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QUICK FACTS

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Location ................................................................. Boulder, Colo.
Population .......................................................... 102,500
Founded ................................................................. 1876
Enrollment ............................................................. 32,220
Elevation ................................................................. 5,345
Colors ................................................................. Silver, Black, Gold
Nickname ............................................................. Buffaloes (Buﬀs)
Mascot ................................................................. Ralphie, the Buffalo
Arena ................................................................. Coors Events Center (11,064)
NCAA Affiliation/Conference ................................... Pac-12
Conference ........................................................... Pac-12
President ............................................................. Bruce Benson (Colorado ’64)
Chancellor ........................................................... Phil DiStefano (Ohio State ’68)
Provost ................................................................. Russell L. Moore (California-Davis ’76)
President ............................................................. Joe Jupille (UCSB, ’92)
Director of Athletics ............................................. Rick George (Illinois 1982)
Colorado Website .................................................. www.CUBuffs.com
Conference Website ............................................. www.Pac-12.com
Athletic Department ............................................. 303-492-7931
Ticket Office ......................................................... 303-492-8337

HISTORY

First Year of Basketball .............................................. 1901-02 (117 Years)
All-Time Record ..................................................... 1,277-1,182 (.519); 2,459 games
NCAA Berths ......................................................... 14 (Won 10, Lost 16; two third place finishes in ’42, ’55)
Last NCAA Appearance ........................................... 2015-16 (first round)
NIT Appearances ................................................... 10 (Won 11, Lost 9; won 1940 NIT, 1938 runner up)
Last NIT Appearance ............................................. 2016-17 (First Round)
Last Conference Title ........................................... 2011-12 (Pac-12)
Conference Titles (Year) ........................................ Pac-12 (2012); Big 12 (none); Big 8 (1962, 1963, 1969); Big 7 (1954, 1955)
Mountain State Conference titles (1938, ’39, ’40, ’42) ................. 4
League Championships Prior to 1938 .......................... 10
Overall Conference Titles ....................................... 20

SPORTS INFORMATION

Associate Director/MMB Contact ................................ Troy Andre
Office ................................................................. 303-492-4672
Cell ................................................................. 303-908-3654
E-mail ................................................................. troy.andre@colorado.edu
Associate AD/Sports Information Director ....................... David Plati
E-mail ................................................................. david.plati@colorado.edu
Fax ................................................................. 303-492-3811
SID Mailing Address ............................................... University of Colorado, 357 UCB
Sports Information (2150 Stadium Drive, 5th Floor)
Boulder, CO 80309-0357

BASKETBALL INFORMATION

Head Coach ............................................................ Tad Boyle (Kansas ’85)
At Colorado (Years) .................................................. 149-95 (.611) (7)
Career (Years) ....................................................... 205-161 (11)
Best Time to Contact ............................................. through SID office
Associate Head Coach ............................................ Mike Rohn (McPherson College ’90; Fort Hays State ’93)
Assistant Coach ..................................................... Bill Grier (Oregon ’90)
Assistant Coach ..................................................... Kim English (Missouri ’12)
Director of Player Development ......................... Sean Kearney (Scranton ’81)
Director of BB/Video Operations ...................... Bill Cartun (Bates College 2005; Connecticut 2007)
Administrative Assistant ........................................ Marge Marcy
Athletic Trainer ................................................... Rawley Klingsmith (Northern Colorado 2000, Oregan 2002)
Director of Basketball Strength & Conditioning .................. Steve Englehart
(Se Louisiana ’05, Hawai’i ’09)
Basketball E-mail .................................................. buﬀsmbb@colorado.edu

TEAM INFORMATION

2016-17 Overall Record ....................................... 19-15 Home: 13-4 Away: 4-9 Neutral: 2-2
Conference Record/Finish ........................................ 8-10/7th
Conference Tournament Finish ................................ Pac-12 Quarterfinal (7th seed)
Starters Returning/Lost .......................................... 2/4
Letterwinners Returning/Lost/Newcomers ..................... 6/7/9*

*Redshirts who have not played counted among newcomers
Colorado Sports Information Office: The University of Colorado Sports Information Office welcomes and encourages your interest in Colorado Basketball. We will make every effort to service your needs in covering the Buffs. The Sports Information Office maintains information on all current student-athletes and athletic department staff, as well as historical data on former athletes and Colorado’s athletic department in general.

Media Credentials: Credentials for CU home men’s basketball games can be obtained by e-mailing, faxing, writing or calling the CU Sports Information Office the week prior to the scheduled game. Credentials will be left at the southwest entrance on the third floor of the Coors Events Center.

Road Game Credentials: Media credentials for CU road games can either be requested through CU’s or the opponent’s men’s basketball sports information contact. Please be specific when requesting the type of credential needed.

Photographers: Photo passes are available for working photographers for officially recognized media outlets, and/or individuals on special assignment. Requests should be addressed in the same manner as media credentials.

Visiting Radio Personnel: Visiting radio personnel desiring to broadcast athletic events from CU should contact the Sports Information Office at the earliest possible date to request permission to broadcast. Phone and ISDN lines are available for the opponent radio station next to the opponent bench for all home games.

Media Workroom: A media workroom, located on the ground level of the Coors Events Center tunnel at the BuffVision studios.

Media Services: Game notes containing updated team and individual statistics, information on upcoming games, Pac-12 Conference standings prior to each non-tournament game throughout the season. Game notes, media guides and roster information, as well as opponent materials can be picked up before every game in the media workroom in the Coors Events Center. Copies of the box score and play-by-play information, as well as post-game quotes, can be e-mailed or faxed to your outlet at the conclusion of each game, home or away.

Photography: High-quality photography is available through the Sports Information Office. To request photographs of current CU players and staff, please contact the CU Sports Information Office. Please specify four-color or grayscale, as well as desired resolution and format.

Press Row Services: Working media will be provided with full play-by-play and box score statistics at halftime and following the game, along with coach and player quotes following the game.

Post-game Interview Policies: After a short cooling off period, CU head coach Tad Boyle and selected players will be available in the Coors Events Center tunnel at the BuffVision studios. The visiting head coach and selected players will address the media outside their lockerroom. All requests for player or coach interviews from either home or visiting teams should be directed to a CU Sports Information staff member. The Colorado and opponent lockerrooms are closed to the media.

Interview Policies:
1. Media representatives desiring access to players, coaches and facilities must obtain the consent of the Colorado Sports Information Office.
2. Tad Boyle will be available on the Pac-12 Teleconference at select times during the season. Dates and times are to be announced.
3. All practices are open to the local media. Visiting media must receive authorization to attend practice through the Sports Information, which will in turn seek approval from head coach Tad Boyle. Live television shots must be approved by the Sports Information Office and Tad Boyle in advance.

4. Talking is not permitted on the floor and court area of the Coors Events Center while practice is in session unless it is to request a player or coach for an interview.
5. All interviews on game days, prior to tip-off, are at the discretion of Tad Boyle.
6. The lockerroom is closed to the media at all times.
7. The training room, equipment room and weight room are off-limits to all times to the media. The only exception to this rule is if a special feature involving one of the areas is requested, and approval must be sought in advance from the Sports Information Office.
8. Sunday is the standard day off for players and coaches during the Pac-12 season and varies during the non-conference season. Any requests for athletes and coaches on Sundays and other off days will be handled on an individual basis through the Sports Information Office.
9. Road practices are closed, however head coach Tad Boyle is available for interviews with opponent media based on his personal discretion.
10. It is the request of the University of Colorado men’s basketball program that the coaches and student-athletes are not to be called at home, unless permission has been granted by the player himself or through the sports information office. Though most phone numbers are available through campus information, players are allowed and encouraged to decline interviews when they have been reached at home when that interview has not been approved.
Bruce D. Benson is in his 10th year as president of the University of Colorado, as he was named to the position in March 2008. Since taking the helm of his alma mater, he has enhanced CU's standing as one of the nation’s leading teaching and research universities, advancing the economy, health and culture of Colorado and beyond.

The 21st president in the history of the university, he has now served the fifth-longest of the group, and is the longest-serving CU president since Robert L. Stearns held the post for the better part of 15 years (1939-53) well over 60 years ago.

During Benson’s tenure, CU’s research funding has reached record levels, including its best showing of $994 million in 2016-17, supporting the university’s research strengths in biotechnology, health care, energy and aerospace engineering. He has led efforts to promote cross-campus collaboration that have resulted in cooperative academic programs and research initiatives, most notably CU’s Biofrontiers Institute, led by Nobel laureate Tom Cech.

CU has broken records for fundraising in eight consecutive years (including a record $386.3 million in 2016-17) under his leadership. Benson and his wife, Marcy, chaired CU’s $1.5 billion Creating Futures fundraising campaign, which surpassed its goal in November 2013. The campaign, the largest in university history, supported scholarships, academic enhancements (endowed faculty positions, programs), research projects and capital improvements across CU’s campuses.

Benson, 79, has guided efforts to institute operational efficiencies, cut bureaucracy and improve business practices at the university. CU has secured legislation over the past nine sessions of the Colorado General Assembly that has allowed it to save millions annually in areas such as procurement, insurance and construction. He has also established a number of public-private partnerships to make the university more entrepreneurial and meet the needs of businesses in Colorado and across the country.

He oversees a system with four campuses (Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver, and the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora) with a total enrollment of 63,202. During his tenure, CU’s four campuses have seen record enrollment. The university’s annual budget is $4.1 billion. The CU system is the third-largest employer in the state, with some 35,000 employees.

Before becoming CU’s president, Benson had already made his mark in business, politics, philanthropy, education and civic endeavors. He founded Bruce Mineral Group in 1965, a year after earning his bachelor’s degree in Geology from CU.

He has consistently been active in a variety of educational, civic and political endeavors, and was the Republican nominee for Colorado governor in 1994. Benson has received many honors recognizing his leadership, but two are particularly notable: CU in 2004 granted him an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, and in February 2009 he was inducted into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame. In August 2016, he was the recipient of the inaugural Courage in Education Award from the Steamboat Institute, as the honor is for encouraging intellectual diversity and the free and robust exchange of ideas.

He was born July 4, 1938 in Chicago, and has three children and 10 grandchildren.

Dr. Philip P. DiStefano is in his ninth year as the Chancellor at the University of Colorado Boulder. Prior to his appointment on May 5, 2009, Dr. DiStefano was the top academic officer at CU-Boulder for eight years as the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. He had also served as interim chancellor twice during pivotal times in the university’s history.

Dr. DiStefano, 70, co-chaired the steering committee for CU-Boulder’s visionary strategic plan, Flagship 2030, conceived with campus, community and statewide input, to guide the university for decades to come. Today, Dr. DiStefano is shepherding its implementation as Flagship 2030 has moved from vision to reality.

Dr. DiStefano has served CU-Boulder for 43 years, first coming to the University of Colorado in 1974 as an Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at the School of Education. His academic career flourished as he assumed a series of academic and administrative positions, including Professor, Associate Dean, Dean and Vice Chancellor. He was appointed Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in 2001.

He has established new initiatives to support students in their success, including an increased graduation rate. He also has set forth plans to create alternative sources of revenue and further advance CU’s reputation as a top comprehensive national research university.

Dr. DiStefano is considered a national authority on integrating intercollegiate athletics into the university academic mission. For the sixth consecutive year under Chancellor DiStefano, CU’s NCAA Academic Progress Rate, which tracks student-athlete progress toward graduation, is the best in school history.

Dr. DiStefano began a three-year term in August 2016 on the Board of Governors of the NCAA representing the Pac-12, within that role he was a member of the NCAA’s revenue distribution working group. He also served five years as the University of Colorado’s faculty representative to the Big 12 Conference, as he assumed the role on June 1, 2000, and held it until appointing Dr. David Clough to the position in the spring of 2005. He has been closely involved with the athletic program for most of his time at CU, and in June 2016, was recently accompanied by athletic director Rick George to Italy to promote the university and the success of its international students.

As Chancellor he works closely with students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, governing officials, and business and community leaders in extending CU’s legacy as a preeminent national comprehensive research university.

A first-generation college graduate, Dr. DiStefano earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Ohio State University in 1968 and a Master of Arts degree in English Education from West Virginia University in 1971. He holds a Doctorate in Humanities Education from Ohio State University, where he served as a teaching and research associate.

Dr. DiStefano began his educational career as a high school English teacher in Ohio. He has authored and co-authored numerous books and articles on literacy education.

He was born September 21, 1946 in Steubenville, Ohio, and graduated from Steubenville Catholic Central High School. He has been married to the former Yvonne Pasquella for 48 years, and the couple has three grown daughters, Gia, Nicole and Jennifer, and two granddaughters.

In 2015, he served as the official starter for the 37th annual Bolder Boulder, the city’s 10-kilometer race that is the fourth largest in the nation. He has been very active throughout his career in the Boulder Community, having previously served on numerous boards, including the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club.
Dr. Joseph (Joe) Jupille, an associate professor of political science, is in his first year as the University of Colorado’s Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) to the Pac-12 Conference, as he assumed the position on July 1, 2017.


Now in his 13th year at CU, he joined the faculty in 2005 and became an Associate Professor in 2007. He founded and served as Director of the Colorado European Union Center of Excellence (CEUCE) from 2008-15.

Professor Jupille’s research specializes in rules and institutions, which comes in handy in the world of intercollegiate athletics. With James Caporaso (University of Washington) he is completing *Theories of Institutions*, which distills understandings of rules across a range of disciplinary orientations. He has previously published *Institutional Choice and Global Commerce* (2013, with Walter Mattli and Duncan Snidal) and *Procedural Politics* (2004), the latter of which centers on his core substantive and teaching expertise in the European Union (EU). He has been published widely in peer reviewed journals and edited volumes, including in the *Annual Review of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *European Political Science Review*, *International Organization* and *West European Politics*.

Jupille has been involved with student-athletes almost since arriving at CU over a decade ago, serving on and then chairing the Boulder Faculty Assembly’s Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (IAC), which works with the Department of Athletics in managing and thriving at the nexus of athletics and academics. He has served or continues to serve on a number of student-athlete-centered bodies such as the AD’s Academic Risk Assessment (ARA) committee, the Title IX Task Force chaired by Senior Woman Administrator (SWA) Ceal Barry in addition to many others.

Jupille wants it all for CU student-athletes: a gold standard education, unparalleled opportunity for personal growth and professional preparation, a chance to enjoy year-round fresh air and sunshine and develop ways of being well, and of course, a world class athletic experience. It is the FAR’s job to bring a faculty sensibility to the pursuit of these goals.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from UC Santa Barbara in 1992, a Master of Arts in International Public Policy from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey in 1995, and his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Washington in 2000.

Prior to joining the CU faculty in 2005, he was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Florida International University for almost six years (2000-05).

He was born in Chicago and 1970. He is married to the former Lisa Avanzino and the couple have four children (Michael, Alex, Jackson and Julia). An avid cyclist, he commutes daily to CU by bike from the town of Superior (several miles to the southeast of Boulder). He grew up as a fan of the Pacific 10 Conference and in particular the California Bears but his allegiance is now sworn to the Buffaloes.
Rick George was introduced as just the sixth full-time athletic director in University of Colorado history on July 17, 2013, returning to Boulder where he helped play a role in the school’s first and only national championship in football some 23 years earlier.

George, 57, came to Colorado from the Texas Rangers baseball club of the American League, where he was named chief operating officer on October 5, 2010 with a promotion to president of business operations in February 2013. He agreed to a 5-year contract at CU, and he officially started on the job on August 12, 2013. In June 2016, the Board of Regents approved a contract extension that carries him through 2020-21 academic and athletic year.

His list of achievements in his first 1,000 days in the position were many, but none more significant than shepherding through a $154 million Athletic Complex Expansion from creation through fruition, gaining approval from the Board of Regents and then raising nearly one-half of the estimated cost to initiate construction, which began May 12, 2014. The project is the core of the Sustainable Excellence Initiative (SEI), the jewel of which was a long-awaited indoor practice facility. Once green-lighted, he spearheaded the most successful fundraising campaign in athletic department history, raising to date $95 million for the project.

George implemented the department’s first-ever comprehensive strategic plan, which has mapped CU’s immediate and long range purpose and goals. He also redesigned the management teams, made tough budget decisions that reduced deficits he inherited (and has since produced two budget surpluses), and canvassed the state, region and nation in both friend- and fundraising.

In his fourth year in the position (2016-17), 13 of CU’s 16 athletic teams were at one time or another ranked among the nation’s Top 25 (including all five in the fall; skiing is a coed program with combined rankings). Included in that group was the football team, as the Buffaloes returned to the national rankings for the first time in 11 seasons, in part due to George’s support of Mike MacIntyre as the program’s head coach and allowing him to follow through with his plan to bring the Buffaloes back to national prominence. All but one team competed in the postseason, most in NCAA Championships, with football making it to a bowl game for the first time in nine years and both basketball teams going to their respective NIT events.

Near the end of his first year, he was recognized by CU’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee as its choice for Staff Member of the Year; no token award, the group acknowledged his attendance at most home athletic events, regular meetings with team captains of all programs to interact with them and receive their feedback, and willingness to meet with any student-athlete and that his door is always open to them.

George brought the most diverse background to the position than any before him at Colorado: all five others had extensive and primarily exclusive college athletic histories, the only exceptions being when Marolt left CU after 10 years as ski coach to lead the U.S. Olympic ski team before returning, and Tharp, who was a university attorney with strong CU-Boulder campus ties. While George began and worked in the college athletic world for the first half of his professional career, he stepped outside that box for the second half.

George is just the sixth full-time athletic director in Colorado history, following in the footsteps of Harry Carlson (1927-65), Eddie Crowder (1965-84), Bill Marolt (1984-96), Dick Tharp (1996-2004) and Mike Bohn (2005-13). Two others have bridged directors in interim capacities, Jack Lengyel (six months between Tharp and Bohn) and Ceal Barry (two months between Bohn and George).

George was with the Rangers for less than three years, but saw the team win two American League championships and compile a 243-176 record (.580 winning percentage) during his time there, second-best in the major leagues during that time frame. As the COO, he worked closely with team president and CEO, baseball Hall-of-Famer Nolan Ryan, and was responsible for all facets of the Rangers’ business operations, including oversight of all sales and marketing efforts, broadcast and communications, ticket and suite sales, naming rights, etc., in addition to overseeing the finance, human resource and operations departments.

Among his many accomplishments with the Rangers was a comprehensive branding study that successfully rebranded the ball club, and an implementation of a new ticketing strategy that over the course of three seasons increased ticket revenues by over $30 million. The club’s attendance saw an increase of 40 percent from the 2010 season to nearly 3.5 million in 2012, second in the American League (behind the New York Yankees) and third in the majors. The 2013 numbers were on pace to exceed the 3 million mark again when he left the franchise for CU.

Prior to joining the Rangers, George served as executive vice president and chief of operations for the PGA TOUR for two-and-a-half years (beginning in June 2008). While with the TOUR, he worked with the corporate marketing department in renewing sponsorships and creating new events. He also oversaw the Tournament Business Affairs division that worked with Tournaments to increase tournament revenue.

He also worked for the PGA TOUR as president of the Champions Tour from 2003-08, and as the executive vice president for championship management his last three years there. His major accomplishments included increased revenues and sponsorships and the development of strategic plans, the latter including a vision and mission statement as well as core values. The Champions Tour had grown to a minimum 29 events with over $55 million in prize money when he left for the PGA TOUR.

From 1998-2003, George served as President and CEO of the Fore!Kids Foundation, a 501c3 organization that raised money for children’s charities via golf-related events, where he led rebranding and organizational efforts that resulted in increases in charitable giving to the Foundation.

At the collegiate level, George worked in three major conferences (Big Ten, Big 8, Southeastern) in football operations, beginning with his alma mater, the University of Illinois, as football recruiting coordinator (1983-87).
He graduated from Illinois in 1982 with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts & Sciences Individual Study that had an emphasis on Sports Communication and Journalism. He was a four-year letterman at cornerback for the Illini, playing in 44 straight games and starting in 27 games in all, as he played two years each under coaches Gary Moeller and Mike White. He was a two-time recipient of the school’s Bruce Capel Award, given for dedication and courage to honor Capel who lost his life serving his country in Vietnam; George received the honor for his junior and senior seasons.

Upon his graduation, White named him the assistant director for player personnel for the Illini, and a year later (1983), he assumed the all sports recruiting coordinator. In March 1984, George took over the recruiting chores solely for football, with his first class ranked No. 1 in the nation by the recruiting services with all in the top 20; he coordinated five classes in all at Illinois when the call came to take him out west to Colorado.

On March 2, 1987, Bill McCartney hired him as Colorado’s football recruiting coordinator. Two-and-a-half years later (Dec. 21, 1989), George was promoted to assistant athletic director for football operations, not coincidentally after the Buffaloes finished the regular season with an 11-0 record and the school’s first-ever No. 1 national ranking in the polls. CU lost to Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl and would finish No. 4, but came back to go 11-1-1 in 1990, this time defeating the Irish in the Orange Bowl to earn consensus national champion honors.

Shortly thereafter, he left the Buffaloes for Vanderbilt University, where he was reunited with former CU offensive coordinator Gerry DiNardo, who was named the Commodores’ head coach a year earlier. In eight years at Vanderbilt (1991-98), he also served as associate athletic director for external operations in conjunction with overseeing the football program. This was where George first expanded his professional role outside of solely football, as he had oversight over all external departments, particularly in the area of managing budgets and developing marketing and promotional strategies for all sports.

George was born April 3, 1960 in Woodstock, Ill., and graduated from Collinsville (Ill.) High School, where he lettered in football, basketball and baseball. He is married to the former Nancy Green, and the couple has two grown daughters, Jenni Reed (husband Tom) and Christi, and two granddaughters (Harper and Maddie).

On July 19, 2017, George was named chair of the LEAD1 Association, which represents the athletic directors, programs and student-athletes of the 129 member schools of the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS). He immediately began serving a two-year term for the organization, as its mission includes influencing how the rules of college sports are enacted and implemented, advocating for the future of college athletics and providing various services to the members. He also serves on the Division I Council of the NCAA, and is part of the NCAA’s D1 Council Transfer Working Group.
Founded in 1876 at the foot of the Flatirons, over 141 years has transformed the University of Colorado from a lone building on a bleak, windswept hill to one of the nation’s leading public research institutions. Established in 1861, the University was formally founded in 1876, the year Colorado became a state.

The Boulder campus encompasses over 1,100 acres on the main campus in the heart of town, east campus (which includes a research park), south campus, Williams Village and the Mountain Research Station north of nearby Nederland (which supports ecology, chemistry and geology).

While over 32,000 students are educated on the Boulder campus, another 30,000-plus study at the University of Colorado at Denver, the University of Colorado Anschutz Campus (Aurora) and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Nine elected Regents and President Bruce Benson lead the four-campus system, while each campus has a Chancellor who serves as the chief academic and administrative officer. Dr. Phil DiStefano is in his ninth year as the chancellor of the Boulder campus.

Students can enter any of 10 schools and colleges offering more than 3,900 courses in 150 fields, representing a full range of disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, physical and biological sciences, the fine and performing arts, and the professions. CU-Boulder is regularly ranked among the best of the United States’ public universities by the Fiske Guide to Colleges, and a 2010 USA Today/Princeton Review survey rated the University of Colorado as the fifth-best value among American public colleges. CU was recently ranked as the No. 33 university in the world by the Times Higher Education.

CU-Boulder has played a major role in NASA space programs, designing and building many scientific instruments flown in outer space, and graduated 17 men and women who became astronauts, including the late Jack Swigert, one of the three astronauts in the crippled Apollo 13 mission who made it back to Earth safely from the moon. When the Hubble Space Telescope was launched in 1990, it was carrying seven major instruments, including a high-resolution spectrograph to study the evolution of stars and designed and built by an international science team led by astronomer Jack Brandt of CU-Boulder. Since Hubble has been deployed, CU-Boulder faculty and students have been among the top users of Hubble of any institution in the world. CU-Boulder is the only university in the country where undergraduate students have operated a NASA satellite.

The University has produced 19 Rhodes Scholars, five of which were former football student-athletes at CU, with Jim Hansen the most recent recipient in 1992. Faculty member Thomas Cech, a distinguished professor of chemistry and biochemistry, won the 1989 Nobel Prize in chemistry. Other notable alumni other than athletes include former United States Supreme Court Justice Byron “Whizzer” White, former big band leader Glenn Miller and actors Robert Redford and Chris Meloni, the latter starring for years on Law & Order: Special Victims Unit, the creators of South Park, Trey Parker and Matt Stone, and Philip Bailey, co-founder of the popular music group Earth, Wind & Fire.

If the aphorism, “Somewhere between the Rockies and reality,” seems too good to believe, then come for a visit. Start with a walk on the historic Pearl Street Mall, a downtown pedestrian mall that is the ceremonial heart of the city. Visitors may be so taken in by the scenery they may not realize the University that put it all together. From Pearl, Broadway leads directly onto campus where the University of Colorado Museum and the CU Heritage Center, in the original Old Main building, both introduce the University’s past and present. The hub of campus activity can be found at both the University Memorial Center (UMC) and the Center for Community (C4C). The ATLAS building is one of the most state-of-the-art structures on any college campus.

Take in the fresh mountain air on any part of 100 miles of trails and 30,000 acres of open space. Climb the Flatirons or in Eldorado Canyon State Park. Swim or board sail at the Boulder Reservoir while elite runners sprint around it. Take in a pro sporting event down the road in Denver, just one of 13 cities with teams in all four pro leagues.

“The University of Colorado, and Boulder, is a town which stops where the Rocky Mountains begin. Normally in America such a superb site would be occupied by a golf course, but somebody goofed and instead they built what may be the most beautifully situated campus in the world... if anyone asks you to Boulder, I have one word of advice: ‘Go.’”

Conference History

The roots of the Pac-12 Conference date back 102 years to December 2, 1915, when the Pacific Coast Conference (PCC) was founded at a meeting at the Oregon Hotel in Portland. The original membership consisted of four schools — the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Washington, the University of Oregon, and Oregon State College (now Oregon State University). All still are charter members of the Conference.

Pacific Coast Conference play began in 1916 and, one year later, Washington State College (now Washington State University) was accepted into the league, with Stanford University following in 1918.

In 1922, the PCC expanded to eight teams with the admission of the University of Southern California (USC) and the University of Idaho. In 1924, the University of Montana joined the league roster, and in 1928, the PCC grew to 10 members with the addition of UCLA.

The Pacific Coast Conference competed as a 10-member league until 1950, with the exception of 1943-45 when World War II curtailed intercollegiate athletic competition to a minimum. During that time, the league’s first commissioner was named. Edwin Atherton was commissioner in 1940 and was succeeded by Victor Schmidt in 1944. In 1950, Montana resigned from the Conference and joined the Mountain States Conference, essentially replacing Colorado, which left for the Big 7 two years earlier. The PCC continued as a nine-team conference through 1958.

In 1959, the PCC was dissolved and the Athletic Association of Western Universities was formed and Thomas J. Hamilton was appointed commissioner of the new league. The original AAWU membership included California, Stanford, Southern California, UCLA and Washington. Washington State joined the membership in 1962, while Oregon and Oregon State joined in 1964. Under Hamilton’s watch, the name Pacific-8 Conference was adopted in 1968. In 1971, Wiles Hallock took over as commissioner of the Pac-8.

On July 1, 1978, the University of Arizona and Arizona State University were admitted to the league and the Pac-10 Conference became a reality. In 1986-87, the league took on a new look, expanding to include 10 women’s sports. Tom Hansen was named the commissioner of the Pac-10 in 1983, a role he would hold for 26 years until 2009. Hansen was succeeded by current commissioner Larry Scott, who took on the new role in July 2009.

During the 2010-11 academic year, Scott helped deliver monumental changes that transformed the conference into a modern 12-team league by adding the University of Colorado and the University of Utah. The addition of CU and Utah led to an agreement to equal revenue sharing for the first time in conference history, created two divisions (North and South) for football only, established a football championship game for the first time ever, secured a landmark media rights deal that dramatically increased national exposure and revenue for each school and established the Pac-12 Network and Pac-12 Digital Network that guaranteed enhanced exposure across all sports.

Colorado accepted its invitation to join the Pac-12 on June 11, 2010, as the Buffaloes were the first team to fall in a change of the national landscape which, in just one week, saw Nebraska also leave the Big 12 and join the Big 10, Boise State depart the WAC for the Mountain West, TCU jump from the MWC for the Big East (before eventually landing in the Big 12). Less than a week later on June 17, Utah agreed to join CU to make it an even dozen in the Pac-12. Big-time rivals for the first half of the last century, the Buffaloes and Utes officially became the 11th and 12th members of the Conference on July 1, 2011, the first additions to the league since 1978. During the 33 years between expansions, Pac-10 teams claimed 258 NCAA titles (130 women’s, 128 men’s).

At present, the Pac-12 sponsors 11 men’s sports and 13 women’s sports, having added women’s lacrosse for the first time for the spring of 2018. Additionally, the conference schools are members of the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) in four other men’s sports and two women’s sports. CU participates in the MPSF in indoor track and has competed since 1950 in the Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Ski Association (RMISA) in skiing, which is a coed sport.

The Pac-12 Conference offices are located in the heart of San Francisco’s downtown district and are headquartered in the same building as the Pac-12 Network.

Conference of Champions

Built on a firm foundation of academic excellence and superior athletic performance, the Conference ushered in a new era on July 1, 2011, officially becoming the Pac-12 Conference with the additions of the University of Colorado and the University of Utah.

Just 27 days after the Conference officially changed its name, Commissioner Larry Scott announced the creation of the Pac-12 Networks, solidifying a landmark television deal and putting the Conference on the forefront of collegiate athletics. The Networks, including one national network, six regional networks, and a robust digital network marked the first-ever integrated media company owned by a college conference. In addition, the “TV Everywhere” rights allow fans to access Pac-12 Networks outside the home on any digital device, including smartphones and tablet computers.

That same year, the Pac-12 also launched its Globalization Initiative to proactively promote the Conference and member institutions through student-athlete exchanges and sport, as in the first five years, Pac-12 student-athletes have enjoyed unique cultural and athletic experiences in several foreign nations. In the past year, the Pac-12 became the first conference to have all of its schools become members of the Green Sports Alliance.

On the field, courts and in the pools of play, the Pac-12 rises above the rest, upholding its tradition as the “Conference of Champions,” claiming an incredible 163 NCAA team titles since 1999-2000. For the 12th consecutive year, the Pac-12 had the most NCAA titles of any conference in the country, having won at least six every year since 2000-01, including 23 over the last two years. No other conference has ever won 10 or more in a single athletic year, looking up at the record 14 the Pac-12 won in
1996-97 and now 13 in 2016-17. Even more impressive has been the breadth of the Pac-12’s success, with championships coming in 28 different men’s and women’s sports. The Pac-12 has led or tied the nation in NCAA Championships in 51 of the last 57 years (and was second four times and third twice).

Spanning over a century of outstanding athletics achievements, the Pac-12 was the first conference to reach 200, 300, 400 and now 500 championships; despite having two fewer members than three of the other four so-called “Power 5” conferences, the Pac-12 outdistances the next conference by nearly 200 crowns. In all, Pac-12 conference teams have won 501 NCAA Championships (297 men’s, 174 women’s, 30 coed).

Individually, the Conference has produced an impressive number of NCAA individual champions, as through the 2016-17 school year, 2,292 individual crowns have been won by Pac-12 student-athletes over the years (1,358 in men’s championships, 749 in women’s and 185 in coed, e.g. skiing).

On the women’s side, the story is much the same. Since the NCAA began conducting women’s championships 36 years ago, Pac-12 members have claimed at least four national titles in a single season on 27 occasions, including 17 consecutive years from 2001-2017.

2016-17 QUICK REVIEW

In the 2016-17 academic year, the Pac-12’s 13 NCAA titles came in the form of a record 10 women’s crowns, along with two men’s and one coed title.

Living up to its well-deserved billing of “Conference of Champions®,” seven different league schools claimed NCAA titles including three of the seven nationally that won multiples crowns (Stanford was one of two that won four).

In 24 national championship events, Pac-12 schools earned 38 (out of a possible 96) top four finishes, with Oregon completing the first-ever “Triple Crown,” winning women’s national titles in cross country and both indoor and outdoor track and field. Stanford’s four titles came in men’s soccer, women’s swimming, women’s water polo and women’s volleyball. USC claimed the women’s soccer and beach volleyball championships. Arizona State (women’s golf), California (men’s water polo), Utah (skiing, holding off CU) and Washington (women’s rowing) rounded out the league’s victories.

While Colorado did not win an NCAA title in 2016-17 and the school’s count remains at 27, the Buffaloes finished second in skiing, third in women’s cross country (sixth in men’s) and seventh in women’s indoor track. CU has won 20 skiing titles (11 men’s, one AIAW women’s and eight coed) and seven cross country (five men’s, two women’s); the Buffs also were the consensus national champions in football in 1990, but since it is not an NCAA-sanctioned championship, it doesn’t count toward the Pac-12’s total of 501.