



# 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 Conroy 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 (Garrison Field). Scholars from outside the state were appearing more regularly on the schedule, but this 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 Whitson 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 is CU's only non-conference game of the year gave the Silver & Gold a 4-1-3 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. 18). 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 Del Ward. Don Engle rushed for 116 yards and a score and Harry Narchuk accounted for 200 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) Len Wanda 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 returned to a 14-0 lead on a touchdown run from Zack Jordan and a 15-yard punt return by Tom Breckholder 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 1981 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 tiebreak in Oklahoma's amazing 47-0-1 record in Big 7 Conference play (1949-57). The Buffaloes were a thorn in the Sooners' side for much 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 18-yard pass from Len Wanda to Zack Jordan, and the Buff defense would hold CU scoreless on three straight possessions. But the No. 4 Sooners used a 12-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 Bayak, Rayel Dwyer and Howard Cook, only to see the Tigers battle back to take a 21-20 lead with 11:12 remaining in the game. CU recovered an onside kick attempt by the "other" CU and Bayak scored the winning TD with 7:13 left. Bob Stracaly'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 moved to a 19-0 lead and it appeared CU's championship hopes would be dashed. The Jayhawks last score came with 1:19 to play in the game, but CU finally got on the scoreboard on its next play, a 58-yard pass from Gale Wulfsberg to Ken Blair. On the Buffs' next possession, Wulfsberg and Blair connected on a 48-yard pass play, and CU was within 19-14 with 10:03 remaining. And to complete the rally, Wulfsberg hit Jerry Hillebrand on a 16-yard TD pass with just 2:58 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 Wulfsberg 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 run 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 threatened their two-point conversion try; NU also missed a 37-yard field goal in the final minute.

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

(in 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 Wulfsberg's 1-yard run for a touchdown late in the third quarter were all the points CU needed, but in 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 81 yards of total offense overall (and to a net score in the second half). Nebraska ran 26 plays, only 13 of which gained yards (with a long play of just six).

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

(in 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 intercepting to Mike Wender 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 Haysom picked off another pass and ran it back 76 yards for what turned out to be the winning points. The win vaults CU to a No. 5 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 182 yards and two touchdowns, including what turned out to be the game-winner, as CU stopped Missouri and No. 5 Missouri. The Tigers came in with one of the nation's top defenses, particularly against the run, but Colorado put 379 yards of offense into the books by grabbing an early 7-0 lead on an Anderson run and never relinquishing the lead. Paul Arnold scored two touchdowns and passed for another, a 79-yard bomb to Monte Hoke, 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 the first blacks 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-American season by rushing for 254 yards and three touchdowns, with CU getting 589 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 blew out No. 4 Penn State, ending the Nittany Lion's 81-game unbeaten streak (the last 21 of which were victories). The Buffs jumped out to a 10-0 lead in the game's first 24 minutes on a 1-yard touchdown run by John Tarter and a Dave Henry 35-yard field goal. The CU defense held Penn State to just 280 yards and forced two turnovers, with the 41 points the most allowed by PSU in four seasons. The decision was about the college football world and made CU linebacker Phil Erwin on the cover of Sports Illustrated, the first time any sports in the CU program is featured on the magazine's famous cover.

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

(*at Baton Rouge*) CMI 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 two scores as the Buffaloes pulled off a major upset in Cajun Country, defeating the Tigers 31-21 in the '71 season opener. The sophomore-led Buffs defeated several star players in the game, including Charlie Dede, 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 Starnes 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 whipping up an Wyoming in Boulder (in the first-ever game on Astor at Falcon 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. 8) gave CU instant national respect. Charlie Dede rushed for 185 yards and Ken Johnson added 84 in scoring back touchdowns on offense, while CMI Branch's 68-yard punt return for a TD gave CU a 12-0 halftime lead that was never seriously threatened.

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

(*Auto-Blanchard Bowl at Houston, Texas*) Charlie Dede rushed for 202 yards and two touchdowns and John "Bail Driver" Starnes pulled off one of the greatest plays in school history as the Buffs dealt hammering Houston a 28-17 setback. With CU leading 25-17 and faced with a third-and-9 from its own 10-yardline, Starnes, 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 (19-2), and the win enables the Big Eight to finish 1-3-3 in the nation (Missouri No. 7, Oklahoma No. 2, Colorado No. 3)—still the only time one conference has had the top three spots in the final poll.



Top defenses on the '68 Buffaloes: Bill Collins, Phil Erwin, Bill Knepple, Herb Greis and Dave Capen

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 struggled to work four and even late the game against No. 2 Oklahoma ranked sixth. 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 Koyewich (a 8-yard pass from Ken Johnson). A pair of 88-yard field goals by Fred Lica pushed the lead to 28-7, 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

(*in Stillwater*) An important win on its way to the Big Eight Conference title, as CU, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State would the stop the streaking at the end of the season, then defenses came into play. CU led 6-0 going into the fourth quarter, but the Cowboys rallied to take a 10-8 lead with 8:11 to play. In one of the more bizarre collisions in CU history, the Buffs scored two touchdowns in the final minute—just 25 seconds apart—to steal a 20-18 win. Ken Kelliker 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 clean 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 by scoring the game's final 21 points. Jeff Knepple hit Billy Windy with a 78-yard scoring pass and Ken Kelliker scored on a pair of 2-yard runs to put CU ahead, 42-31, with 10:07 remaining. CU drove into CU territory on its three marching 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 heavily 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, 1-8 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 Ken Kelliker touchdowns came within the Buffs ahead, 21-14, early in the second half, though KSU won the game on last drive. CU finally got some breathing room after scores from Jeff Knepple 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. 12 Tigers, the most points the Buffaloes have ever rallied from behind to post a victory. Bill Salmons 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 (falling on a two-point pass after its third TD). Eddie Ford and Salmons scored touchdowns to cap drives of 65 and 90 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 Daalder's extra point provided the margin of victory.

Sept. 28, 1985 Colorado 14, Arizona 13

(at Tucson) Colorado converted to the wildcat offense ahead of the '85 season, and opened the year with a 3-1 streak, defeating Colorado State and Oregon while losing to Ohio State, all in Boulder. The first road test of the year and taking the wildcats on the road came against Arizona, ranked No. 20 in the coaches poll. Dan Brown scored on a 7-yard run to give CU a 7-0 halftime lead, and Mark Hatcher's 2-yard run and Larry Eckel's PK kick made it 14-13 with 10:01 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 1907, leading the Folsom Field fans to storm the field after the win, CU's first ever a ranked team in eight years. A 89-yard touchdown run on a reverse by Jeff Campbell and a 57-yard field goal by Dave Dodson 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 D.C. Oliver hauled up with Loren Carl for a 52-yard touchdown pass on the halfback option play. The Huskers never had the ball again, scoring 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 100+ years football history, the Buffs joining a select group of schools to accomplish the feat. Quarterback Sal Arnesen rushed for 127 yards and three touchdowns, with Erich Kladek 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 228 yards, just 46 after intermission.

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

(at Iowa City) On a hot and humid day in Iowa, the Buffaloes essentially shutout the Hawkeyes from the start to finish, though it needed a late tie win at No. 19 Iowa, 24-21. J.J. Flanagan and Sal Arnesen scored on touchdowns 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 Hershbach in the third quarter. The Hawkeyes took their first and only lead six minutes later, and held on until Arnesen led Colorado on an 85-yard march, scoring it in himself from the 1 and making the Buffs back into the lead with just 1:55 remaining.

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

(in Austin) 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. Dorian Hagan, charged with replacing Sal Arnesen 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 46-yard kickoff pass from Eric Hershbach to M.J. Nelson stopped a 7-7 tie and the Buffs never looked back, outgaining Illinois, 476-191. Sal Arnesen, CU's quarterback and team leader who had been diagnosed with stomach cancer in March, looked on from the Folsom Club, and was assisted 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

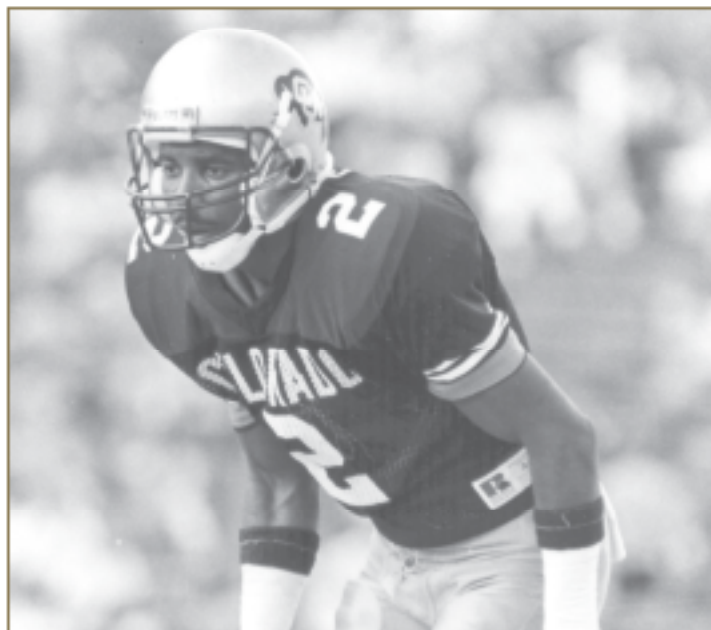
(at Seattle) No. 5 Colorado wins at No. 21 Washington, but the real story in the emotional win was week after quarterback Sal Arnesen died due to complications from stomach cancer. The Huskies showed real class and held a moment of silence for Arnesen prior to kicking the extra CU took lead and pointed to the sky in tribute. The Buffs got off to a slow start with an interception and a three-and-out on offense, trailing 3-8, Eric Hershbach scored on a 35-yard run and the rest was on, as CU would come to a 28-6 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 120 yards in four games). But as CU entered 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 1945. The key play came late in the first half with CU ahead, 8-0, and faced with a 2nd-and-goal at the Chickasaw 1-yard line. Dorian Hagan took the snap and optioned left, tussling what became known as the "moon pitch" to J.J. Flanagan 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 801 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 keeping to 9-0 on the season, after NU jumped ahead early 7-0, CU tied the game on a 78-yard run by J.J. Flanagan, who took a pitch from Dorian Hagan some 40 yards downfield. Hagan and Flanagan added short TD runs, and Ken Calvertson made a pair of field goals, including a 49-yarder just before halftime that gave CU the lead for good at 17-14.



Loren Carl's TD catch sealed CU's 28-10 win over No. 3 Nebraska in 1988





## Brick Games



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

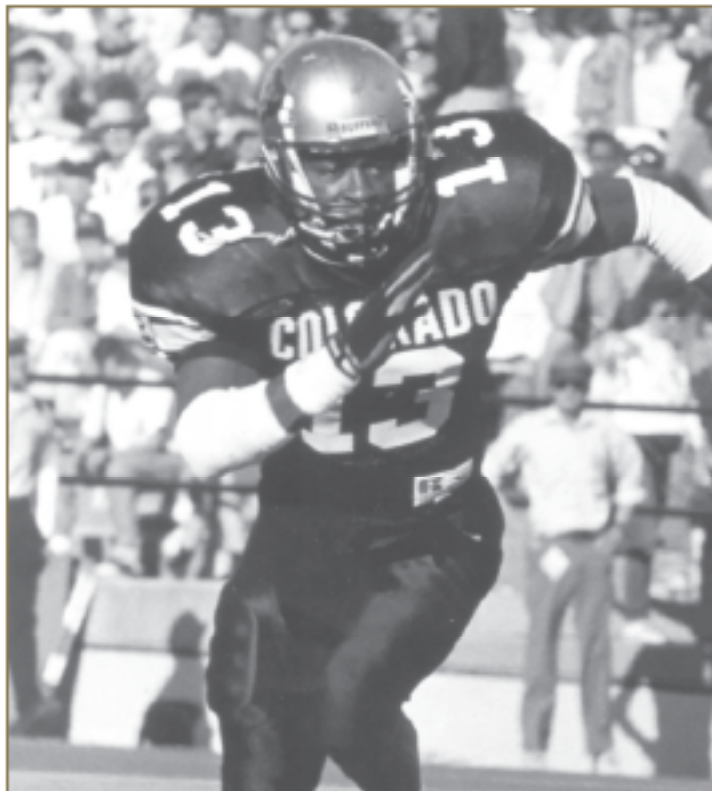
(*at Austin*) Called the longest for CU's national title run after a 1-1-1 start, CU rallied from a 23-14 fourth quarter deficit for the win. With UT ahead 19-14 and deep in CU territory at the end of the third quarter, Eric Blumensly stopped the defense walking down to the other end of the field, and with the entire stadium, challenged them to stop the Longhorns from scoring a touchdown. The spirited encounter worked, as CU held Texas to a field goal; the stadium then did its part, with Blumensly scoring touchdowns on the next two possessions. Alfred Williams closed the scoring by sinking UT's Peter Gardner 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 66-yard run by Eric Blumensly 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, Darin Hagan connected with Mike Smith on an 86-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 Blumensly touchdowns 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 (18-0) over Notre Dame in the 1991 Orange Bowl.



Eric Blumensly 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 Darin Hagan and linebacker Kenneth McGhee, but their replacements came in and answered the call. Charles Johnson, voted the game's MVP, led the Buffs as their only touchdown drive of the night, capped by an Eric Blumensly 1-yard run that put CU ahead with 4:35 left in the third quarter. It was then up to the defense, which already had a key block of an fkick extra point by Ronnie Bradford. Paul Ryan, McGhee's sub, had a key fumble recovery along with two tackles inside the 10 yardline, and Don Figueroa's interception in the final seconds sealed the win.

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

(*at Norman*) Darin 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 Sam Brown, Christian Furdie and Michael Westbrook on the receiving end of the scores. Scott Phillips and Lammert 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*) Lammert Warren rushed for 182 yards and threw a touchdown pass in leading CU to its third straight win at Owen Field. Hasham Salameh and James Hill scored touchdowns rushing with Charles E. Johnson rushing 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 Fulmer). Warren's 84-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 treating Folsom Field as the defending Big Ten Conference and Rose Bowl champions. An expected clash, down-to-the-wire game never materialized as the Buffaloes ran away from the Badgers by the middle of the second quarter, building a 21-3 lead. Backham Salama 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," Karell Stewart's 84-yard touchdown pass to Michael Weathermark, via a Blake Anderson tip, won the game for Colorado after time had expired. The two-way game had Colorado ahead 14-3 at one point until the Wolverines scored the next 28 to take a 24-14 lead. The Buffs cut the lead to 28-21 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 was on ESPN.

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

*(at Austin)* Salama rushed for 317 yards and totaled a school record 882 all-purpose yards as the Buffaloes overcame the Texas heat and humidity in escaping with a 34-31 win. Colorado had 505 yards on offense, 287 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 4:00 left; the Buffs then ran out the clock on a 13-play, 78-yard drive, with Neil Vanderkammen beating the game-winning 34-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 Backham Salama went over the 2,000-yard mark in rushing and quarterback Karell Stewart became the Big Eight's all-time total offense leader. The game was never in doubt, and with Backham 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 trailing just 12 yards to coach 2/000, Salama 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 head coach of the day, head coach Bill McCartney announced his retirement.



Shannon Cleavelle had three quarterback sacks in CU's 41-24 rout of Notre Dame in the '85 Fiesta Bowl.

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

*(Fiesta Bowl at Tampa, Fla.)* The Buffaloes sent Bill McCartney out on a high note, as CU dismantled Notre Dame, 41-24. Karell Stewart was the ultimate most valuable player, passing for 285 yards and a touchdown while rushing for 140 yards and a score on just seven attempts). Shannon Cleavelle was the defensive MVP, as he recorded three of CU's seven sacks in helping the Buffs build a 21-3 second quarter lead. Colorado finished 11-1 on the season and ranked No. 8 in the final polls, while McCartney retired as the winningest coach in CU history with a 42-55-5 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 coldest to take on the Badgers, who were out for revenge after getting blasted in Boulder a year earlier, 55-17. But the rematch proved warm for the home-town team, as the Buffs never trailed in building a 34-7 halftime lead. Key Detmer threw for 287 yards and three touchdowns, with the CU defense holding Wisconsin to 297 total yards. Matt Russell had 18 tackles and Steve Hage 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 came off the bench to lead CU to the win after replacing injured quarterback Key Detmer. Hessler rushed for two scores and passed for a third, a 28-yard throw to Tompau 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 220 yards overall.

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

*(at Norman)* Known as the "natechik" games the coach of the No. 10 Sooners, Howard Schnellenberger, said he wanted to beat CU with a healthy Key Detmer at quarterback as there wouldn't be a "drama 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 CU to the curb in their own backyard. In the process, CU became only the third school in history to win four straight games 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. Key Detmer threw for 271 yards and three touchdowns with Blittellink Award finalist Ben Carroth leading in seven catches for 163 yards and two of the scores, including a 78-yard play that got Colorado on the scoreboard. Nick Ziegler then picked off a Brock Huard pass and returned it 81 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 mounted to a 44-14 lead five minutes into the second half. Ben Kelly returned the opening kickoff 33 yards for a touchdown, and Mike Marchetti threw four touchdown passes, including two bombs to Marcus Stiggers (58 yards) and Darrin Chiswick (72). CU's defense forced the Ducks into six turnovers that led to 28 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 25-0 lead in the second quarter on touchdowns run by Cortlan Johnson and Mike Marchetti, interception returns for scores by Joshua Sylve and Michael Barnes, and the longest punt return in NCAA bowl history, 89 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 Heisman 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 188 yards and a school record six touchdowns, with Bobby Paddy racing for 154 yards and one score as CU built a 26-3 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 coaches Andre Gurode and Michael Lewis on a mini-tour at Cowboys Stadium, the site of the league's title game later that year. The players placed the opposing team's helmet down as 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 188 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 1-3 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 Bruegman field goals and a cold game from quarterback Robert Hojo (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 25 minutes in the third quarter because of lightning, the Buffaloes scored 28 points in the second quarter but needed a 3-yard touchdown run from Bobby Paddy to defeat their in-state rival. 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 last start.

Sept. 4, 2004 Colorado 27, Colorado State 24

(in Boulder) The entire program was in the midst of scrubbing a largely manufactured crisis off the field, and when the season opener rolled around, the team had a lot of pent up frustration. That CSU was set on raking the season, rallying from 18 down in the final five minutes to chase to within 27-24 and faced a first-and-goal from the CU 1 in the final minute of the game. But the Buffs' defense rose to the occasion, stuffing two rushing plays so they 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 team 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 game 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 26-24 at halftime. But an offensive explosion of 41 points after halftime allowed the Buffs to rally 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 inception of a series which had been dormant since 1932. 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 color of the Buffs as CU ran away from rival Colorado State, 41-27. Richardson caught 18 passes for 208 yards and two touchdowns, with Connor Wood passing for 400 yards and three TDs. Greg Henderson's 63-yard fumble return for a touchdown put CU ahead 23-24 in the fourth quarter, and a Wood-to-Richardson 15-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 (288 and 185, respectively) and accounted for four touchdowns in Colorado's 41-38 win. Though CU held a 23-7 lead, the Ducks came back to lead 38-23 after three quarters; Montez threw a TD pass to Bryce Bobb with 6:03 to play with the two connecting again on the two-point conversion. In the final minute, Oregon drove to the CU 7, but Alshon White'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 388 yards of offense in defeating the Cardinal, 10-5. CU squatted Stanford a 3-0 lead, but Seth Linton 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 4-2 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 sold-out 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, undergoing the largest turnaround from one season to the next in Pac-12 history after going 1-9 the year before. Seth Linton threw for 270 yards and a touchdown while rushing for another, with Kenneth Ogburn'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 Ogburn** 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.



## Brick Games



**Sept. 2, 2023**      **Colorado 45, #17 TCU 42**

(in Fort Worth) In the first game of the Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders era at Colorado taking on the defending National Championship runners-up, Colorado jumped out the gate scoring 45 points with countless records broken in the process led by Quarterback Shedeur Sanders in his first start as a Buff. At the top of the records was the mark for most passing yards in a game as well as most in a FBS debut since 1996 with 510 to go along with four touchdowns and no interceptions. Out of the 510 yards, four different receivers topped 100 receiving yards, the first time in school history. Two-way star Travis Hunter set the country on fire playing 138 plays from scrimmage a school record while recording 11 receptions for 119 yards, one interception, 1 PBU, and three tackles. Hunter is the only FBS player since 2003 to record 100 receiving yards and an interception in the same game. The breakout star of the game was freshman Dylan Edwards who scored four touchdowns the last of which put the Buffs ahead to stay in the fourth quarter to win 45-42.