

Bowl Games

1995 FIESTA BOWL

Jan. 2, 1995 at Tempe, Ariz.

Colorado 41
Notre Dame 24

Kordell Stewart amassed 348 yards of total offense and he received plenty of help on both offense and defense as the Colorado Buffaloes easily defeated Notre Dame, 41-24, in the 24th annual Fiesta Bowl.

The game was Bill McCartney's "swan song" as CU head coach, with the win giving him a final record over 13 seasons of 93-55-5, the winningest in Colorado history.

Stewart, named the game's most valuable player, had 268 total yards in the first half alone, when the Buffs built a commanding 31-3 lead with 1:05 remaining. For the game, he rushed seven times for 143 yards and a touchdown and completed 11 of 20 passes for 205 yards and another score.

Heisman Trophy winner Rashaan Salaam rushed for 83 yards and three touchdowns, including back-to-back scores in the final five minutes of the first half that helped break the game open.

On defense, the Buffs switched from the 3-4 to the 4-3 for the game, and the result yielded relentless pressure on Irish freshman quarterback Ron Powlus. CU had seven sacks, including three by the defensive MVP in the game, Shannon Clavelle, along with 12 pressures. Butkus Award runner-up Ted Johnson led players with 20 tackles, with two for losses and an interception.

The Buffs scored on five of their first six possessions, with Stewart the key fixture on each. He had a 29-yard run on CU's first touchdown drive, a 35-yard dash on the second, a 16-yard run and 46-yard pass to James Kidd on the third, and a 12-yard run to the 1-yard line on the fourth. And after Notre Dame had closed to within 31-17 late in the third quarter, Stewart sprinted 41 yards to set up a field goal, and threw a 37-yard pass to Kidd en route to CU's final score.

The Buffs amassed 472 yards on offense in just 23:43 of possession time, playing nearly the perfect game. CU did not commit a turnover and averaged just under eight yards per play in finishing the season with an 11-1 record and No. 3 national ranking. Notre Dame, unranked coming into the game, ended the year at 6-6.

Following the game, Salaam announced that he would forego his senior year and declared himself eligible for the NFL draft. McCartney handed the reins of the program over to new head coach Rick Neuheisel the following morning.

Colorado	10	21	3	7	—	41
Notre Dame	3	7	7	7	—	24

CU—Voskeritchian 33 FG	3- 0	11:38	1Q
CU—Fauria 1 pass from Stewart (Voskeritchian kick)	10- 0	5:55	1Q
Notre Dame—Cengia 29 FG	10- 3	2:01	1Q
CU—Stewart 9 run (Voskeritchian kick)	17- 3	9:21	2Q
CU—Salaam 1 run (Voskeritchian kick)	24- 3	4:07	2Q
CU—Salaam 1 run (Voskeritchian kick)	31- 3	1:35	2Q
Notre Dame—Mayes 7 pass from Powlus (Cengia kick)	31-10	0:05	2Q
Notre Dame—Mayes 40 pass from Powlus (Cengia kick)	31-17	5:47	3Q
CU—Voskeritchian 48 FG	34-17	1:55	3Q
CU—Salaam 5 run (Voskeritchian kick)	41-17	9:29	4Q
Notre Dame—Wallace 7 pass from Powlus (Schroffner kick)	41-24	2:07	4Q

Attendance: 73,968
Time: 3:22
Weather: 60 degrees, clear skies, 3 mph winds (SW)

TEAM STATISTICS	COLORADO	NOTRE DAME
First Downs	18	22
Third Down Efficiency	5-11	10-19
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	1-3
Rushes—Net Yards	39-246	45-149
Passing Yards	226	259
Passes (Att-Comp-Int)	21-12-0	35-18-1
Total Offense	472	408
Return Yards	19	0
Punts: No-Average	4-36.0	5-33.0
Fumbles: No-Lost	0-0	2-0
Penalties/Yards	4/35	3/25
Quarterback Sacks—Yards	7-27	0-0
Time Possession	23:43	36:17

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Colorado: Stewart 7-143, Salaam 27-83, Troutman 2-20, Detmer 2-2, Henry 1-minus 2. Notre Dame: Becton 17-81, Mosley 3-21, Zellars 5-21, Powlus 15-12, Sollmann 1-9, Edwards 2-4, Farmer 2-1.
Passing—Colorado: Stewart 20-11-0, 205; Detmer 1-1-0, 21. Notre Dame: Powlus 34-18-1, 259; Stafford 1-0-0, 0.
Receiving—Colorado: Westbrook 4-70, Kidd 2-83, Savoy 2-58, Fauria 2-3, Carruth 1-6, Salaam 1-6. Notre Dame: Mayes 4-93, Becton 3-60, Mosley 3-34, Zellars 2-25, Stafford 2-22, McBride 2-21, Wallace 1-7, Farmer 1-minus 3.
Punting—Colorado: Mitchell 4-36.0 (44 long). Notre Dame: Wachtel 4-33.0 (44 long), Powlus 1-33.0..
Punt Returns—Colorado: Hudson 2-12. Notre Dame: none.
Kickoff Returns—Colorado: Troutman 2-34, Henry 1-13, Olson 1-0. Notre Dame: Sollmann 5-103, Stafford 1-29, Zellars 1-17.
Interceptions—Colorado: Johnson 1-7. Notre Dame: none.
Tackle Leaders—Colorado: Johnson 10,8—18; Russell 7,5—12; Phillips 3,6—9; Clavelle 4,4—8; Hicks 3,4—7; Leomiti 3,3—6; Jones 4,1—5; Rosga 3,2—5. Notre Dame: Gibson 1,6—7; Nau 3,4—7; Grasmanis 2,4—6; Davis 4,1—5; Wooden 4,1—5.

1996 COTTON BOWL

Jan. 1, 1996 at Dallas, Texas

Colorado 38
Oregon 6

John Hessler threw for two touchdowns and ran for another and Herchell Troutman rushed for 100 yards and a score as the No. 7 Colorado Buffaloes rallied from a sluggish start in easily defeating the No. 12 Oregon Ducks, 38-6, in the 60th annual Cotton Bowl.

The Buffs overcame two early turnovers and a long kickoff return, holding the Ducks to just two field goals. The defense clamped down all afternoon on the potent Oregon attack, especially when the Ducks worked into CU territory; Oregon had just the six points in nine penetrations across midfield.

Trailing 6-0, Hessler directed CU on a six-play, 80-yard drive in just 97 seconds, with Hessler running the ball in himself from a yard out on the first play of the second quarter. After the teams exchanged possessions, the Ducks drove to the CU 9, where a Tony Graziani pass was intercepted by freshman Marcus Washington, who then returned the ball 95 yards for the longest interception return for a touchdown in CU bowl history.

Washington's heroics enabled the Buffs to take a 13-6 lead into the lockerroom, as the weather continued to get worse. A light rainfall increased as the game went on, with winds gusting to 20 miles per hour, making the field conditions worsen.

Though the weather was more Oregon-like, it didn't appear to bother Colorado. The Buffaloes broke open the close game in the third quarter with three touchdowns, with a six-yard run by Troutman sandwiched in the middle of two Hessler touchdown passes to Matt Lepsis and Phil Savoy. Troutman ran over right tackle for a 55-yard gain, the longest run ever by a Buff in the postseason, to set up CU's first second-half score.

Troutman was named the game's most valuable player on offense, with Washington garnering the same honor on defense, making six tackles in addition to his interception return.

Colorado owned a 313-258 edge in total offense, but the day belonged to the defense, and Oregon averaged just 3.5 yards per play and was forced into five turnovers. The win enabled Rick Neuheisel's Buffs to finish 10-2 on the season and No. 4 in the nation (USA Today/ CNN poll; No. 5 in the Associated Press).

Colorado	0	13	19	6	—	38
Oregon	6	0	0	0	—	6

Oregon—Smith 25 FG	0- 3	12:53	1Q
Oregon—Smith 33 FG	0- 6	8:33	1Q
CU—Hessler 1 run (Voskeritchian kick)	7- 6	14:56	2Q
CU—Washington 95 interception return (kick failed)	13- 6	6:31	2Q
CU—Lepsis 2 pass from Hessler (Voskeritchian kick)	20- 6	13:37	3Q
CU—Troutman 6 run (kick failed)	26- 6	8:40	3Q
CU—Savoy 12 pass from Hessler (kick blocked)	32- 6	5:42	3Q
CU—Abdul-Rahmaan 5 run (kick blocked)	38- 6	1:11	4Q

Attendance: 58,214
Time: 3:50
Weather: 45 degrees, cloudy skies, light-to-heavy rain, 18 mph winds (N)

TEAM STATISTICS	COLORADO	OREGON
First Downs	16	16
Third Down Efficiency	4-15	2-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-3	2-4
Rushes—Net Yards	41-170	29-96
Passing Yards	143	162
Passes (Att-Comp-Int)	27-12-2	44-21-2
Total Offense	313	258
Return Yards	138	30
Punts: No-Average	4-28.5	5-38.4
Fumbles: No-Lost	2-1	4-3
Penalties/Yards	6/41	8/67
Quarterback Sacks—Yards	3-33	5-29
Time Possession	29:59	30:01

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Colorado: Troutman 13-100, Henry 7-38, M.Barnes 5-25, Savoy 1-13, Abdul-Rahmaan 4-3, Hessler 11-minus 9. Oregon: Whittle 12-50, Parker 3-43, Jelks 3-14, Graziani 11-minus 11.
Passing—Colorado: Hessler 26-11-2, 115; Mitchell 1-1-0, 28. Oregon: Graziani 37-19-2, 113; Smith 6-2-0, 49; Parker 1-0-0, 0.
Receiving—Colorado: Savoy 3-29, Kidd 2-73, Henry 2-minus 6, Black 1-28, Carruth 1-11, Troutman 1-4, Anderson 1-2, Lepsis 1-2. Oregon: Whittle 4-18, McLemore 3-26, Hodge 2-33, Jelks 2-21, Griffin 2-17, Wilcox 2-17, Spence 2-9, Parker 2-8, Anderson 1-16, Ricketts 1-minus 3.
Punting—Colorado: Mitchell 4-28.5 (38 long). Oregon: Bidwell 5-38.4 (48 long).
Punt Returns—Colorado: Davis 1-2. Oregon: Johnson 1-2.
Kickoff Returns—Colorado: Troutman 2-15, Henry 1-10. Oregon: Whittle 1-63, Johnson 1-18, Spence 1-8, Parker 1-0.
Interceptions—Colorado: Washington 1-95, Rosga 1-26. Oregon: Wheaton 1-21, Ruhl 1-7.
Tackle Leaders—Colorado: Russell 6,4—10; Cunningham 6,1—7; Washington 5,1—6; Hicks 4,2—6; Leomiti 4,0—4; Wilkins 3,1—4; Jones 1,3—4. Oregon: Bailey 5,2—7; Collins 5,2—7; Barnes 4,1—5; Asher 2,2—4; Wheaton 2,2—4.