

Bufs In The NFL

NFL Bufs

In 2024, the Bufs have 13 players in the NFL, on an active or practice squad roster. Xavier Weaver, Derrick McLendon and Brenden Rice brings the total to 285 players that have made an NFL roster in CU history and those players have played a combined 1,358 seasons. CU has had 279 players drafted, including 25 in the first round, and 33 players in the first 32 picks (what today would be the first round). The Bufs had the most players in the NFL for the 1999 season with 39 and have twice had runs of 30-plus players in the league, first from 1977-81 and again from 1995-99, and have two other seasons in 2002 and '05 with 30-plus players on NFL rosters.

Super Bowl Bufs

A total of 67 former CU players have accumulated 97 Super Bowl appearances and 37 former players have a combined 55 Super Bowl rings. A total of 38 of the 58 Super Bowl games have featured at least one former Buf and the most Bufs in a single Super Bowl came in Super Bowl XXX when six Bufs played for the Pittsburgh Steelers. In 2020, 247Sports put together a list of the 54 Super Bowls to date and compiled a list of the all-time college leaders. At that time, CU ranked tied for 10th with 93 players and tied for 21st in Super Bowl scoring among college teams with 37 points. Cliff Branch (18), Mason Crosby (7), Cullen Bryant (6), Boyd Dowler (6) have scored in Super Bowl games.

NFL Stadiums

CU has played 43 games in 14 different NFL stadiums, and 26 games in six current NFL venues. CU is 15-11 in current NFL stadiums, including 12-5 in Denver, 1-0 in Foxborough, 1-0 in Seattle, 1-2 in Houston, 0-1 in Jacksonville, 0-2 in Kansas City and 0-1 in Santa Clara. CU has also played in former NFL stadiums in San Diego, Irving, Seattle, Houston, Miami, Tempe, Anaheim and Los Angeles. Four times the Bufs have played in two NFL stadiums in the same season, in 2002 (Denver, Houston), 2004 (Kansas City, Houston), 2008 (Denver, Jacksonville) and 2016 (Denver, Santa Clara).

NFL Scouts

Since 2000, a total of 1,456 NFL Scouts and front office personnel have attended Colorado games (home, road and neutral). The record for a single game is 31 scouts from 20 teams against UCLA in 2016, and in week 1 of 2024 the record was tied against North Dakota State with 31 scouts from 18 teams.

In 2024, CU has had 164 scouts and front office personnel from 31 teams (all but Green Bay) in attendance through the regular season. A game-by-game look in 2024, Week 1 vs. NDSU (31 scouts, 18 teams), Week 2 at Nebraska (7 scouts, 7 teams), Week 3 at CSU (16 scouts, 11 teams), Week 4 vs. Baylor (7 scouts, 4 teams), Week 5 at UCF (8 scouts, 8 teams), Week 6 vs. Kansas State (19 scouts, 14 teams), Week 7 at Arizona (17 scouts, 12 teams), Week 8 vs. Cincinnati (14 scouts, 9 teams), Week 9 at Texas Tech (2 scouts, 2 teams), Week 10 vs. Utah (22 scouts, 13 teams), Week 11 at Kansas (6 scouts, 5 teams), Week 12 vs. Oklahoma State (12 scouts, 4 teams).

In 2023, CU has had 112 scouts from 31 teams (all but Houston) in attendance at its games. Against USC, a total of 26 scouts from 18 teams were in attendance, one of the better attended games in CU history.

1994 Bufs/1995 NFL Draft

All 11 offensive starters from the 1994 CU team played in the NFL, with 10 being drafted, and another six from defense played in the NFL, making 17 of the 22 starters from that team playing in the NFL. The 1995 NFL Draft was a special one for CU, when 10 Bufs were drafted. CU is one of just 14 schools who have had 10 players drafted in a single draft in the seven-round era (1994-present).

CFL & UFL Bufs

Five current Bufs played in the UFL in 2024 after the USFL and XFL combined. Delrick Abrams (Memphis Showboats), Devin Ross (Michigan Panthers), Drew Lewis (and Carson Wells (St. Louis Battlehawks), Robert Barnes (San Antonio Brahams). Mustafa Johnson continues to play in the CFL for the Montreal Alouettes where he has racked up 72 tackles and 11 sacks the last three seasons and helped the Alouettes to a Gray Cup victory in 2023.

Bufs Lead Big 12 In Draft Picks

The Bufs lead the Big 12 in draft picks, with the official number 276 not counting three Bufs drafted in the last two years that started their career's at CU and made it to the NFL after transferring out, Christian Gonzalez and Mekhi Blackmon in 2023 and Brenden Rice in 2024. CU ranks 29th in the FBS, and has 21 more draft picks than Arizona State (255) with Baylor (249) close behind. TCU is fourth in the league with 215 and West Virginia rounds out the top five with 199.

#NFLBufs BT#

1	NFL Hall of Fame Buf (Cliff Branch)
2	Bo Matthews Draft Position (1974)
10	Straight Seasons At Least One UDFA Buf Made An NFL Roster
10	Players Drafted In 1995 NFL Draft
11	Undergraduate Eligible Players Drafted From 1993-2011
18	UDFA Bufs That Made A Roster Since 2015
25	NFL First Round Picks
33	NFL Top 32 Picks
38	Pro Bowl Selections
40	NFL All-Pro Seasons
55	Super Bowl Rings
70	UDFA's That Made An NFL Roster
97	Super Bowl Appearances
278	Bufs Drafted Into The NFL
283	NFL Bufs
348	Players Drafted or Played in NFL
505	Receiving TDs by NFL Bufs
1,303	Scout Games Since 2000
1,358	Combined NFL Seasons
1,918	Points scored by Mason Crosby
6,578	Points Scored by NFL Bufs
8,685	Receiving Yards By Cliff Branch
14,746	Passing Yards By Kordell Stewart
32,132	Rushing Yards By NFL Bufs
82,090	Receiving Yards By NFL Bufs

ACTIVE BUFs IN THE NFL

Name, Team	Season
Chidobe Awuzie, Tennessee	8
Mekhi Blackmon, Minnesota	2
Christian Gonzalez, New England	2
Nate Landman, Atlanta	3
Derrick, McLendon, Miami	R
Isaiah Oliver, New York Jets	7
Brenden Rice, LA Chargers	R
Brady Russell, Seattle	2
Laviska Shenault, Seattle	5
Will Sherman, Denver	4
Juwann Winfree, Indianapolis	6
Ahkello Witherspoon, LA Rams	8
Xavier Weaver, Arizona	R

Big-12 Draft Picks (Overall FBS Rank)

1	Colorado (29)	276
2	Arizona State (33)	255
3	Baylor (35)	249
4	TCU (43)	215
5	West Virginia (47)	199
6	Houston (48)	188
7	Arizona (50)	187
8	Utah (52)	177
9	Oklahoma State (57)	172
10	Kansas (57)	172
11	Texas Tech (59)	171
12	BYU (64)	153
13	Kansas State (64)	153
14	Cincinnati (69)	134
15	Iowa State (71)	128
16	Central Florida (115)	50