Sept. 24, 1994 #7 Colorado 27, #4 Michigan 26

(at Ann Arbor) In a game referred to as “The Miracle in Michigan” as well as “The Catch,” Kordell Stewart’s 64-yard touchdown pass to Michael Westbrook, via a Blake Anderson tip, wins the game for Colorado after time had expired. The see-saw game had Colorado ahead 14-3 at one point until the Wolverines scored the next 23 to take a 26-14 lead. The Buffs cut the lead to 26-21 with just over two minutes to play, and the defense got the ball back with 14 seconds on the clock to set up the last-second heroics. It was the national play-of-the-year in all of sports and won an ESPY.

Oct. 1, 1994 #5 Colorado 34, #16 Texas 31

(at Austin) Salaam rushed for 317 yards and totaled a school record 362 all-purpose yards as the Buffaloes survived the Texas heat and humidity in escaping with a 34-31 win. Colorado had 506 yards on offense, 387 on the ground, while the CU defense limited the Longhorns to just 320. Though CU led most of the afternoon, UT caught the Buffs in a 31-all tie with 4:49 left; the Buffs then ran out the clock on a 13-play, 73-yard drive, with Neil Voskeritchian booting the game-winning 24-yard field goal with just a second remaining on the clock.

Nov. 19, 1994 #7 Colorado 41, Iowa State 20

(in Boulder) The win in the regular season finale had two significant highlights: eventual Heisman Trophy winner Rashaan Salaam went over the 2,000-yard mark in rushing and quarterback Kordell Stewart became the Big Eight’s all-time total offense leader. The game was never in doubt, and with Rashaan entering the game with 1,796 yards, the Folsom Field scoreboard updated his number after every carry. With just under 11 minutes left in the game, and needing just 12 yards to reach 2,000, Salaam took a handoff and went around the right side for a 67-yard touchdown to the delight of all in the stadium. Following the game, the bombshell of the day: head coach Bill McCartney announced his retirement.



Shannon Clavelle had three quarterback sacks in CU’s 41-24 rout of Notre Dame in the ‘95 Fiesta Bowl

Jan. 2, 1995 #4 Colorado 41, Notre Dame 24

(Fiesta Bowl at Tempe, Ariz.) The Buffaloes send Bill McCartney out on a high note, as CU dismantles Notre Dame, 41-24. Kordell Stewart was the offensive most valuable player, passing for 205 yards and a touchdown while rushing for 143 yards and a score on just seven attempts). Shannon Clavelle was the defensive MVP, as he recorded three of CU’s seven sacks in helping the Buffs build a 31-3 second quarter lead. Colorado finished 11-1 on the season and ranked No. 3 in the final polls, while McCartney retired as the winningest coach in CU history with a 93-55-5 record.

Sept. 2, 1995 #14 Colorado 43, #21 Wisconsin 7

(at Madison) Rick Neuheisel was hired to replace the legendary Bill McCartney as head coach, and his first game was no easy task: traveling to the midwest to take on the Badgers, who were out for revenge after getting blasted in Boulder a year earlier, 55-17. But the rematch proved worse for the hometown team, as the Buffs never trailed in building a 26-7 halftime lead. Koy Detmer threw for 267 yards and three touchdowns, with the CU defense holding Wisconsin to 297 total yards. Matt Russell had 16 tackles and Steve Rosga had 11 along with a 75-yard fumble return for the final points of the night.

Sept. 23, 1995 #7 Colorado 29, #3 Texas A&M 21

(in Boulder) CU rallied for win over No. 3 Aggies, as John Hessler comes off the bench to lead CU to the win after replaced injured quarterback Koy Detmer. Hessler rushed for two scores and passed for a third, a 20-yard throw to Tennyson McCarty that gave the Buffs the lead for good early in the fourth quarter. Colorado’s defense held a potent Aggie rushing attack to just 57 net yards and 239 yards overall.

Sept. 30, 1995 #4 Colorado 38, #10 Oklahoma 17

(at Norman) Known as the “asterisk” game: the coach of the No. 10 Sooners, Howard Schnellenberger, said he wanted to beat CU with a healthy Koy Detmer at quarterback so there wouldn’t be a “damn asterisk” next to the score in the record books. An injured Detmer missed the game, but his backup, John Hessler, and the Buffs took the disrespect and threw it right back at the Sooners. Hessler threw for 348 yards and a school record five touchdowns as CU rallied from a 17-7 deficit and kicked OU to the curb in their own backyard. In the process, CU became only the third school in history to win four straight times in Norman.

Dec. 30, 1996 #8 Colorado 33, #13 Washington 21

(Holiday Bowl at San Diego, Calif.) The Buffaloes are down 14-0 early, but pull off their largest rally in a bowl game to exit with the win. Koy Detmer threw for 371 yards and three touchdowns with Biletnikoff Award finalist Rae Carruth hauling in seven catches for 162 yards and two of the scores, including a 76-yard play that got Colorado on the scoreboard. Nick Ziegler then picked off a Brock Huard pass and returned it 31 yards for a touchdown to tie the game, and the Buffs took control from there. The victory gave CU its third straight 10-win season, a first in school history.

Dec. 25, 1998 Colorado 51, #21 Oregon 43

(Aloha Bowl at Honolulu, Hawaii) The win is CU’s fifth straight in bowl games, the longest active streak in the nation, and comes in the program’s 1,000th game. The game was nowhere near as close as the final score indicated, as the Buffaloes zoomed to a 44-14 lead five minutes into the second half. Ben Kelly returned the opening kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown, and Mike Moschetti threw four touchdown passes, including two bombs to Marcus Stiggers (58 yards) and Darrin Chiaverini (72). CU’s defense forced the Ducks into six turnovers that led to 23 Buffalo points.

Dec. 31, 1999 Colorado 62, #25 Boston College 28

(Insight.com Bowl at Tucson, Ariz.) Colorado defeated the No. 25 Golden Eagles in one of its most dominant performances ever. The Buffs built a 35-0 lead in the second quarter on touchdown runs by Cortlen Johnson and Mike Moschetti, interception returns for scores by Jashon Sykes and Rashidi Barnes, and the longest punt return in NCAA bowl history, 88 yards, by Ben Kelly. It was also the sixth straight bowl win for the CU, adding to its nation’s best active streak.



Brick Games



Derek McCoy caught TD passes of 82 and 78 yards in a 42-35 win over Colorado State in Denver in 2003

Nov. 23, 2001 #14 Colorado 62, #2 Nebraska 36

(in Boulder) Colorado's 62-36 win over No. 2 Nebraska sent shockwaves throughout the college football world. In scoring the most points ever against a Husker defense at the time, the Buffaloes matched NU's 7-1 record in the Big 12 North Division with the win and earned the right to play Texas the following week in the league title game. Chris Brown rushed for 198 yards and a school record six touchdowns, with Bobby Purify racing for 154 yards and one score as CU built a 35-3 lead early in the second quarter and rolled from there to the victory.

Dec. 1, 2001 #9 Colorado 39, #3 Texas 37

(Big 12 Championship Game at Irving, Texas) In July, when Coach Gary Barnett attended the Big 12's media day in Dallas, he took seniors Andre Gurode and Michael Lewis on a mini-tour of Cowboys Stadium, the site of the league's title game later that year. The players placed the opposing team's helmet decal on a replica of the stadium after each victory. But one was missing—Texas—the only team to defeat the Buffs during the regular season. However, CU would exact its revenge as Chris Brown rushed for 198 yards and three scores, and the Buff defense intercepted UT's Chris Simms three times in the first half in defeating the No. 3 Longhorns, 39-37, to claim its first Big 12 title.

Sept. 21, 2002 Colorado 31, #20 UCLA 17

(at Pasadena) The Buffs, reeling with a 1-2 record, were coming off their worst home loss in 19 years and had its next game at No. 20 UCLA. Controlling the tempo from practically the start, and thanks to 188 rushing yards and three touchdowns from Chris Brown, three Patrick Brougham field goals and a solid game from quarterback Robert Hodge (117 yards), CU's 31-17 win ignited the team and started an 8-1 run over

Aug. 30, 2003 Colorado 42, #23 Colorado State 35

(in Denver) In a game delayed 28 minutes in the third quarter because of lightning, the Buffaloes scored 28 points in the second quarter but needed a 9-yard touchdown run from Bobby Purify to defeat their in-state rivals. CU had lightning strikes of its own, as quarterback Joel Klatt and receiver Derek McCoy hooked up on scoring passes of 82 and 78 yards, the latter coming right as a major lightning bolt was witnessed by all in the stadium forcing play to be suspended immediately. Klatt threw for 402 yards and four TDs in his first start.

Sept. 4, 2004 Colorado 27, Colorado State 24

(in Boulder) The entire program was in the midst of surviving a largely manufactured ordeal off the field, and when the season opener rolled around, the team had a lot of pent up frustration. Rival CSU was set on ruining the opener, rallying from 10 down in the final five minutes to close to within 27-24 and faced a first-and-goal from the CU 1 in the final minute of the game. But the Buffalo defense rose to the occasion, stuffing two running plays as time ran out to preserve the win.

Sept. 29, 2007 Colorado 27, #3 Oklahoma 24

(in Boulder) The win, which snapped a 14-game losing streak to ranked teams, was the first over a top 25 teams for second-year head coach Dan Hawkins as the Buffs rallied from a 24-7 deficit midway through the third quarter for a 27-24 win over the No. 3 Sooners. Kevin Eberhart's 45-yard field goal as time expired completed the fourth biggest comeback in school history and was only the fourth such instance in school history where the Buffs won on a score as time expired.



Kevin Eberhart celebrates his 45-yard field goal at the gun that beat No. 3 Oklahoma in 2007



Brick Games



Nov. 23, 2007 Colorado 65, Nebraska 51

(in Boulder) Colorado needed a win to become bowl-eligible and took a 17-7 lead over the rival Huskers only to fall behind 35-24 at halftime. But an offensive explosion of 41 points after halftime allowed the Buffs to roll to the victory. The outburst tied the school record for the most points in a second half and prevented Nebraska from qualifying for the postseason for just the second time in four decades. It also marked just the fifth time CU defeated both NU and Oklahoma in the same season.

Nov. 25, 2011 Colorado 17, Utah 14

(at Salt Lake City) In the season finale for both schools in their first year in the Pac-12 Conference, it was the resumption of a series which had been dormant since 1962. CU jumped up early, 10-0, and then held on for the win which would snap a school record 23-game road losing streak. It also eliminated the Utes from contention for the first Pac-12 South Division title, and was a little payback to the school which had ended CU's national championship hopes in 1961.

Sept. 1, 2013 Colorado 41, Colorado State 27

(in Denver) Paul Richardson returned in a big way from a knee injury to help new CU coach Mike MacIntyre win his first game at the reins of the Buffaloes as CU ran away from rival Colorado State, 41-27. Richardson caught 10 passes for 208 yards and two touchdowns, with Connor Wood passing for 400 yards and three TDs. Greg Henderson's 53-yard fumble return for a touchdown put CU ahead 33-24 in the fourth quarter, and a Wood-to-Richardson 75-yard pass for a score wrapped the day's scoring. It marked just the second time since 1932 that a head coach at CU won his first game.

Sept. 24, 2016 Colorado 41, Oregon 38

(at Eugene) Oregon had won six straight games in the series, the first five between the two as members of the Pac-12, but the Buffs broke through in a big way on this day. Steven Montez became the first player in CU history to throw for 300 yards and rush for 100 in the same game (333 and 135, respectively) and accounted for four touchdowns in Colorado's 41-38 win. Though CU built a 23-7 lead, the Ducks came back to lead 38-33 after three quarters; Montez threw a TD pass to Bryce Bobo with 8:43 to play with the two connecting again on the two-point conversion. In the final minute, Oregon drove to the CU 7, but Ahkello Witherspoon's interception in the end zone with 48 seconds to play sealed the win for the Buffs.

Oct. 22, 2016 Colorado 10, Stanford 5

(at Palo Alto) In a defensive battle, the Colorado defense limited Stanford to just 263 yards of offense in defeating the Cardinal, 10-5. CU spotted Stanford a 3-0 lead, but Sefo Liufau and Shay Fields connected on a 15-yard touchdown pass early in the second quarter to put the Buffs ahead for good. The win improved the Buffs to 6-2 on the season, making CU bowl-eligible for the first time in nine seasons and ending a five-game winning streak by Stanford in the series.

Nov. 26, 2016 #9 Colorado 27, #21 Utah 22

(in Boulder) It all came together this Saturday night after Thanksgiving, as a national television audience and a sellout crowd at Folsom Field witnessed the Buffaloes win their first division title in 11 seasons (and their first in the Pac-12) in defeating No. 21-ranked Utah, 27-22. The win completed CU's "last to first" season as the Buffs finished 8-1 in league play, performing the largest turnaround from one season to the next in Pac-12 history after going 1-8 the year before. Sefo Liufau threw for 270 yards and a touchdown while rushing for another, with Kenneth Olugbode's 10-yard fumble return for a score clinching the win and CU's first appearance in the Pac-12 title game.

DID YOU KNOW?... That CU's records for rushing yards in a single game and season have a common link? In 1971, Charlie Davis rushed for 342 yards in a 40-6 win over Oklahoma State, and in 1994, Rashaan Salaam rushed for 2,055 yards en route to winning the Heisman Trophy. The link? Davis also went over the 1,000-yard mark for the season in the OSU game, doing so on a 67-yard touchdown run around the right end. Salaam went over the 2,000-yard mark in the finale against Iowa State—on a 67-yard touchdown run around the right end.



Kenneth Olugbode scooped up a Utah fumble and returned it 10 yards for a touchdown in CU's 27-22 win.

Sept. 7, 2019 Colorado 34, #25 Nebraska 31 (OT)

(in Boulder) Nebraska was out to avenge a 33-28 loss to the Buffaloes a year before in Lincoln, and also accused CU of playing dirty. Husker fans flooded Folsom Field with anywhere from 15-18,000 fans and they were celebrating early as NU held a 17-0 lead late in the third quarter. But a monster comeback rallied the Buffs to tie the game at 31 with 46 seconds remaining (it featured the longest play from scrimmage in CU history, a 96-yard flea flicker TD pass from Steven Montez to K.D. Nixon, with a 26-yard TD pass from Montez to Tony Brown sending the game into overtime). CU had the ball first and James Stefanou gave CU its first lead of the game with a 34-yard field goal; Mustafa Johnson had a key quarterback sack on third down, and facing a 4th-and-16, a Husker field goal try to tie the game missed badly giving the Buffs a sweep of the home-and-home series. In the fourth quarter, the Buffs scored 24 points and piled up 258 yards on offense.

Nov. 7, 2020 Colorado 48, UCLA 42

(in Boulder) After Mel Tucker abruptly left the program on Feb. 12 to take the head coaching job at Michigan State, Karl Dorrell was named CU's 27th head football coach 11 days later. But it would be another 228 days until he would be able to see his team practice, as the COVID-19 pandemic wiped out spring ball and delayed the start of fall drills until Oct. 9. It was Dorrell's second collegiate head coaching gig, with some irony attached: in his first at his alma mater, UCLA, his first game was in Boulder against Colorado, where he had served two stints as an assistant coach in the 1990s (CU won, 16-14). The Buffs zoomed to a 35-7 lead in the second quarter and then held off a furious UCLA rally for the win, enabling Dorrell to become just the fourth CU coach since 1932 to win his first game. CU amassed 525 yards on offense in a most balanced fashion: 264 rushing, 261 passing.