

History

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Influential People & Moments

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Important Dates & Milestones



- Nov. 15, 1890—First football game ever in the history of the University of Colorado, losing 20-0 to the Denver Athletic Club in Denver.
- Dec. 13, 1890—George Darley runs 65 yards with a fumbled football for a touchdown, the first in CU history. Colorado Mines won however, 50-4.
- Nov. 26, 1891—First win in CU history, a 24-4 victory on the road over the Colorado Springs Athletic Association Team.
- Nov. 8, 1892—First win by Colorado in Boulder, a 46-0 win over the University of Denver.
- Aug. 3, 1894—Harry Heller named first head coach in Colorado history.
- Oct. 26, 1895—Fred Folsom debuts as CU head coach with a 32-0 win over the Denver Wheel Club in Boulder. He arrived in Boulder earlier that month and did not coach the first game of the season.
- Nov. 17, 1898—Colorado plays first opponent from outside the state boundaries, losing to Nebraska in Boulder, 23-10.
- July 27, 1900—T.W. Mortimer named third head coach in Colorado history, as Fred Folsom opens a law practice in Denver. Folsom returned as coach for the 1901 and 1902 seasons.
- July 10, 1903—Dave Cropp named fourth head coach in Colorado history.
- Oct. 8, 1904—Colorado's 6-0 win over Nebraska is the school's first inter-sectional win in its history.
- June 26, 1905—Willis Keinholz named fifth head coach in Colorado history.
- June 19, 1906—Frank Castleman named sixth head coach in Colorado history.
- May 11, 1908—Fred Folsom, who returned to Colorado the previous year, once again named head coach.
- Oct. 8, 1910—Colorado's 11-0 triumph over the Alumni is the 100th win in CU history.
- Spring 1912—The value of a touchdown becomes six points, and the sport now has most of the modern point values: three for a field goal, two for a safety and one for an extra point. The two-point conversion by run or pass won't appear until 1958.
- Oct. 5, 1912—Colorado tops Utah State in Boulder, 16-3, extending CU's winning streak to 21 games, the school record to this day. Colorado A&M ended the streak the following week with a 21-0 win in Fort Collins.
- Jan. 10, 1916—Bob Evans named seventh head coach in Colorado history.
- Jan. 17, 1918—Joe Mills named eighth head coach in Colorado history.
- Feb. 4, 1920—Myron Witham named ninth head coach in Colorado history.
- Nov. 28, 1923—Colorado's 6-3 win at Colorado State gives Colorado a 9-0-0 mark for the 1923 season, its best ever at the time.
- Oct. 11, 1924—Colorado defeated Regis College 39-0 in the first game at Folsom Field (then known as Colorado Stadium).
- Dec. 25, 1924—The Silver & Gold play the first postseason game in school history, defeating the Hawaii-Navy All-Stars in Honolulu, 43-0.
- Oct. 13, 1928—Bill Smith records the first known 100-yard rushing game ever by a CU player, running for 132 yards and a touchdown in a 21-6 win at Northern Colorado.
- Dec. 14, 1930—George Carlson becomes CU's first player to be awarded the Rhodes Scholarship.
- Nov. 21, 1931—Colorado's 17-7 verdict over Colorado College is the 200th win in CU history.
- Jan. 3, 1932—William "Navy Bill" Saunders named the 10th head coach in Colorado history.
- Dec. 17, 1933—Clayton White, older becomes CU's second player to receive a Rhodes Scholarship.
- Nov. 10, 1934—Colorado officially adopts the nickname "Buffaloes" at annual Homecoming game. The "Bufs" beat Utah 7-6.
- Feb. 7, 1935—Bernard "Bunnie" Oakes named the 11th head coach in Colorado history.
- Nov. 7, 1936—Byron "Whizzer" White scores 25 points against Utah in Boulder as CU wins, 31-7. White scored four touchdowns and kicked one extra point to establish a Buff record.
- Nov. 6, 1937—Byron White single-handedly beats Utah at Salt Lake City, 17-7, in one of his greatest games ever. He returned a punt 95 yards, scored another touchdown on a 57-yard sprint, kicked a 15-yard field goal and kicked both extra points in accounting for all of CU's points.
- Nov. 25, 1937—Byron White's jersey number "24" retired at the traditional Thanksgiving Day game with Denver. Buffs won, 34-7.
- Dec. 12, 1937—The Pittsburgh Steelers select Byron White as the fourth pick in the first round of the NFL Draft, making White the first CU player to be drafted into the league.
- Dec. 13, 1937—Byron White named to the All-America team, becoming the first Colorado player to gain the honor.
- Dec. 18, 1937—Byron White becomes the third Colorado player to receive a Rhodes Scholarship. He will study at Oxford in 1939.
- Jan. 1, 1938—Colorado makes its first Bowl game appearance ever, losing to No. 18 Rice, 28-14, in the Cotton Bowl.
- June 11, 1940—Cross Country & Track Coach Frank Potts named the 12th head coach in Colorado history.
- Mar. 3, 1941—Jim Yeager named the 13th head coach in Colorado history.
- Mar. 11, 1944—Frank Potts takes over once again as head coach while Jim Yeager is serving his country in World War II.
- Jan. 10, 1945—Jim Yeager returns to coach Buffs.
- Nov. 27, 1947—A 26-20 loss at Denver is significant in several ways: it was CU's final game in the Mountain States Conference; it was the last game in CU-Denver series; it was CU's last on Thanksgiving Day; and it was the first game in 58 seasons of Colorado football where both teams scored at least 20 points.
- Feb. 3, 1948—Dallas Ward named the 14th head coach in Colorado history, as it is athletic director Harry Carlson's most important hire as Ward will lead CU into the tough Big Seven Conference.
- Oct. 2, 1948—Colorado's first game as a member of the Big Seven. The Buffs lost 40-7 at Kansas.
- Oct. 9, 1948—Buffs' dramatic 19-6 upset of Nebraska in Boulder was Dallas Ward's first win as coach, and Colorado's first win in the Big Seven.
- Oct. 21, 1950—Zack Jordan highlights Buffaloes' 28-25 win over Arizona in Boulder by setting an NCAA punting record: six punts for 343 yards, an average of 57.2 a kick.
- Nov. 17, 1951—Colorado's 36-14 win at Nebraska is the first national television appearance by the Buffaloes.
- Sept. 20, 1952—Buffaloes beat San Jose State, 20-14, for the 300th win in Colorado history.
- Sept. 27, 1952—Colorado ties Oklahoma in Boulder, 21-21, to give Oklahoma one of only two blemishes in its 75 conference game unbeaten streak which started in 1946 and ended in 1959.
- Nov. 20, 1954—Carroll Hardy sets a national record rushing for 238 yards on just 10 attempts in a 38-14 win over Kansas State.
- Jan. 1, 1957—Colorado wins its first ever bowl game, a 27-21 victory over Clemson in the 1957 Orange Bowl at Miami.
- Oct. 11, 1958—Howard Cook ties Byron White's record by scoring 25 points against Arizona in Tucson. Cook scored four touchdowns and kicked one extra point to lead the Buffaloes to a 65-12 rout of the Wildcats.



Important Dates & Milestones



- Feb. 9, 1959—Sonny Grandelius named the 15th head coach in CU history.
- Sept. 19, 1959—Colorado dons its black jerseys for the first time in a 21-12 home loss to Washington.
- Nov. 28, 1959—CU defeats Air Force in Boulder, 15-7, to close the season; spectators include Byron White and his guest, president candidate John F. Kennedy. To this day, the only game attended in Boulder by a U.S. president, prior to, during or after his term in office.
- Nov. 4, 1961—Buffs edge Missouri, 7-6. SID Fred Casotti awarded the game ball, in what was the first nationally televised game from Boulder.
- Nov. 18, 1961—Buffs shut out Nebraska in Lincoln, 7-0, and hold the Huskers to 31 yards total offense and no first downs.
- Jan. 1, 1962—Colorado makes its second appearance in the Orange Bowl, but falls to LSU, 25-7.
- Mar. 27, 1962—Bud Davis named the 16th head coach in Buff history, replacing Sonny Grandelius after NCAA violations put CU on probation.
- Dec. 15, 1962—Joe Romig becomes fourth Colorado player to be awarded a Rhodes Scholarship.
- Jan. 3, 1963—Eddie Crowder named the 17th head coach in Colorado history.
- Nov. 22, 1963—CU and Air Force postpone their game for the following day as the country mourns the death of President John F. Kennedy. The game is played two weeks later on December 7 (Air Force won, 17-14).
- July 1, 1965—Crowder assumes duties as Athletic Director as well as head coach.
- May 7, 1967—Joe Romig's jersey number "67" retired at annual spring game.
- Dec. 23, 1967—Colorado topples Miami, 31-21, to capture its first-ever Bluebonnet Bowl in Houston.
- Oct. 4, 1969—Buffs beat Indiana in raging blizzard, 30-7, in Boulder. Bobby Anderson switched from quarterback to tailback for first time.
- Oct. 11, 1969—Colorado blanks Iowa State, 14-0, to win its 400th game in history.
- Dec. 13, 1969—Buffs top Alabama, 47-33, to win the Liberty Bowl at Memphis. Bobby Anderson rushes for 254 yards, and gains 295 in total offense as game's MVP.
- May 9, 1970—Bobby Anderson's jersey number "11" is retired at annual spring game.
- Sept. 26, 1970—Colorado pulls big upset in routing Penn State, 41-13, in Boulder, on national television. The win snapped a 23-game winning streak and 31-game unbeaten streak by the Nittany Lions.
- Dec. 13, 1970—Buffs make return trip to Liberty Bowl but lose to Tulane, 17-3.
- Sept. 11, 1971—Colorado opens season with dramatic upset of LSU at Baton Rouge, 31-21.
- Sept. 25, 1971—Buffs keep rolling in '71, upset Ohio State at Columbus, 20-14.
- Nov. 13, 1971—Charlie Davis sets a Colorado and Big Eight record by rushing for 342 yards in a 40-6 rout of Oklahoma State in Boulder.
- Dec. 31, 1971—Colorado completes its best season ever with a 29-17 victory over the University of Houston in the 13th annual Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl. Charlie Davis rushed for 202 yards in helping the Buffs to finish a 10-2-0 for the '71 season.
- Jan. 3, 1972—Buffs voted the number three team in the country for the '71 season by Associated Press. It was the highest a Colorado team had ever ranked at the end of the season, United Press International tabbed Colorado seventh for the same season.
- Oct. 21, 1972—Buffs upset No. 2 Oklahoma in Boulder, 20-14, before a national TV audience on ABC.
- Dec. 30, 1972—Colorado loses to Auburn, 24-3, in its first Gator Bowl appearance.
- Jan. 12, 1974—Bill Mallory named the 18th head coach in Colorado history.
- Jan. 29, 1974—San Diego selects fullback Bo Matthews as the second overall pick in the NFL Draft, the highest a CU player has ever been selected.
- Dec. 27, 1975—Texas rallies to defeat Colorado, 38-21, in the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl.
- Nov. 20, 1976—Colorado beats Kansas State at Manhattan, 35-28, to tie for Big Eight championship. Buffs go to Orange Bowl, however, by virtue of their wins over Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.
- Jan. 1, 1977—Buffs make third trip to Orange Bowl, start strong with a 10-0 lead, but lose to Ohio State, 27-10.
- May 1, 1977—The largest crowd in Folsom Field history for any event fills the stadium: 61,500 for the "Sun Day (No. 1)" concert series, featuring Fleetwood Mac, Bob Seger, Firefall and John Sebastian.
- Nov. 4, 1978—Largest crowd at the time in Colorado home history, 53,553, see the Buffs fall short to No. 1 Oklahoma, 28-7.
- Apr. 4, 1979—After months of legal wrangling, Chuck Fairbanks named the 19th head coach in Colorado history.
- Oct. 4, 1980—In one of the wildest games ever played at Folsom Field, Oklahoma defeats CU 82-42. Several NCAA and Big Eight records were smashed.
- June 9, 1982—Bill McCartney named the 20th head coach in Colorado history.
- Sept. 15, 1984—Tight end Ed Reinhardt undergoes brain surgery to save his life less than two hours after Colorado's 27-20 loss at Oregon. Reinhardt had a blood clot removed from the left side of his brain.
- Mar. 25, 1985—Bill McCartney announces that the Buffs have switched to the wishbone, CU's "offense of the future."
- Nov. 23, 1985—Colorado's 30-0 win over Kansas State gives CU a 7-4 regular season record, which also enables the Buffs to win the NCAA's most improved team honor for 1985.
- Dec. 30, 1985—Colorado loses to Washington, 20-17, in the second annual Freedom Bowl.
- Oct. 25, 1986—Colorado defeats Nebraska (20-10), the first Buff win over the Huskers since 1967.
- Nov. 22, 1986—Buffs destroy Kansas State, 49-3, to finish second in the Big Eight. CU's 6-1 league record is its second best ever.
- Dec. 31, 1986—Baylor defeats CU, 21-9, in the 28th annual Bluebonnet Bowl.
- Oct. 17, 1987—Colorado defeats Kansas, 35-10, for its 200th win at Folsom Field.
- Oct. 31, 1987—Buffs roll over Iowa State at Ames, 42-10, for CU's 500th win in its history.
- Nov. 28, 1987—Buffs lose to Nebraska, 24-7, in first game at Folsom Field with lights (mid-afternoon kickoff).
- Oct. 22, 1988—Oklahoma edges CU, 17-14, in the first night game ever played at Folsom Field.
- Dec. 29, 1988—Colorado loses to Brigham Young, 20-17, in the fifth annual Freedom Bowl.
- Aug. 23, 1989—Colorado's No. 14 ranking in both the AP and UPI polls marks the first time the Buffs are ranked in the preseason since 1977.



Important Dates & Milestones



- Nov. 18, 1989—The Buffs' 59-11 win at Kansas State gives CU its first undefeated regular season since 1937, and clinches the Big Eight Conference Championship (CU's first outright title since 1961). In the game, sophomore quarterback Darian Hagan goes over the 1,000-yard mark for the season in both rushing and passing, becoming only the sixth player to accomplish that feat in NCAA history.
- Nov. 27, 1989—Colorado ascends to the nation's No. 1 ranking, the first time in its 100-year history that CU earns the wire service top spot.
- Jan. 1, 1990—Colorado loses its bid for its first-ever national championship, losing 21-6 to Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl.
- Jan. 2, 1990—The Buffs finish the year ranked No. 4 in the polls, the second-highest final ranking by any Colorado team.
- Jan. 18, 1990—Bill McCartney is named the Bear Bryant Coach-of-the-Year, giving him a sweep of the national coach-of-the-year honors.
- July 26, 1990—Bill McCartney signs a 15-year contract to continue as head coach at Colorado, the longest contract extension in CU's athletic history.
- Aug. 26, 1990—Colorado and Tennessee battle to a 31-31 tie in the inaugural Disneyland Pigskin Classic at Anaheim, Calif.
- Oct. 6, 1990—Eric Bieniemy rushes for 217 yards in a 33-31 win at Missouri, in the process passing Charlie Davis as the school's all-time leading rusher. The game is best remembered for Colorado being awarded five downs at the end, though no fault of CU's.
- Nov. 17, 1990—Colorado crushes Kansas State, 64-3, as the Buffs roll to the first back-to-back titles in Big Eight Conference play. The following Monday, CU is ranked No. 1 in the nation, the second straight year the Buffaloes end the regular season as college football's number one team.
- Dec. 4, 1990—Senior outside linebacker Alfred Williams is named the recipient of the Butkus Award, the first CU player to win one of college football's big-time trophies.
- Dec. 10, 1990—With the announcement of the UPI All-America team, tailback Eric Bieniemy, guard Joe Garten and outside linebacker Alfred Williams become the first three unanimous All-Americans in CU history.
- Jan. 1, 1991—A 10-9 win over Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl ends a seven-game CU bowl game losing streak and positions the Buffaloes for the national title.
- Jan. 2, 1991—Colorado is named the national champion by both the Associated Press and USA Today/CNN, the first national championship in football in the school's history. United Press International tabbed CU second, one point behind Georgia Tech, in its poll.
- Jan. 8, 1991—Quarterback Charles Johnson, the most valuable player in the Orange Bowl, appears on NBC's "Tonight Show," the first CU athlete to ever appear on the program.
- Dec. 9, 1991—Jay Leeuwenburg becomes the fourth player in CU history to earn unanimous All-America honors when he is selected to the AP and UPI teams.
- Dec. 28, 1991—Alabama defeats Colorado, 30-25, in the second Blockbuster Bowl. It is later confirmed that the Crimson Tide spied on CU's bowl practices and knew the Buffs were changing offenses.
- Dec. 5, 1992—Jim Hansen becomes the fifth CU football player to earn the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. He was the 19th University of Colorado student to be afforded the honor. The senior offensive tackle became CU's first three-time Academic All-American three days later (and CU's first "Academic All-American-of-the-Year.")
- Dec. 6, 1992—Senior cornerback Deon Figures is named the recipient of the Jim Thorpe Award, given to the nation's top defensive back.
- Jan. 1, 1993—Syracuse defeats Colorado, 26-22, in the 22nd annual Fiesta Bowl.
- Oct. 16, 1993—Colorado defeats Oklahoma, 27-10, as Bill McCartney wins his 78th game as head coach, thus passing Fred Folsom and becoming the all-time winningest coach in school history. In that game, Lamont Warren throws a 34-yard touchdown pass to Charles Johnson; Warren slipped on the turf as he threw it and Johnson was interfered with but still made the catch lying on the ground in a play that was selected as the national play-of-the-year.
- Nov. 30, 1993—Charles Johnson is named offensive player-of-the-year in the Big Eight, the first wide receiver to ever win the award.
- Dec. 25, 1993—Colorado defeats Fresno State, 41-30, in the 12th annual Aloha Bowl.
- Sept. 24, 1994—In what would eventually be selected as the national play-of-the-year and one of the top plays of all-time, Kordell Stewart throws a 64-yard touchdown pass to Michael West-brook, via a Blake Anderson tip, as Colorado rallies to beat Michigan at Ann Arbor as time expired, 27-26.
- Nov. 19, 1994—One of the most eventful days in CU football history: tailback Rashaan Salaam becomes just the fourth player ever in the NCAA to rush for over 2,000 yards in a season; quarterback Kordell Stewart becomes the Big Eight Conference's all-time total offense leader; and following CU's 41-20 win over Iowa State in Boulder, head coach Bill McCartney announces that he will retire following CU's bowl game.
- Nov. 28, 1994—Rick Neuheisel named the 21st head coach in Colorado history (took over program on Jan. 3, 1995).
- Dec. 1, 1994—Junior tailback Rashaan Salaam wins the Doak Walker Award as the nation's top running back. The previous day, Salaam won the Walter Camp Player-of-the-Year Award.
- Dec. 8, 1994—Senior cornerback Chris Hudson wins the Jim Thorpe Award as the nation's top defensive back.
- Dec. 10, 1994—Junior tailback Rashaan Salaam becomes the first player in University of Colorado history to win the Heisman Trophy. The announcement is made at New York's Downtown Athletic Club and televised nationally on ESPN.
- Jan. 2, 1995—In Bill McCartney's final game as head coach, the Buffs defeat Notre Dame, 41-24, the 24th annual Fiesta Bowl. Quarterback Kordell Stewart and defensive tackle Shannon Clavelle are named the game's most valuable players.
- Apr. 22, 1995—Seven Buffs are selected among the first 71 picks of the annual NFL draft.
- Sept. 2, 1995—Rick Neuheisel becomes the first coach at CU since 1932 to win his first game, as the Buffaloes defeat Wisconsin in Madison, 43-7.
- Sept. 30, 1995—John Hessler sets a school record with five touchdown passes in CU's 38-17 win at Oklahoma, which was his first career start. He duplicated the feat a little more than a month later (Nov. 4) in a 45-32 win at Oklahoma State.
- Jan. 1, 1996—Colorado defeats Oregon, 38-6, in the 60th annual Cotton Bowl.
- Nov. 29, 1996—Koy Detmer becomes the first player in school history to pass for over 3,000 yards in a season in CU's 17-12 loss at Nebraska.
- Dec. 14, 1996—Matt Russell is named the winner of the Butkus Award as the nation's best linebacker, the second player to win the trophy.
- Dec. 30, 1996—CU defeats Washington, 33-21, in the 19th annual Holiday Bowl, securing a third straight 10-win season for the Buffaloes and a four-game bowl winning streak, the first of both in school history.



Important Dates & Milestones



- Nov. 14, 1998—CU's 37-8 win over Iowa State is the 600th in CU history.
- Dec. 25, 1998—In the 1,000th game in its history, Colorado defeats Oregon, 51-43, in the 17th annual Aloha Bowl. Mike Moschetti throws four touchdown passes and Ben Kelly returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown as the Buffs built a 44-14 third quarter lead.
- Jan. 22, 1999—Gary Barnett named the 22nd head coach in Colorado history.
- Oct. 9, 1999—Colorado plays the first overtime game in its history, with Mike Moschetti's 24-yard touchdown pass to Marcus Stiggers paving the way for a 46-39 win over Missouri in Boulder. (The NCAA added overtime in 1996.)
- Nov. 26, 1999—The Buffs play their second overtime game ever, losing to Nebraska, 33-30 in Boulder. However, CU rallies from its largest deficit ever to tie the game, coming back after trailing 27-3 with a 24-point, 284-yard fourth quarter against the No. 3 Cornhuskers.
- Dec. 31, 1999—CU defeats Boston College, 62-28, in the 11th annual Insight.com Bowl at Tucson. The Buffs race to a 45-7 halftime lead and set numerous records in their sixth straight bowl win, adding to the nation's longest active streak.
- Oct. 28, 2000—Craig Ochs joins an elite group in college football history as he becomes the first Buffalo to score touchdowns via rushing and receiving while also throwing one in the same game in CU's 37-21 win over Oklahoma State. In the second quarter, Javon Green had become the first Buff to ever throw and catch a touchdown pass in the same game, and was later joined by Ochs in the fourth quarter. It was Green who threw the TD pass to Ochs; Ochs threw his to Roman Hollowell, Green caught his from Zac Colvin.
- Aug. 26, 2001—Colorado had the honor of hosting and playing in the inaugural Jim Thorpe Association Football Classic, but the Buffaloes fall, 24-22, to Fresno State.
- Sept. 13, 2001—Due to the terrorist attacks two days earlier on the east coast, CU's game at Washington State on Sept. 15 is cancelled. It was the first time in school history an out-of-state game is not played as Colorado joined the rest of the nation in honoring those who died doing their every day jobs.
- Nov. 23, 2001—Sophomore Chris Brown scores a school record six touchdowns in leading Colorado to a 62-36 win over Nebraska in Boulder, earning CU its first North Division title since the Big 12 started play in 1996. A record setting day on many fronts, it was also the most points ever allowed by a Nebraska team at the time as CU sprinted out to a 35-3 lead over the BCS No. 1-ranked Huskers.
- Dec. 1, 2001—The Buffaloes win their first Big 12 Conference title with a 39-37 win over Texas at Irving, basically coming in a road game environment. Despite UT knowing a win would put it into the national title game against Miami, CU spotted the Longhorns a 7-0 lead before scoring 29 points in less than a 15-minute span to take the lead for good. Chris Brown rushed for 198 yards and three touchdowns with the Buffs also coming up big on defense and special teams.
- Dec. 12, 2001—Daniel Graham is named the recipient of the second annual John Mackey Award, presented to the nation's best tight end.
- Jan. 1, 2002—In only the sixth-ever match-up in the postseason of the Nos. 2 and 3 teams in the country, second-ranked Oregon toppled No. 3 Colorado, 38-16, in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. CU led 7-0 early but the Ducks used a late second quarter score to take a 21-7 lead into halftime and held the Buffs at bay the rest of the game.
- Dec. 7, 2002—After winning its second straight Big 12 North Division title outright the previous week with a win at Nebraska, CU fell short in its bid to become the first back-to-back champion in Big 12 history when it fell 29-7 to Oklahoma in Houston in the league's title game.
- Dec. 12, 2002—Mark Mariscal is named the recipient of the Ray Guy Award as the nation's best punter.
- Dec. 28, 2002—Wisconsin rallies to defeat the Buffaloes in overtime, 31-28, in the Alamo Bowl presented by MasterCard.
- Oct. 16, 2004—Mason Crosby connects on a school record 60-yard field goal, the first made from that distance in the NCAA in five seasons.
- Dec. 4, 2004—CU won its third Big 12 North Division title the previous week when it defeated Nebraska and Iowa State lost to Missouri, but the Buffs lost to Oklahoma 42-3 in the league championship game in Kansas City.
- Dec. 29, 2004—Colorado defeated Texas-El Paso, 33-28, in the Houston Bowl behind the passing of Joel Klatt, who was named the offensive MVP in the game with 333 yards passing.
- Dec. 3, 2005—After the Buffs win their fourth division title in five seasons, CU drops the Big 12 championship game to Texas, 70-3. Gary Barnett steps down as head coach five days later.
- Dec. 16, 2005—Dan Hawkins named the 23rd head coach in Colorado history.
- Dec. 27, 2005—Mike Hankwitz, named interim head coach for the bowl game, leads CU into the Champs Sports Bowl in Orlando. The Buffs, nursing several injuries on offense, including quarterback Joel Klatt who missed the game, have a gritty effort but fall to No. 23 Clemson, 19-10.
- Dec. 7, 2006—Mason Crosby named first-team All-American, becoming the fifth Buff to earn the distinction in back-to-back seasons.
- Sept. 1, 2007—CU and Colorado State play the first overtime game in series history, with Kevin Eberhart tying the game with a 22-yard field goal with 13 seconds left in regulation and then winning it with a 35-yard effort in OT as CU won, 31-28.
- Sept. 29, 2007—Kevin Eberhart makes just the second game winning field goal as time expired in school history, with his 45-yard kick propelling CU to a 27-24 win over No. 3 Oklahoma.
- Dec. 30, 2007—Alabama sprinted to a 27-0 lead over Colorado and then held off a furious Buff rally, as the Crimson Tide tops CU, 30-24, in the 32nd Annual PetroSun Independence Bowl.
- June 10, 2010—Colorado officials announce they are leaving the Big 12 to join the Pac-12 Conference, effective July 1, 2011.
- Nov. 9, 2010—Dan Hawkins is dismissed as head coach, with long-time assistant coach Brian Cabral named as interim head coach to finish out the 2010 season.
- Dec. 6, 2010—Jon Embree named the 24th full-time head coach in Colorado history, the first alum to take over the program since Bud Davis in 1962. On the same date, Eric Bieniemy, CU's all-time leading rusher, returns as the school's offensive coordinator.
- Nov. 25, 2011—Colorado ends its first year in the Pac-12 on a high note, its 17-14 win at Utah ending a school record 23-game road losing streak.
- Dec. 10, 2012—Mike MacIntyre named the 25th head coach in school history.
- Sept. 1, 2013—CU's 41-27 win over Colorado State in the season opener enables Mike MacIntyre to become just the second CU head coach since 1932 to win his first game, joining Rick Neuheisel (1995).



Important Dates & Milestones



- Sept. 14, 2013—A home game against Fresno State is cancelled due to record rainfall and flooding in Boulder; it is just the second game postponed or cancelled in school history (the Nov. 23, 1963 game against Air Force was delayed two weeks due to the assassination of JFK).
- May 12, 2014—The date groundbreaking took place on CU's massive \$156 million Athletics Complex Expansion project, which was completed in February 2016. New state-of-the-art offices, locker rooms, training facilities and a long-awaited indoor practice facility gave the Buffaloes some of, if not the finest facilities in the country.
- Nov. 26, 2016—Colorado defeats Utah, 27-22, to win its first Pac-12 South Division title; the Buffs finish 8-1 in league play, improving from 1-8 the year before to record the biggest turnaround in conference history.
- Dec. 2, 2016—The Buffs appear in their first Pac-12 title game, but fall to Washington, 41-10.
- Dec. 29, 2016—Playing in their second Alamo Bowl, the Buffaloes drop a 38-8 decision to Oklahoma State.
- Oct. 29, 2017—CU's 44-28 win over California is the school's 700th all-time victory (the 25th school to reach that milestone). During the game, the late Rashaan Salaam's jersey (#19) is retired.
- Sept. 8, 2018—Laviska Shenault Jr. caught a 40-yard touchdown from Steven Montez with 1:06 left in the game to rally the Buffs to a 33-28 win over Nebraska in Memorial Stadium as the Buffs defeated the Huskers in Scott Frost's debut.
- Nov. 18, 2018—After opening the season 5-0 and falling to 5-6, coach Mike MacIntyre is dismissed with one game remaining in the season and Kurt Roper takes over as interim coach for the final game at Cal.
- Dec. 5, 2018—Mel Tucker named the 26th head coach in CU history.
- Feb. 23, 2020—Eleven days after Mel Tucker left CU for Michigan State one week after signing day, Karl Dorrell is named the 27th head coach in CU history.
- Mar. 11, 2020—All athletic activities suspended due to coronavirus pandemic; spring football is cancelled in its entirety for the first time in school history.
- Nov. 7, 2020—After a span of 257 days between when he was hired and coaching his first game, Karl Dorrell leads the Buffs to a 48-42 win over UCLA in Boulder.
- Dec. 29, 2020—Playing in the program's third Alamo Bowl, CU falls to No. 20 Texas, 55-23, to cap a 4-2 COVID-shortened season.
- Oct. 2, 2022—After opening 0-5, coach Karl Dorrell is dismissed and offensive coordinator Mike Sanford is named interim coach. Sanford would lead the Buffs to a victory over Cal in his first game, but then lose the final six games of the season.
- Dec. 3, 2022—Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders is named the 28th head coach in CU history.
- Dec. 6, 2022—The late Rashaan Salaam is inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.
- April 17, 2023—The Buffs sell out of season tickets for the 2023 season, the first team in the nation to sell out, the ninth time CU has sold out of season tickets, the first time since 1996 and first time prior to August.
- April 22, 2023—The Buffs sell out the Spring Game for the first time in program history, surpassing the total of the previous nine spring games combined in front of a national television audience on ESPN, the only Spring Game televised by the flagship station and just one of two that are not on a streaming platform or conference television network.
- May 31, 2023—Fox announces that the Buffs will host Big Noon Kickoff show for the week two matchup against Nebraska, putting the Buffs in the premier network television slot for the first two games of the season, marking the first time CU will open a season on network TV for the first two games.
- July 27, 2023—Athletic Director Rick George and Chancellor Phil DiStefano announce that the Buffs will rejoin the Big 12 Conference at the start of the 2024-25 athletic seasons.
- Sept. 16, 2023—Colorado hosted both morning pregame shows, ESPN's College Gameday with guest picker Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Fox's Big Noon Kickoff prior to week three against Colorado State winning 43-35 in double overtime.
- Nov. 30, 2023—Head coach Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders named Sports Illustrated Sportsperson of the Year.
- Dec. 6, 2023—Athlete Travis Hunter won the Paul Hornung Award given to the nation's most versatile player.
- Dec. 14, 2023—Athlete Travis Hunter was named a consensus first-team All American only the 26th in Colorado history.



Influential People & Moments



FRED FOLSOM

Fred Gorham Folsom was a 21-year old pre-law graduate from Dartmouth College, where he was an outstanding football and baseball player. Considered the finest end to play at Dartmouth to that point, he had led the Big Green to two straight league championships as a player-coach, a position which was common prior to the 20th century.

CU's 1895 captain, William Caley, formed a group to find CU's second coach and quickly zeroed in on Folsom. One problem, though, was the fact that Folsom was ticketed for the University of Michigan, where he planned on enrolling in law school. CU assured him that he do both, attend law school and coach the Silver & Gold (one of CU's early nicknames, though the football teams of that era actually wore red jerseys and stockings). His love for the game of football won out and he headed west.

It was one of the first turning points in CU history, as landing Folsom immediately led to the program becoming a regional power. And Folsom would put permanent roots in Colorado, sans a short time when he returned to coach his alma mater, as he became a leader in athletic, university, legal, civic and state affairs until his death in 1944. That same year, Colorado Stadium, which had been built to replace Gamble Field in 1924, was named for him.

Accounts referred to him as being a stern disciplinarian when it came to football, one who could install his schemes quickly and constantly tweaked them with innovative plays from his creative football mind. Away from football, one of his trademarks was possessing a keen sense of humor.

Folsom coached CU for 15 seasons (still a school record), and his 77 wins stood as the most in school history for 78 years, until Bill McCartney surpassed the total in his next to last season (1993). He did earn his law degree from Colorado and eventually taught at the school (earning a chair on CU's faculty), and had a distinguished career as a jurist.

BYRON WHITE

Byron Raymond "Whizzer" White first made a name for himself while playing for the University of Colorado's undefeated 1937 football team.

The first All-American at Colorado in football and the second in any sport, he led the nation in rushing that season with a record-breaking total of 1,121 yards (in eight games) and amassed 122 points. Those marks were erased only after colleges went to 10- and 11-game schedules. He was known as a "60-minute performer," excelling on defense as well as offense.

White led that 1937 team to Colorado's first-ever bowl appearance, facing Rice in the '38 Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day in Dallas. Though Rice won, 28-14, "Whizzer" left them talking. He threw an 8-yard touchdown pass to Joe Antonio and then returned an interception 47 yards for a touchdown to put Colorado up 14-0 in the first quarter before the Owls battled back. He rushed 23 times for 54 yards in the game, and had 166 all-purpose yards including returns.

Denver sports writer, Leonard Kahn, gave White's nickname to him. Kahn labeled White with this name because "he seemed to whiz by people."

White was also a .400 hitter on the baseball team, and a standout on CU's basketball squad that made the N.I.T. in 1938. His off the field performances were just as impressive as the ones on it. In 186 hours of undergraduate work, White earned 180 hours of A, and 6 hours of B. He was the student body president, a Rhodes Scholar, and Phi Beta Kappa.

After his time at Colorado, the Wellington native went on to play professional football for the Pittsburgh Pirates (now known as the Steelers). White was Pittsburgh's first pick in the 1938 draft, and would lead the league in rushing with 567 yards that year and was named All-Pro. White left professional football to attend post-graduate school at Oxford College in England. After Oxford, White played one more season of football with Detroit, and again led the league in rushing with 514 yards and was again All-Pro. In the off-season, White attended Yale Law School.

During World War II, White was an officer in naval intelligence, serving most of his duty in the South Pacific. During his time of service, White earned a Bronze Star, and formed a friendship with John F. Kennedy.

Following the war, White returned to Yale Law School where he graduated first in his class

in 1946. After a successful career as a corporation lawyer, White entered the political sphere in 1960, heading a pre-convention Kennedy movement that helped the soon-to-be president win the state of Colorado. White later served as deputy attorney general under Kennedy.

On March 30, 1962, White was appointed an associated justice of the U.S. Supreme Court at age 44. He served for 31 years, and retired in March, 1993.

The honorable Byron R. White was the first athlete inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall-Of-Fame in 1965. He was also inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame, the National Football Foundation's College Football Hall of Fame, the GTE Academic Hall of Fame, the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame, and was the inaugural inductee into CU's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998. He was selected to CU's All-Century Team in 1989, marking the school's first 100 years of football, and his football number, 24, was the first retired by the university.

White left an indelible mark on the field and in the classroom at the University of Colorado. Born June 8, 1917 in Fort Collins, Colo., he died from complications of pneumonia in Denver at the age of 84 on April 15, 2002.

FRED CASOTTI

In 1952, one of the school's all-time great personalities arrived on the CU scene. Fred "The Count" Casotti was hired as sports information director, and he would begin a five-decade love affair with his alma mater. A '49 graduate in journalism, the SID job opened up in the summer and athletic director Harry Carlson took a chance on the sports editor with CU ties from a small newspaper in Iowa.

Casotti served 16 years as SID, another 20 as associate athletic director, and then 14 more as the school's historian until his death in 2001. As creative as they came, he penned poems and limericks in his weekly news releases that helped garner CU national attention; the press couldn't wait to see what prose he included in his latest mailing. Casotti wrote three books on Colorado football, including the classic Football CU* Style, the asterisk defining CU as "Casotti Uncensored."

He was inducted into the CoSIDA Hall of Fame in 1996 and posthumously into the state of Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 2002 and CU's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006.

He passed away the night before a big game against Texas A&M in CU's 2001 Big 12 title run, and a mysterious Aggie fumble and subsequent CU recovery and return for a score saved a 31-21 win. It prompted assistant coach John Wristen to say postgame, "You know that fumble at the end ... (glances upward) ... Thank you, Fred."

THE "BUFFALOES" ARE BORN

Prior to 1934, CU athletic teams usually were referred to as the "Silver and Gold," but other nicknames teams were sometimes called included Silver Helmets, Yellow Jackets, Hornets, Arapahoes, Big Horns, Grizzlies and Frontiersmen. During the summer of 1934, Colorado's 45th season of intercollegiate athletic competition, the Silver & Gold, the student newspaper at the time, decided to sponsor a national contest to select a permanent nickname and mascot. A \$5 prize would go to the author of the winning selection; remember, this was during the Great Depression, and five dollars was a good amount of money to most people. Over 1,000 entries arrived from almost every state in the union. Athletic Director Harry Carlson, graduate manager Walter Franklin and Kenneth Bundy from the newspaper were the judges.

Local articles first reported that Claude Bates of New Madrid, Mo., and James Proffitt of Cincinnati, Ohio, were co-winners for the prize as both submitted "Buffaloes" as their entry. But 10 days later, the newspaper declared Boulder resident Andrew Dickson the winner, after a follow-up revealed his submission of "Buffaloes" had actually arrived several days before those of originally deemed to be the winners. Through the years, synonyms which quickly came into use included "Bisons," "Bufs," "Thundering Herd," "Stampeding Herd," "Golden Avalanche," and "Golden Buffaloes."

The live buffalo mascot also first appeared in 1934, three weeks after the contest that declared Buffaloes the new nickname. For the final game of the season, a group of students paid \$25 to rent a buffalo calf along with a real cowboy as his keeper. The calf was the son of Killer, a famed bison at Trails End Ranch in Fort Collins. It took the cowboy and four students to keep the calf under control on the sidelines during the 7-0 win at the University of Denver on



Influential People & Moments



THANKSGIVING

Live buffaloes would make appearances at CU games on and off over the next 30 years, usually in a pen on the field or sometimes driven around in a cage. In the 1940s, the school kept a baby buffalo in a special pen at the now-defunct University Riding Academy. The first named buffalo was "Mr. Chips," who appeared for the first time at the 1957 CU Days kickoff rally, as supporter Mahlon White donated him to the school, and it was cared for by a men's honorary. Mr. Chips wasn't around for all that long, and several years would pass before one of college football's most entertaining and thrilling traditions would be born.

RALPHIE

A live buffalo mascot, Ralphie, leads the Colorado football team out on the field both at the start of the game and second half. It is truly one of the special sights that exist anywhere in college or professional sports, and is oft recognized as such. Its beginning is traced to 1966, when John Lowery, the father of a CU freshman from Lubbock, Texas, donated to the school a six-month old buffalo calf.

For a while, she was billed as "Rralph," but the origin of the name remains in doubt. Some say it was given by the student body after sounds she allegedly made while running and snorting; others say it was named for Ralph Jay Wallace, the junior class president at the time; and the original handlers will tell a third version. Regardless, an astute fan soon discovered that the buffalo was in fact a female, thus the name alteration to Ralphie.

The initial tradition was for CU's five sophomore class officers to run the buffalo around the stadium in a full loop.

They would run her for two hours to tire her a bit to help keep her under control by the time the game started. At the conclusion of the run, the fans would break into the "Buffalo Stomp," which would literally shake the stadium in deafening fashion as the team took the field. But CU officials soon had the tradition stopped because of the actual physical damage it was causing.

Around that same time, head coach Eddie Crowder was approached with the idea the charging buffalo running out on the field before the game with the team behind right her. Crowder thought it was a great idea, and the debut of this great tradition took place on October 28, 1967, CU's homecoming game against Oklahoma State. Though OSU won the game, 10-7, the tradition was here to stay, though those who had some training in such an endeavor as working with a wild animal eventually replaced the sophomores.

Ralphie achieved nationally celebrity status, and was even kidnapped in 1970 by some Air Force Academy students as well as being named the school's 1971 Homecoming Queen at the height of the anti-establishment era.

Ralphie II replaced the original Ralphie following the 1978 season, and Ralphies III and IV served the school well; Ralphie V was CU's latest live buffalo, debuting in 2008 at the annual spring game and retired after the 2019 season.

TIMEOUT / FROM 1 TO 25,000 (Darley to Spruce)

It took exactly 125 seasons for Colorado to go from scoring its first point on the gridiron to its 25,000th ... over the course of 1,190 games.

The first were hard to come by, and came on defense in the fourth game of the school's history. Sophomore tackle George Darley recovered a Colorado Mines fumble and returned it 65 yards for a touchdown — worth four points at the time — but Mines prevailed, 50-4 on December 13. They were the only points scored in 1890 by the Silver & Gold, as CU finished its inaugural season with an 0-4 record, outscored 217-4. The first points on offense wouldn't come until the season finale in 1891 (CU's second touchdown also came on a fumble return by Harry Layton in the '91 opener against Mines in Boulder). After three straight shutout defeats, CU scored its first points on offense, a touchdown by quarterback Pat Carney, in what was also its first win, a 24-4 verdict at the Colorado Springs Athletic Association on November 26.

The Darley name is peppered throughout campus, Boulder and state history. George graduated from CU in 1893, and his nephew, Ward Darley, would eventually serve as CU's

president from 1952-56. The tallest residential buildings in Boulder bear the family name, the Darley North and South towers at Williams Village, as does a major side street in south Boulder. George's father, George Marshall Darley, and his uncle Alexander were the first non-Catholic ministers to hold a service on then Pacific Slope of Colorado (now referred to as the Western Slope), and built the Presbyterian Church in Lake City (about 25 miles east of Telluride).

Fast-forward 12-plus decades (or 45,214 days) to September 27, 2014, and scoring wasn't a problem that day. The Buffaloes entered its Pac-12 Conference opener at California with 24,964 points, with the 36th point that day scored by junior wide receiver Nelson Spruce, who caught a 6-yard touchdown pass from Sefo Liufau with 3:23 left in the game. It gave CU a 42-35 lead at the time, but the Buffs would succumb in double overtime, 59-56.

NATIONAL PLAY OF THE YEAR

In 1992, Nu Skin International and CoSIDA started sponsorship of "The National Play-of-the-Year," honoring the most outstanding play annually in college football. Notre Dame won the inaugural honor in 1992, but the University of Colorado won for both the 1993 and 1994 seasons. Here's a closer look at CU's winning plays:

1993 (October 16; Colorado 27, Oklahoma 10)— Lamont Warren throws a 34-yard touchdown pass to Charles Johnson on the halfback option play. What made it special? Warren slipped on the slick artificial surface as he threw the ball, and some 40 yards later in the end zone, Johnson made the catch on the ground after he was interfered with. The play defied imagination, and is truly appreciated when looked at in slow motion.

1994 (September 24; Colorado 27, Michigan 26)—College football's play of the decade, this effort also won an "Espy" from ESPN for the play of the year in all of sports for 1994. As time expired, Kordell Stewart throws a 64-yard touchdown pass to Michael Westbrook, who made the catch after a Blake Anderson deflection. CU had trailed, 26-14, with under four minutes remaining, and trailed by five with 15 seconds left on its own 15-yard line after stopping Michigan on defense.