



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 Larrivee, Bobby Anderson (KHOW)
1984	Wayne Larrivee, 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.

LARRY ZIMMER BY THE NUMBERS

During his time as the Voice of the Buffaloes, here's what his tenure endured while he has been a constant at Colorado:

66	CU starting running backs
51	CU Board of Regents members
46	Super Bowls (8 with the Broncos)
40	CU starting quarterbacks
22	Colorado bowl games
17	Denver Rocket/Nugget Head Coaches
11	CU Presidents
11	Denver Bronco Head Coaches
10	CU football trainers
9	CU Head Football Coaches
8	CU Head Basketball Coaches
8	U.S. Presidents
7	Color Commentator partners
7	Colorado Governors
6	Colorado Avalanche Coaches
6	Denver Mayors
5	CU Athletic Directors (that's 80% of 'em)
5	Ralphies (yep, every one of 'em)
4	Sports information directors (or 80% of 'em since 1952)
2	Arena Football League Franchises
2	NHL Hockey Franchises
2	Different Pro Basketball Leagues (ABA, NBA)
.....	The entire CU women's basketball history (42 seasons; 7 coaches)
486	CU football games
525	CU men's basketball games
1011	Total CU sporting events

... meaning 2022 total pregame and postgame shows... 31 years of weekly coaches shows, and, conservatively speaking, over 6,450 hours or 387,000 minutes on the air broadcasting CU sporting events (or the equivalent of talking CU sports, day and night, for almost 38 straight weeks).

Television

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

1952-1958	KOA-TV (NBC)
1959-1972	KLZ-TV (CBS)
1973	KBTB (ABC)
1974-1975	KLZ-TV (CBS)
1976-1978	KOA-TV (NBC)
1979-1981	KBTB (ABC)
1982-1983	KWGN-TV (Independent)
1984-2000	KCNC-TV (NBC/CBS)
2001-2003	ESPN2 (local window)
2004-2011	FSN Rocky Mountain/ROOT
2012-2023	Pac-12 Network



Larry Zimmer



Larry Zimmer, the voice of University of Colorado football who spanned five decades with the program, retired following the 2015 season after calling CU sporting events for 42 seasons, all on KOA-Radio. His entire career spanned 50 years, including five at the University of Michigan and three at Colorado State.

His final home game came on November 13, 2015, which also was his 80th birthday; he was presented with a framed jersey and the crowd at Folsom Field was led in singing to him happy birthday by the co-founder of Boulder's own Firefall, Jock Bartley. His last game was CU's season finale at Utah two weeks later.

"The stars have sort of aligned," Zimmer said when announcing that 2015 would be his last season. "Fifty years... I'll be 80 years old, plus coming back from an illness. It sort of makes sense that this is the last year; it had been in the back of my mind that it would have been anyway. I am thrilled to be healthy enough to go back into the booth and do the thing that I love."

Over the course of his 42 years in the booth at Folsom Field and traveling with the team, he broadcasted some of the Buffaloes' greatest moments. He called 486 football games, including a string of 251 in a row until he fell ill in the middle of the 2014 season, along with 525 men's basketball contests.

"Zim" missed only 17 CU games overall: 11 due to illness (five in his final year as travel was still difficult at the time), three bowls (two due to contracts forbidding teams to originate broadcasts) and three regular season games due to travel conflicts; ironically, his 400th at CU was also the 1,000 of his professional career.

CU athletic director Rick George called Zimmer, "A CU institution. His voice has been synonymous with our athletic program going back to the days of the Apollo space program. Whether it has been play-by-play or analyst duties on KOA or serving as a master of ceremonies for many of our functions, Larry Zimmer is CU. He is truly a part of our overall athletic history."

In 2009, he was the recipient of the prestigious Chris Schenkel Award, named in honor the long-time play-by-play man for ABC Sports; it recognizes a sports broadcaster who enjoyed a long and distinguished career broadcasting college football at a single institution.

At the time, Zimmer said of the Schenkel Award, "It is certainly the highlight of my career because it recognizes two of the things that I love the most, and that's broadcasting college football and my association with the University of Colorado through the years and all the people I've met."

In 1992, he was awarded the Honorary C" for his contribution to Colorado Athletics, and in 2005, he was the recipient of the Forever Buff Award from the Alumni C Club. He is a member of the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame, the CU Athletic Hall of Fame, the Broadcast Professionals of Colorado Hall of Fame and the Colorado Ski & Snowboard Museum Hall of Fame.

Zimmer got his start broadcasting high school football and basketball games in Columbia, Mo., and Lawton, Okla. (1957-58, 1960-66) while also serving as the play-by-play announcer for the Missouri Tigers baseball team. The following year, he moved to Michigan and began broadcasting for the Wolverine football and basketball teams.

In 1971, he was hired by KOA sports director Bob Martin, when the Denver station both broadcasted on radio (850 am) and television (Ch. 4), assigned to do the play-by-play for CU football and the color commentary for the Denver Broncos. He would spend the next 19 seasons doing the analysis for Bronco games, and then took over for the next seven as play-by-play man following Martin's death. He also had spent time as the voice of the Denver Rockets of the American Basketball Association and the Colorado Caribous of the North American Soccer League.

But he became best known as the "Voice of the Buffaloes," calling every game between 1971 and 1981. In 1982, CU strayed away from KOA and signed a three-year deal with a different network, but the Buffs returned to KOA in 1985 and Zimmer was back "home" after spending three years handling the play-by-play chores for CSU. After retiring as KOA's sports director in 2004, he shifted solely into the analyst role on football broadcasts.

When including the games he called for Michigan (50) and CSU (34), it raised his total to 570 college games overall.

Born Nov. 13, 1935 in New Orleans, La., Zimmer attended Louisiana State University before transferring to the University of Missouri, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1957. He then served two years on active duty in the United States Army, earning the rank of 1st Lieutenant and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. He is married to the former Brigitte Bastian, is the father of two and grandfather of one.

Zimmer also taught a broadcast class in CU's School of Journalism for 11 years, and along with his wife has funded a scholarship at the college: the Larry & Brigitte Zimmer Sports Announcing Endowed Scholarship.

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