

## COLORADO BASKETBALL HISTORY

A program first known as the Silver and Gold, won its first game back on Jan. 10, 1902 defeating State Prep School, 34-10. That game marked the beginning of what was to become an outstanding tradition of basketball at the University of Colorado.

The Silver and Gold became known as the Buffaloes in 1934, after CU students rented a buffalo calf for the final football game that year. Colorado has been a member of six conferences, joining the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1909, and then the Mountain States in 1937. The Buffs became a member of the Big Seven Conference in 1947, which became the Big Eight in 1958. The Big Eight and Southwest Conferences merged to create the Big 12 Conference in 1996, which Colorado was a member of until joining the Pac-12 Conference in 2011.

A total of 18 coaches have guided the Buffs to victory, but none more so than past leaders of Forrest B. "Frosty" Cox, H.B. Lee, Russell "Sox" Walseth, Ricardo Patton, and Tad Boyle.

### 1940 NIT Champions, Two Final Fours

Cox spent 13 years roaming the Balch Fieldhouse from 1936-50, collecting a 147-89 record. While at the helm, Cox's teams won four Mountain States titles, was the 1938 NIT runner-up, won the 1940 NIT, advanced to the 1940 NCAA Tournament and 1942 NCAA Final Four. He concluded his CU career with the best won-lost percentage (.623) of any CU coach of more than one season.

Some of CU basketball's finest moments were orchestrated by Lee from 1950-56. In six seasons, he guided the Buffaloes to a pair of Big Seven titles and back-to-back NCAA Tournaments, including the 1955 Final Four. It was the second Final Four trip for Colorado, who fell to eventual champion San Francisco in the semifinals. The Buffaloes rebounded to defeat Iowa in the third place game, cementing the program's best-ever national finish. That 1954-55 season saw Lee's squad win a then-school-best 19 games.

From 1957-76, basketball was under the direction of Walseth. His 261 wins are the most by any coach in school basketball history. Walseth led the Buffs to back-to-back Big Eight titles in 1961-62 and 1962-63, and both teams reached the NCAA second round before being eliminated by Cincinnati.

Walseth also engineered six Big Eight seasons where his teams finished third or better in the conference, including three titles (one shared). During the 1968-

69 season, Walseth's team won a then-school best 21 games and during his tenure won 14 or more games in a season 11 times. His teams also had 13 winning seasons. Today, CU now plays on the "Sox Walseth Floor" in the CU Events Center, a tribute to Walseth's success as a Buff.

Coaches are not solely responsible for the success of each season, and the Buffs have had a wealth of outstanding talent on the hardwood in its proud past. Outstanding Buff performers range from Jack Harvey, CU's first All-American, to Chauncey Billups, the third pick in the 1997 NBA Draft. During that span players such as Hall of Famer Burdette Haldorson, Cliff Meely, Scott Wedman and Jay Humphries donned the Buffaloes' uniform.

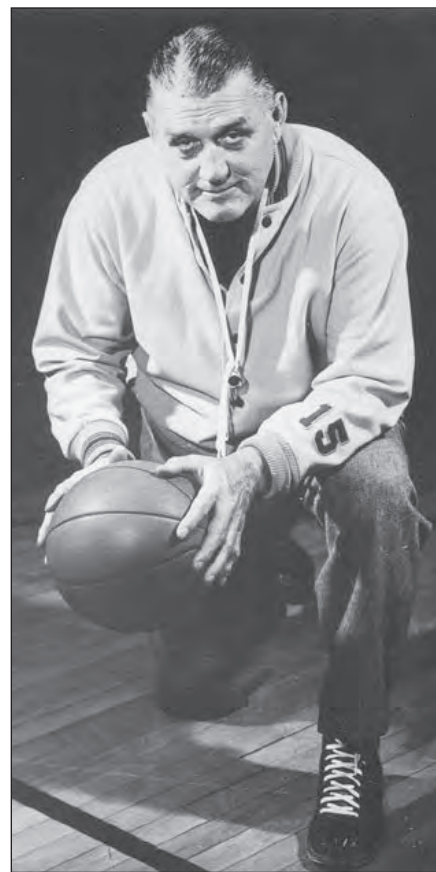
The "Big Burd," as Haldorson was called, won the league scoring race in Colorado's 1953-54 and 1954-55 Big Seven championship seasons, netting 21.3 and 23.9 points per game, respectively. After CU finished third in the 1955 NCAA Tournament, Haldorson was selected to the AAU All-America team. His 13.8 rebounds per game that year is still a CU single season record. He would go on to win Olympic Gold with the 1956 and 1960 USA basketball teams.

Meely became another legendary player at Colorado from 1968-71. The sensational center-forward is the Buffaloes' all-time leader in rebounding average (12.1 rpg) and remains fourth in total boards with 971. In addition, Meely held a number of Big Eight scoring marks when his collegiate career ended in 1971.

Named an All-American for his performance during his senior campaign, Meely averaged 28.0 points and hauled in 11.9 rebounds per game. His 47-point, 25-rebound outing against Oklahoma was one highlight of that milestone season. Meely was a two-time Big Eight Player of the Year and led the Buffaloes to the conference title and NCAA Tournament in 1968-69.

The next Buff to make an impact was Wedman, a sharp-shooting forward from 1971-74. Wedman came to CU from Denver's Mullen High School and led the team in scoring and rebounding for two years, field goal percentage three years, and free throw percentage one year. Before leaving Colorado, Wedman was firmly established in the school record books.

His numbers placed him sixth in rebounding (No. 13 today), seventh in scoring (No. 22 today), and eighth in field goal percentage. After enjoying a successful 12-year stint in the NBA, Wedman concluded his professional career in 1987 with the Boston Celtics.



Frosty Cox



Sox Walseth



**Chauncey Billups**

## Coors Events Center and the Rise of the '90s

A major change in Colorado basketball came in 1979, when the team moved into the Colorado Events/Conference Center with its spacious seating capacity of 11,076. The facility was renamed the Coors Events/Conference Center in 1990, in honor of a donation made by Coors to the campus. The Coors name was synonymous with the arena for just under 28 years, before being renamed the CU Events Center on July 1, 2018.

Arguably the best and most exciting Buff of the 1980s was guard Jay Humphries. While running the Colorado offense from 1980-84, Humphries became the school's all-time assist leader (562), and graduated as the program's fourth-leading scorer with 1,306 points. His specialty, however, was defensive play. He's Colorado's all-time leader in steals with 309; 64 more than the closest alum. Humphries is the only Colorado player with 100-plus steals in a season and led the nation in thefts in 1982-83 with 115.

CU closed out the 1980s and began a new decade of Buffalo basketball with two greats, Shaun Vandiver and

Stevie Wise. Both Vandiver and Wise were instrumental in the school's run through the 1991 NIT, CU's first postseason appearance since making the NCAA Tourney in 1969. Colorado finished third in that NIT at the famed Madison Square Garden. Prior to the trip to New York City, the Buffaloes played in front of a standing-room only crowd and cut down the nets after defeating Arkansas State to advance to the semifinals.

Vandiver, a 6'10" center, who transferred to CU in 1988 after leading Hutchinson CC to the junior college national championship, worked his way up the Buff charts with an excellent shooting touch and a desire to hit the boards. A three-time All-Big Eight performer, Vandiver scored 1,876 points and grabbed 962 rebounds while shooting 54.7 percent from the field. All three of those numbers remain in the top five on Colorado's record book.

Wise too, left his mark in the CU record books. Coming to Boulder as a guard in 1987, he managed to suit up for 119 games in a Colorado uniform, at the time the fifth most in team history. Like Vandiver, he too loved to shoot, and is one of the Buffs' all-time three-point specialists. Wise also finished his career as the No. 3 scorer (1,727 points) and sits in seventh today.

Donnie Boyce marked the onset of the 1990s, as the Maywood, Ill., product took CU and the Big Eight by storm. After four incredible seasons, Boyce graduated as Colorado's all-time leading scorer with 1,995 points, a mark that would hold up for 13 seasons. He led the Buffaloes to an NIT bid as a senior in 1994-95.

Chauncey Billups continued CU's tradition of great players as he made his mark early in his career. In only his fourth game as a freshman, Billups posted the first triple-double in CU history. His 24-point, 11-assist, 11-rebound game against George Mason was a harbinger of great things to come for the 6'3" product from George Washington High School in Denver.

As a sophomore, Billups would lead Colorado to its first NCAA appearance (1996-97) in 28 years and earn many postseason accolades, including All-Big 12 first-team honors and first-team freshman All-America kudos from *Basketball Weekly* and *Basketball Times*. In two years, Billups scored over 1,000 points (1,020), becoming the 20th player in CU history to accomplish that feat.

## Into the 21st Century

The next great point-guard, Jaquay Walls, guided CU toward back-to-back 18 win seasons, both of which brought NIT bids. A junior college transfer who made his impact

immediately, Walls was named honorable mention All-Big 12 and to the All-Newcomer team in his junior season. As a senior, he was twice named Big 12 Player of the Week and had a 42-point performance against Iowa State, which set a Big 12 record and remains the top scoring performance by a Colorado player at the CU Events Center. His 15 overtime points in that game was also an NCAA record. That spring, he was selected by the Indiana Pacers in the NBA Draft.

Seven-footer David Harrison made his presence felt during the 2001-02 season being named to the Big 12 All-Freshman team and leading the Buffaloes in scoring (13.9 ppg). The only other players in CU history to stand over seven feet are Frank Wilcox (1955-56), Ben Mills (2010-14) and Dallas Walton (2017-present). Harrison also rewrote the CU record book in field goal percentage finishing the season with a stellar 63.8 percentage and third nationally.

Harrison set a school-record with 106 swats during the 2002-03 season, shattering the previous mark of 73. He also became the first player in school history and in the Big 12 to record a pair of triple-doubles (31 pts., 17 reb., 10 blocks against Stetson; 20 pts., 11 blocks, 10 rebs. versus Nebraska).

In 2002-03, CU made its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1996-97. With 20 victories on the season, another feat only accomplished twice before by Patton in 1996-97 (22-10) and Sox Walseth in 1968-69 (21-7), the Buffaloes also upset four nationally ranked teams — all at home for the first-time ever.

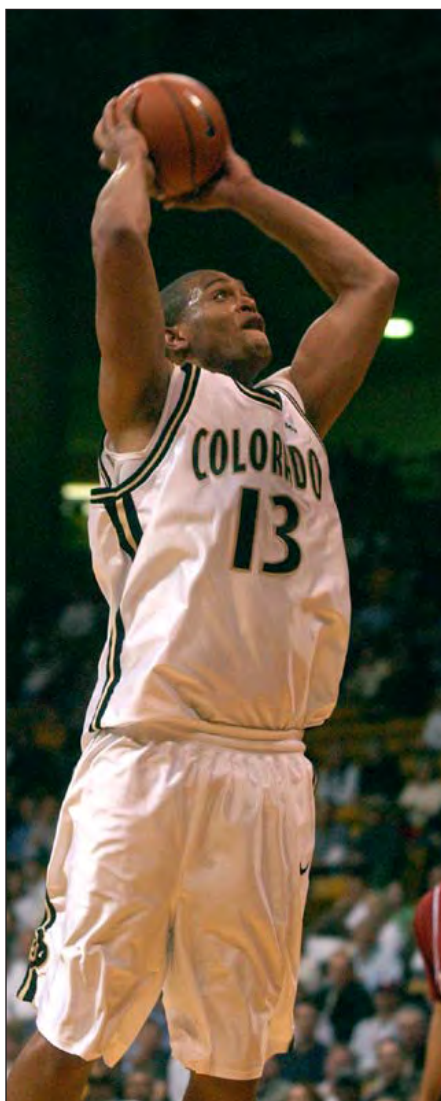


**CU greets Jay Humphries and the late-Cliff Meely on the night when the Coors Events Center set an attendance record Dec. 5, 2012. The Buffs defeated Colorado State, 70-61 in front of 11,708 spectators.**



## CU IN THE HISTORY BOOKS

Colorado is one of just 12 schools to have ever qualified for the NCAA Tournament and the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) in the same year, as the Buffaloes made dual appearances in 1940, becoming the first school to ever do that. That year, CU won the NIT and finished fourth in the NCAA West Region. The other schools that have matched this feat are: Arizona (1951), Bradley (1950), Brigham Young (1951), City College of New York (which won both tournaments in 1950), Dayton (1952), Duquesne (1952), Kentucky (1949), North Carolina State (1951), St. John's (1951 and 1952), St. Louis University (1952), and Utah (1944).



**David Harrison**

Individually, the Buffaloes received four All-Big 12 honors with Michel Morandais (second team) along with Stephane Pelle earning third-team. Morandais and Harrison also were named to the Big 12's specialty teams as two of the conference's most-improved players. Pelle capped his four-year career with 1,367 points and 1,054 rebounds becoming the first of two CU men's basketball players to secure both 1,000 plateaus (Andre Roberson: 2010-13: 1,012pts., 1,045 rebs.). Pelle would go on to become — and to this day — is the school's all-time leading rebounder (1,054).

During the 2003-04 campaign, CU won 18 games for the fifth time under Patton and earned its third NIT berth in eight years. More impressively, the Buffaloes won 10 conference games, the most since recording 11 back in 1996-97 and earning the number four seed at the Big 12 Tournament in Dallas. Harrison also broke the school record for blocks in a career (225) and would on go to rewrite the blocked shot record book despite playing only three years and opting for the 2004 NBA Draft (29th overall, first round, Indiana Pacers).

The Buffaloes saw the arrival of Richard Roby in 2004-05 as he would become the first freshman since Billups (1995-96) to lead CU in scoring with 16 points per game and net double-digits 26 times in 30 games.

The 2005-06 Buffaloes won 20 games for the fourth time in their history en route to the NIT, with 14 of those coming at the Events Center tying the 2002-03 season for the most ever up until that time. The Buffs also re-wrote the school's 3-point record for made (240) and attempts (701), and Roby became the first CU player since 2003-04 and only the fourth player since 1996-97 to be named All-Big 12 first team. CU also reached the national stage by being ranked in back-to-back ESPN/USA Today Coaches' Polls, a school first since the 1996-97 campaign.

From 2007-10 the program was led by Jeff Bzdelik, who came from the United States Air Force Academy, where he led the Buffaloes to a 36-58 (.383) record. His best season was his last, a 15-16 mark and 6-10 in the Big 12 in 2009-10. Over his three seasons with the Buffs, Bzdelik experienced a series of near-misses, losing 27 single-digit games, 18 of those in the Big 12. The 27 losses were an average of 4.6 points.

In 2007-08, Richard Roby set the school scoring record becoming the first CU men's basketball player to eclipse the 2,000-point barrier netting 2,001 points (Cory Higgins would tie the mark in 2011). He would go on to set numerous school records over his outstanding four-year career. The Buffaloes became the first team in Big 12 history as the No. 12 seed in its post-season tournament to beat a No. 5 seed (Baylor).

Roby became the second Buff in its history to lead the team in scoring all four years (Boyce was the other).

In 2009-10, the Buffs provided a dual offensive punch with Higgins and super freshman Alec Burks. Higgins, garnered his second straight All-Big 12 third team honor, while Burks performed a CU first in the Buffs Big 12 history becoming the first Boulder athlete to earn conference freshman of the year honors.

Higgins and Burks scored 587 and 512 points, respectively becoming the first tandem to net over 500 points in the same season since the 1990-91 campaign. Burks would also lead the team in rebounding, only the second freshman since Matt Bullard in 1985-86.

Burks was also named to a number of post-season teams including the Big 12 All-Rookie Team, CollegeInsider.com All-America Freshman Team, 2009-10 *Basketball Times*' All-Freshman first team, CU Sports Performers of the Year (CUSPY) Male Freshman of the Year, and *Sporting News Magazine* All-Freshman second team.



**Donnie Boyce**

He became the first CU freshman to surpass 500 points in a single-season (512). He ranked fourth nationally of all freshmen in points per game (17.1) and field goal percentage (53.8).

## The Tad Boyle Era

Over the last eight years of Colorado Basketball, head coach Tad Boyle and his coaching staff, have built the Buffaloes into one of the elite Pac-12 Conference basketball programs, if not the nation.

In those eight years the Buffaloes have made seven postseason appearances, a school-first three consecutive NCAA Tournament berths; five 20-plus winning seasons, and a Pac-12 Conference Tournament championship. Under his tutelage, Boyle has won an impressive 166 games at CU, and his winning percentage of .601 ranks second in history for those coaches with at least four seasons.

Very impressive for coach and a basketball program that had only four 20-plus winning seasons before his arrival during the spring of 2010.

In those eight years, CU basketball history has been re-written altogether. Boyle's success has brought *ESPN College GameDay* to Boulder (Feb. 22, 2014); he has won a school record 24 games in a single-season, twice; home dominance at the CU Events Center with a 113-22 record (.837), in addition to school attendance records being broken, then re-broken a year later; and most importantly every senior that has made his final year on the Buff roster, has graduated (Boyle's staff is 25-for-25).

On the court, there have been eight all-tournament team selections; seven conference first-team recipients; one Most Improved Player of the Year, one Pac-12 Conference Defensive Player of the Year, two "Sixth Man of the Year" winners, and one Wooden Top-20 Finalist.

Over the last eight years, six student-athletes have gone on to reach the NBA; five hearing their names announced on draft day. George King was the 59th overall pick by the Phoenix Suns in 2018. Derrick White was the 29th overall pick by the San Antonio Spurs in 2017. Spencer Dinwiddie left school after his junior year (2013-14), where he was selected by Detroit in the second round of the 2014 NBA Draft (No. 38 overall). In 2012-13, Andre Roberson was selected in the first round (No. 26 overall) by Minnesota then traded to Oklahoma City. In the 2011 draft, Alec Burks, became CU's second-ever lottery pick, selected No. 12 overall by Utah.

Rounding out the six former players who have gone on to the NBA after playing for Boyle while at CU is the school's all-time co-scoring leader, Cory Higgins (2,001 points). Higgins played with the Charlotte Bobcats

from 2011-13. It should be noted that Higgins is one of several former Buffs to enjoy a successful professional career overseas, helping CSKA Moscow to the 2015-16 EuroLeague championship.

Boyle made the most of his "dream job" in his first year, guiding the Buffaloes to a school-record 24 victories in 2010-11, capping the season with a spot in the NIT semifinals.

Named the 18th head coach in CU men's basketball history (on April 19, 2010), Boyle also etched his name among the school's great coaches becoming first head coach in 20 years to win his coaching debut. CU also won a school-record 18 home games at the Events Center and achieved their highest Big 12 finish (t-5th) since 2005-06.

Statistically, CU ranked first in the Big 12 and fifth nationally in free throw percentage (77.8). Boyle's efficient attack also ranked 12th nationally in scoring (79.6 ppg) and 19th nationally in field goal percentage (47.3).

Individually, the Buffs were led by Burks, who would score a single-season school record 779 points, in addition setting the school mark for most free throws made (249) and attempts (302) in a single-season. He would also become the first player at CU to score over 770 points, 240 rebounds, 100 assists in same season.

A Top-20 Wooden Award finalist and unanimous Big 12 Conference first team selection, Burks was 18th nationally in scoring with 20.5 points per game.

And for the first time in the 15-year Big 12 Championship history, the Buffs advanced to the conference semifinals where Burks became the first CU player to be named to the all-tourney team. Later in the season, the Grandview, Mo. native would be named to the NIT All-Tournament Team (97 points in four games, 24.3 ppg.).

The 2010-11 team was not comprised by one individual, but a cast of others who led to the Buffs success throughout the season. Cory Higgins would end his stellar four-year with 2,001 points. Tying former teammate Richard Roby (2004-08), for the most in team history. Higgins was a three-time third team conference selection, also set a number of school records also becoming the career leader in minutes (4,478), games (132, today he's second), starts (131), and single-season minutes played (1,222) set in 2010-11.

Sharp-shooter Levi Knutson ended his career making the fifth most treys (81) in a season during CU's NIT run. The Littleton, Colo. native set the single-season mark for 3-point efficiency (47.4 percent) and notched his name among long-range shooting greats finishing third overall



**Stephane Pelle**

in career 39.3 career percentage, and tied for sixth in treys made (129).

Andre Roberson also made his presence felt during his initial season setting the freshman rebounding (297) and blocked shot (42) records. Roberson also became the first freshman to lead any CU team in rebounds, steals (51), and blocks. The feat among the Big 12 was a rarity, as Roberson became only the fourth conference player to accomplish it.

The 2011-12 season welcomed a new addition to the Events Center since the building first opened in 1979. A basketball and volleyball practice facility located adjacent to the north side of Events Center. The facility is 43,000 square feet of space featuring two basketball/volleyball courts; women's basketball locker rooms; and volleyball coaches' offices costing \$10.8 million, funded from private funds.

It was nine years since CU last danced in the NCAA Tournament and in one of the greatest seasons ever, then-second year head coach Tad Boyle equaled the previous season's win total (24), advanced to the NCAA Tourney third round, and won the inaugural Pac-12 Tournament



championship by winning four games in four days as the No. 6 seed.

The conference regular season had its ups and downs where at one point, CU could have ended the season as the number one or two seed in the tournament. However, losing three of its last four games and dropping to the No. 6 overall seed, the Buffs overcame No. 11 seed Utah, 53-41 on the opening night at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

On the day two CU edged No. 3 seed Oregon, 63-62. In the semifinals, CU took care of No. 2 Cal, 70-59 on 59.1 percent shooting from the field in the second half. Senior guard Carlon Brown breakaway windmill dunk served as an exclamation point in the final minute of CU's victory. The play was No. 4 on *SportsCenter's* Top 10 plays of the day.

In the finals, the Buffs held on again for another upset, edging No. 4 seed Arizona, 53-51 after leading the Wildcats by 12 points in the second half. CU scored only three points in the last nine minutes of the game, however, Brown had a highlight reel dunk in the final minute, snapping a streak of 8:19 without a field goal. CU became the first team to win four games in Pac-12 Conference Tournament history, and just the 10th team from the "big six" conferences to do so since 1952. At the NCAA Tournament, the Buffs, seeded No. 11 upset No. 6 and No. 23/25 ranked UNLV in the first round, then fell to No. 3 Baylor, 80-63, two days later.

Brown was named the tournament's most outstanding player, in addition being named to the all-tournament. Andre Roberson also earned all-tournament team had a superb sophomore year becoming the first CU player to average a double-double for the entire season (11.6 ppg., 11.1 rpg.) since Stephane Pelle (2001-02; 12.8 ppg., 10.8 rpg.). Roberson also became the 12th player in school history to lead the team in rebounding in back-to-back seasons, and just the third CU player to lead the team in rebounds, blocks, and steals in the same season, duplicating that feat during his freshman season.

In addition, Roberson set the single-season rebounding record (401) breaking a 58-year old record (Burdette Haldorson, 1954-55); set the single-season defensive rebounding record (290) breaking the 225 by Shaun Vandiver (1989-90), 23 years prior; and shattered sophomore season record for most rebounds, topping the old mark of 337 (Cliff Meely in 1968-69).

Roberson ranked third nationally in rebounds per game, and his 11.1 average was the program's highest since Alex Stivrins in 1984-85 (11.7 rpg). Roberson finished the season with 20 double-doubles, fifth nationally and was No. 54 nationally in blocked shots (1.86).

Attendance records also set a brand new high standard as the men's basketball team was the best ticket in town setting a number of school records, including seven sellouts; 12 of 15 home games exceeded 10,000 fans or better, in addition to season total (155,884); season average (10,392); conference total (94,371); conference average (10,486); and non-conference total (61,513).

In year two of the conference, Roberson (first team, defensive player of the year, all-defensive team); Dinwiddie (first team) and Josh Scott (all-freshman team) all earned post-season accolades.

Although the 2012-13 season did not capture the exciting moments of another Pac-12 Tournament championship, the Buffs did see another exciting year ranking No. 1 in Pac-12 Conference-only defense (62.2 ppg.); No. 1 in Pac-12 Conference Team (all games); 3-Point Defense (32.0). They also defeated four ranked opponents, a first since 2002-03 and won three-straight road conference games for the first time since 2000-01.

The 2011-12 and 2012-13 seasons marked back-to-back NCAA Tournament berths for the first time in 50 years. The Buffaloes have reached unprecedented heights

in the win column. CU won a school record 24 games in both 2010-11 and 2011-12, with another 21 victories in 2012-13. The 69 wins were the most in any three-year span in school history.

In 2013-14, the Buffaloes produced another banner year for the program by being seeded eighth at the NCAA Tournament, the highest seed since being the number nine in the 1997 tournament. The 23 victories were the third-most in school history and the Buffaloes' third place Pac-12 finish was the program's best in 18 years.

Attendance records fell once again as the Buffaloes drew 173,429 overall and 84,133 during the nonconference schedule.

For the first time in program history the men's basketball team had seen four-straight seasons where conference attendance exceeded 9,000 fans per game while overall season attendance reached 124,000 each year.

Josh Scott was named All-Pac-12 first team; Askia Booker was an All-Pac-12 honorable mention; and Wesley Gordon an honorable mention on All-Freshman team. Wesley Gordon finished with 41 blocks, the second-most by a freshman.

The 2014-15 season was dominated by close games and a number of injuries to key players, as the Buffaloes ended the season with a disappointing 16-18 record. In games decided by nine points or less, CU went 7-10 overall compared to an astounding 15-2 during the 2013-14 season. However, it was also the fifth straight season the Buffaloes went to a post-season tournament, a quarterfinal appearance in the College Basketball Invitational (CBI).

Colorado recorded its ninth 20-win season in 2015-16, and fifth in six years while also advancing to the program's 14th NCAA Tournament. The Buffaloes won 21 regular season games, tying a school record, before finishing off the campaign at 22-12.

Colorado made its school-record seventh straight postseason appearance in 2016-17, earning a berth in the NIT.

Entering the 2017-18 season, the Colorado men's basketball program boasts a record of 1,277-1,182 (.519) in 116 years of basketball being played with the 1942-44 seasons not played due to World War II.



Cory Higgins



## ESPN COLLEGE GAMEDAY

ESPN's basketball rendition of *College GameDay*, in existence for a decade, made its first appearance at the University of Colorado, February 22, 2014.

The telecast from the Coors Events Center was a spectacle from start to finish, with the C-Unit making its presence more than apparent to the national TV audience.

For over two hours, the collective body of CU students — dubbed the C-Unit in 2004 — brought energy, costumes, and witty signs to the *GameDay* party as a way to kick off the day's national basketball schedule. The lead attraction was Saturday night's Pac-12 Conference game matching CU against No. 4 Arizona.

*GameDay* was hosted by Rece Davis and featured insights from former Notre Dame head coach Digger Phelps and former Duke star Jay Williams.

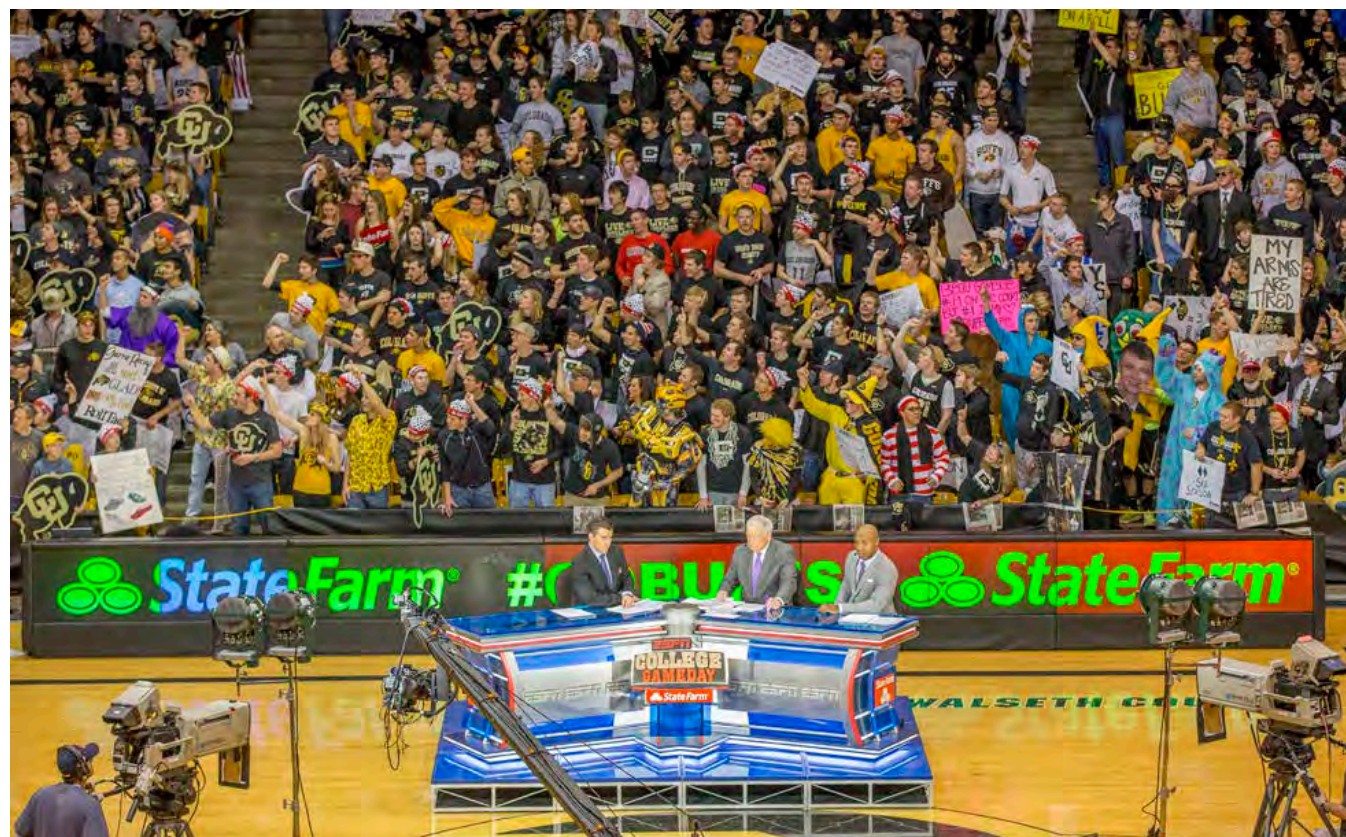
After the morning event, Davis spoke with CU athletic director Rick George and told him the "environment and the enthusiasm was right up there with the best that they have seen" for *GameDay*. "The crowd was attentive, they were into it, they listened to what we were saying on the show and responded accordingly," Davis said. "CU put on a great show."

Students began lining up outside the Events Center, Friday at 11 p.m. and by 5:45 a.m. Saturday there was about 300 students clamoring for their chance to be on national TV. Conditions weren't ideal (high winds and low temperatures), but that wasn't going to stop any crazed fans.

The event goes beyond students showing off their creative humor and asking parents for money via home-made signs; it provides the university a stage to tell the rest of the country what CU is all about — and the school did that Saturday.

Colorado coach Tad Boyle is also hoping to use the exposure for his own recruiting purposes as he seeks to build a national power in Boulder.

Boyle had previously said that being selected to host *GameDay* was, "a testament to our players, a testament to our fans, a testament to our coaches and how far this program has come."





It's no coincidence that *GameDay* chose to come to Boulder when the Buffaloes host the nation's fourth-ranked team. However, Saturday's event was more about CU basketball and the atmosphere that has developed at the Coors Events Center during the Boyle regime.

Arizona hosted its first *GameDay* event on January 28, 2012, and according to Bruce Pascoe of the *Arizona Daily Star*, the turnout Colorado received was comparable — if not better — than that of the Wildcats, who boast four Final Four appearances and one national championship.

Colorado is proving that its fan support belongs with some of the best in the nation and hopes to prove that its level of play belongs in the same category.

Reflecting on the days when the average attendance at the Coors Events Center was about 3,000 — compared to the nearly 10,000 this season — *GameDay* being on campus is a culmination of everything we could have ever envisioned when we first moved the C-Unit to behind the basket where they stand today.

"Our students showed themselves well, and their enthusiasm to be out here at six in the morning says a lot about our fans," George said. "It was awesome, you can't measure this kind of exposure."





## PAC-12 TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

**LOS ANGELES** - Dust off those dancing shoes, Buffs fans. Pac-12 hoops, who's your Taddy?

The improbable, unflappable, and in the very end undeniable Colorado Buffaloes made history, outlasting Arizona 53-51 at the Staples Center to win the Pac-12 Conference tournament championship in their debut season in the expanded league.

CU is a conference tournament champion for the first time in program history and in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2003 after earning the Pac-12's automatic berth.

A season after being denied an NCAA Tournament berth and losing 75 percent of his offense, CU coach Tad Boyle reloaded as best he could and hoped for the best. But Boyle constructed his second season in Boulder with more determination than dreams, ultimately squeezing and coaxing every ounce of effort out of the Buffs during a taxing four-day Pac-12 run that followed a dismaying regular-season finish.

Losing three of its final four games, CU dropped from regular-season title contenders to a sixth tournament seed. No problem; rising up in L.A. was the Buffs' mission. They did it in grand - if gut-wrenching - style, and they did it the hard way, winning four games in four days.

CU (23-11) almost squandered a 12-point lead, scoring only three points in the last 9 minutes but still denying No. 4 seed Arizona (23-11) in its comeback attempt.

"Saying I'm proud of these guys is the biggest understatement I've ever made," Boyle said. "If you believe in destiny, you believe in the Colorado Buffaloes."

Freshman Spencer Dinwiddie led CU with 14 points, and senior Carlton Brown - the Buffs leading scorer in the tournament - added 13, including a dunk in the final minute that was his team's last field goal. Sophomore Andre Roberson submitted his third double-double (10 points, 11 rebounds) in four tournament games.

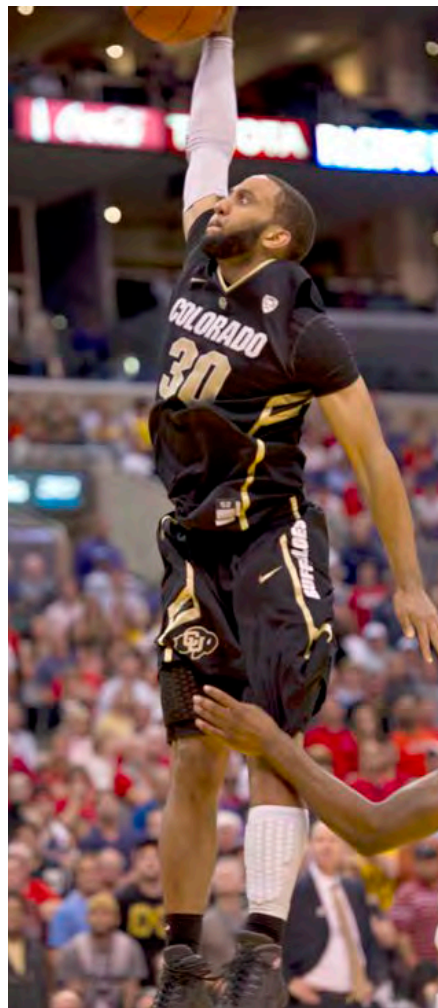
Brown was named the tournament MVP, highlighting a two-week run that saw him hit lows, highs and finish as high as he's ever been.

Said Boyle on Brown: "I think what you saw out of Carlton these last four games is he's a guy who put this team on his shoulders. He's been more vocal than he's been all year in timeouts, in huddles, on the floor, encouraging his teammates . . . (He) deserves the MVP of this tournament because he was big when we needed him to be big."

Brown, the only member of the CU roster to play in the NCAA Tournament (with Utah), said the late-season scoring slump he encountered finally was put behind him: "I just tried to put everything in the past, knowing I had this opportunity to be aggressive and play in this tournament . . . I just let everything go."

Roberson also was named to the all-tournament team, joining Jared Cunningham (Oregon State), Kyle Fogg (Arizona), Solomon Hill (Arizona) and Jesse Perry (Arizona). That trio led the Wildcats in scoring Saturday - Fogg with 14, Hill with 13 and Perry with 11.

Arizona coach Sean Miller was effusive in congratulating CU and Boyle: "I want to say the job that Tad Boyle has done at Colorado and what Colorado represents to the future of the Pac-12, I can make the argument that there's





been no greater gift to college basketball in the Pac-12 than adding Colorado."

Miller said whoever draws CU in the NCAA Tournament "is running into a hungry, well-coached, disciplined team. I really believe that's the story of today. They beat us. They were the better team."

CU had 8- to 10-point cushions in the final 10 minutes of the previous two games and held on - barely against Oregon, handily against Cal. But could the Buffs stay composed in their biggest tournament game thus far?

Some doubt surfaced when Arizona scored five straight and cut its deficit to 50-43 on one of two free throws by Perry with 5:29 remaining. And no nerves were calmed when Tomlinson and Askia Booker both misfired badly on consecutive possessions from the same spot in the left corner.

The Wildcats capitalized on those botched trips with a layup by Hill to cap a 7-0 run and close to 50-45 with 4 minutes remaining. At the 1:41 mark, without a field goal in almost 8 minutes and seven consecutive missed shots, Boyle called a timeout.

It might not have been what Boyle had drawn up, but Roberson drove to the basket as the shot clock wound down and was fouled with 1:23 showing. He hit one of two, sending CU up 51-46.

At the other end, 22 seconds later, Perry sank two free throws, but Brown drove the lane and countered with a thunderous dunk to push the Buffs ahead 53-47 with 49 seconds to play.

CU's first trip to the NCAA Tournament in nine seasons appeared all but booked . . . but not quite. Fogg's pair of free throws at 34.5 cut CU's lead to 53-49, and Hill also converted at the other end to make the score 53-51.

Dufault, who let a pass from Tomlinson bound away from him for a turnover, also missed a pair of free throws with 14.4 to play.

"It would have been nice if we had ended the game smoother . . . if I could have knocked down a couple of free throws or caught that pass," Dufault said.

Arizona had a final chance, but Fogg's tightly contested shot with 1.4 seconds left was badly off to the left.

Continued Dufault: "We went down to the other end, and once again we just dug in defensively and got a stop."

It was done . . . CU in the Big Dance.





## COLORADO TIMELINE

**Jan. 10, 1902** — Colorado defeats State Prep School in Boulder, 34-10, in CU's first game in history.

**Dec. 13, 1906** — Frank R. Castleman assumes the duties as Colorado's first head basketball coach. Castleman also serves as football coach and athletic director.

**Jan. 30, 1909** — Colorado joins the Rocky Mountain Conference, its first conference affiliation in history.

**Feb. 22, 1910** — CU drops a 36-21 decision to Colorado Mines, as the two schools tie for the first Rocky Mountain Conference basketball title.

**Aug. 14, 1912** — John McFadden is named Colorado's second head coach.

**Feb. 25, 1913** — Colorado beats Denver in Boulder, 26-12, to win their first outright RMC basketball title.

**Jan. 24, 1914** — Colorado defeats Colorado A&M (later Colorado State), 26-23, to clinch its second straight RMC title.

**July 11, 1914** — James N. Ashmore is named the third head coach in Colorado's history.

**March 11, 1916** — Colorado dumps Colorado A&M, 27-20, to grab a share of the RMC title with Colorado College.

**May 18, 1917** — Joe Mills is named Colorado's fifth head coach.

**March 29, 1919** — Colorado wins the RMC Eastern Division by downing Colorado A&M in Boulder, 32-18.

**March 13, 1920** — Colorado's 27-10 victory at Denver is the 100th win in CU history.



The 1946 Buff team heading for the NCAA Tournament.

**March 19, 1920** — Colorado wins RMC Eastern Division title for the second year in a row with a 27-19 win over Colorado Mines in Boulder.

**March 5, 1921** — Colorado nabs its third straight RMC Eastern Division title with a 26-14 victory at Denver. The win also gives Colorado an undefeated season record of 8-0.

**June 11, 1924** — Howard Beresford is named the sixth head coach in Colorado's basketball history.

**March 2, 1929** — CU wins at Colorado College, 35-27, to reclaim the RMC Eastern Division title after an eight-year dry spell.

**Feb. 28, 1930** — Colorado beats Colorado College in Boulder, 27-24, to win RMC Eastern Division for second straight year.

**May 20, 1933** — Henry P. Iba is named Colorado's seventh head coach.

**Feb. 21, 1934** — Colorado's 29-18 verdict over Colorado College in Boulder is the 200th cage win in Colorado history.

**April 7, 1934** — Earl "Dutch" Clark is named Colorado's eighth head coach.

**Nov. 10, 1934** — Colorado adopts the nickname "Buffaloes" at the annual football homecoming game. The new "Buffs" win over Utah, 7-6.

**May 11, 1935** — Forrest B. "Frosty" Cox is named Colorado's ninth head coach.

**Jan. 8, 1937** — Buffs win 43-38 over University of Denver in the first game played at the brand new CU Fieldhouse, located next to Folsom Field.

**Dec. 1, 1937** — Buffs leave the Rocky Mountain Conference with six other area schools to form the Mountain States Conference.

**Feb. 19, 1938** — Colorado's 58-38 romp of the Pioneers at Denver gives the Buffs their first Mountain States Conference basketball title.

**March 14-16, 1938** — Colorado participates in their first postseason tournament ever. The Buffs beat New York University, 48-47, in the semifinal round at the National Invitation Tournament in New York City. Two days later, CU fell to Temple in the finals of the 1938 NIT Championship, 60-34.

**Feb. 24, 1939** — Colorado's 38-26 victory at Utah clinches the MSC title for the Buffs.

**April 3, 1939** — Jack Harvey becomes the first Buff to be named All-America. Jim Wilcoxon is also named All-America.

**March 2, 1940** — Buffs' conquest at Denver, 52-37, gives CU its third straight MSC title.

**March 13-15, 1940** — Colorado returns to the NIT for the second time, and defeats DePaul in the semifinal round 52-37. The Buffs deck Duquesne, 51-40, to claim their first NIT Championship.

**March 22-23, 1940** — Colorado is invited to its first NCAA Tournament after winning the NIT crown. Southern California beats the Buffs 38-32 in the first round, played in Kansas City. The Buffs then drop the consolation game to Rice, 60-56, in overtime.

**April 2, 1940** — Jack Harvey repeats as an All-America selection.

**March 7, 1942** — The Buffs' 57-46 verdict at Utah State gives CU its fourth MSC title in five years.

**March 20-22, 1942** — Buffs defeat Kansas in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, 46-44 in Kansas City, to advance to their first NCAA Final Four. Colorado drops a 46-35 decision to Stanford, and ties for third place in the process.

**March 30, 1942** — Robert Doll and Leason McCloud are both named All-Americans.

**Jan. 26, 1945** — Buffs' 62-32 win over Utah State in Boulder is the 300th win in Colorado basketball history.

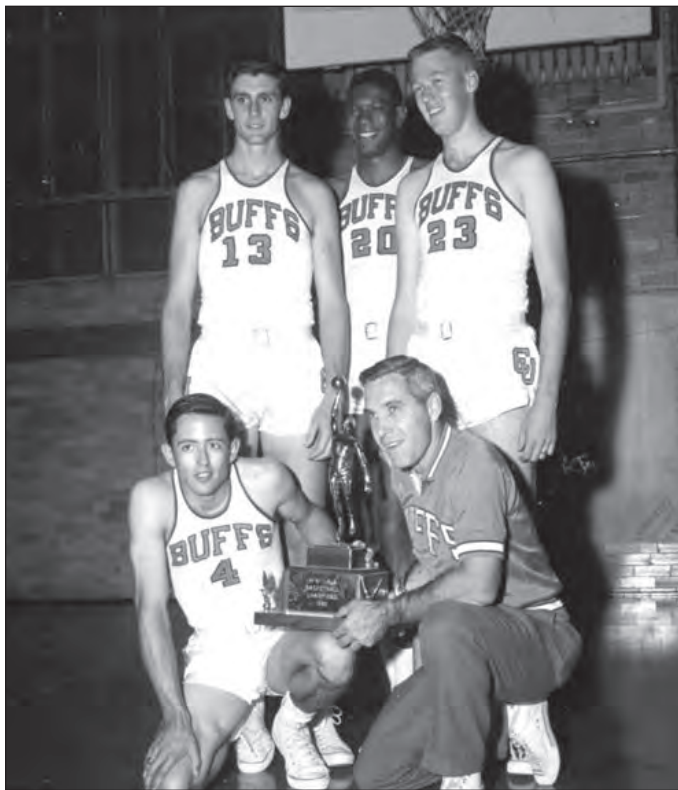
**March 22-23, 1946** — Colorado returns to the NCAA Tournament and falls to California, 50-44, in the first round at Kansas City, but wins the consolation game in a 59-44 rout of Baylor.

**Dec. 1, 1947** — Colorado leaves the Mountain States Conference to join the Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic



The 1929 Colorado Buffaloes won the Rocky Mountain Conference Eastern Division title.





**Head Coach Sox Walseth and the 1961-62 Big Eight Conference Trophy with Eric Lee (#4), Milt Mueller (#13), Jim Davis (#20) and Ken Charlton (#23).**

Association, also known as the Big Seven, joining Kansas, Kansas State, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Iowa State.

**Feb. 7, 1948** — Colorado's 33-32 victory at Iowa State is the first Big Seven Conference victory for the Buffs.

**April 4, 1950** — H. B. "Bebe" Lee is named 10th head coach in CU history.

**Feb. 23, 1952** — The Buffaloes score their first-ever victory over the nation's No. 2-ranked team, beating Kansas State 67-57 in Boulder.

**March 6, 1954** — Colorado's 79-76 victory over Kansas State in Boulder gives Colorado a share of the conference title with Kansas — its first Big Seven first place finish.

**March 11-12, 1954** — Bradley defeats Colorado, 76-64, in first-round action of the NCAA Tournament at Stillwater, Oklahoma. Colorado also drops the consolation game to Rice, 78-55.

**Feb. 28, 1955** — Colorado's 66-57 victory at Missouri clinches first place in the Big Seven for the Buffs. It is their first outright Big Seven title. The win also marks the 400th in Colorado hoops history.

**March 10-21, 1955** — Colorado returns once again to the NCAA Tournament, as the Buffs defeat Tulsa in the second round at Lawrence, Kan., 69-59. The Buffs avenged 1954's defeat to Bradley, as Colorado blasts the Braves 93-81 in the Regional Championship. The win advances Colorado to the NCAA Final Four at Kansas City, where San Francisco beats the Buffs, 62-50. Colorado bounces back to win the national third place game, however, as they defeat Iowa 75-54.

**April 1, 1955** — Burdette Halderson is named to the All-American team.

**March 19, 1956** — Russell "Sox" Walseth is named Colorado's 11th head coach.

**March 10, 1962** — Colorado beats Kansas in Boulder, 63-59 to win the Big Eight title.

**March 17-20, 1962** — Colorado beats Texas Tech, 67-60 at Manhattan, Kansas, to advance to the NCAA Midwest Regional Championship. Cincinnati stings the Buffs, 73-46 in the Regional Championship game.

**Dec. 3, 1962** — Colorado's 79-69 victory over Wichita State is the 500th win in Buff history.

**March 9, 1963** — Colorado's 69-56 victory in Manhattan over Kansas State gives CU a share of the Big Eight title with the Wildcats. Colorado advances to the NCAA playoffs because it has more wins.

**Mar. 16-19, 1963** — Colorado whips Oklahoma City at Lawrence, 78-72, to advance to the NCAA Regional Championship again. And again, the opponent is Cincinnati, who beats the Buffs for the second straight year, 67-60, to win the Midwest Regional Championship.

**March 26, 1963** — Ken Charlton becomes the fifth Colorado Buffalo to be named All-America.

**Feb. 8, 1969** — Colorado's 83-81 conquest of Nebraska in Boulder is the 600th all-time win in Colorado basketball history.

**March 8, 1969** — Buffs beat Missouri in Boulder, 92-73, to win the Big Eight title.

**March 11-12, 1969** — Colorado and Colorado State get together for the first time on the basketball court since the 1959-60 season in the NCAA Midwest Regional Playoffs. The Rams emerge victorious, 64-56, despite Cliff Meely's 32 points. Colorado does win the consolation game, however, 97-82 over Texas A&M.

**Feb. 13, 1971** — Cliff Meely sets a Buff record by scoring 47 points (and also pulls down 25 rebounds) in a 99-69 blowout of Oklahoma in Boulder.

**March 17, 1971** — Cliff Meely's jersey number "20" is retired in his honor following the 1970-71 season. Meely leaves Colorado as the Buffs' all-time scoring leader with 1,940 points, and also leaves as the leader in rebounds with 971. He also holds 13 other records at the time he leaves CU.

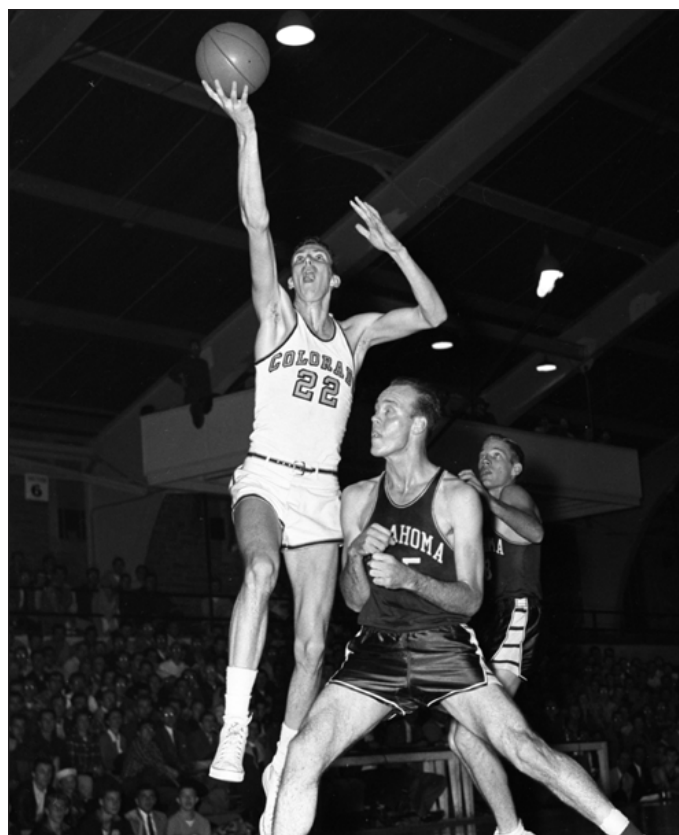
**March 27, 1971** — Cliff Meely is named All-America, the seventh Buff to achieve that honor.

**April 4, 1976** — Bill Blair is named CU's 12th head coach.

**Dec. 2, 1978** — Colorado's 66-62 triumph over South Dakota State in Boulder is the 700th cage win in Colorado history.

**Feb. 24, 1979** — Kansas beats Colorado, 71-60, in the final game to be played at Balch Fieldhouse.

**Nov. 8, 1979** — A crowd of 9,679, turns out to see the Russian Nationals defeat the Buffs, 88-73. The game is the first ever in the CU Events/Conference Center.



**During the 1962-63 season, Ken Charlton became CU's fifth All-American.**



**March 3, 1981** — Buffs win 70-66 at Nebraska, only the second time in the five year history of Big Eight playoffs that a team wins on the road.

**March 6, 1981** — Colorado makes its first appearance in Big Eight "final four" at Kansas City; loses to Kansas State, 64-61.

**April 4, 1981** — Tom Apke is named Colorado's 13th head basketball coach.

**Jan. 22, 1983** — The first sellout crowd of 11,199 turns out at the CU Events/Conference Center to see the Buffs beat Nebraska, 72-69.

**March 7, 1984** — CU's 65-62 win at Iowa State earns the team its second trip to the league's final four in Kansas City, where Oklahoma beats CU, 90-78, two days later. Colorado becomes the first team in league history to win twice on the road in the league playoffs.

**Dec. 11, 1985** — Colorado's 78-65 victory over Colorado State in Boulder is the 800th cage win in CU history.

**April 2, 1986** — Tom Miller is named Colorado's 14th head basketball coach.

**Feb. 13, 1988** — Colorado wins its 500th game in Boulder as the Buffs beat Oklahoma State 73-71.

**March 1989** — Shaun Vandiver is named the Big Eight's Newcomer-of-the-Year, marking the first time in league history the honor is bestowed upon a CU player.

**March 9-11, 1990** — Buffs pull back-to-back upsets over Missouri and Oklahoma State to become the first eighth-seeded team to make it to the championship game of the Big Eight Postseason Tournament.

**March 1990** — Colorado's Shaun Vandiver and Stevie Wise finish as the Big Eight's No. 1 and 2 scorers, respectively, marking the first time two Buffs have accomplished that.

**March 29, 1990** — Joe Harrington is named Colorado's 15th head basketball coach.

**Sept., 1990** — The Events/Conference Center, home of the Buffs, is renamed the Coors Events Center.

**Dec., 1990** — Colorado scores a school record 124 points (twice) against Central

Connecticut State (Dec. 7) and then vs. Tennessee State (Dec. 29).

**Feb. 16, 1991** — The Buffs win at Iowa State (84-78) to snap their 56-game league regular-season road losing streak.

**March 1991** — CU breaks a 22-year postseason drought and receives a bid to the National Invitation Tournament. The Buffs win three straight to make the NIT's Final Four in New York City and finish third in the tourney.

**March 18, 1991** — The largest crowd to date in Events Center history (11,291) sees the Buffs beat Wyoming, 83-75, in the NIT's second round.

**Feb. 5, 1992** — A 70-68 overtime victory in Boulder over Oklahoma ends CU's 28-game losing streak to the Sooners. OU is ranked No. 22 in the country.

**Feb. 12, 1992** — The Buffs beat the nation's No. 2-ranked team for only the second time in school history with their 57-53 win over No. 2 Oklahoma State, in Boulder.

**March, 1993** — Teammates Poncho Hodges and Ted Allen finish first and second in the conference in blocked shots, the first time since 1953 that two teammates rank one-two in that category.

**Dec. 6, 1993** — Guard Donnie Boyce breaks the 1,000-point plateau in his 16-point effort at Colorado State.

**March 1994** — Donnie Boyce gains first-team all-Big Eight accolades for the second straight year.

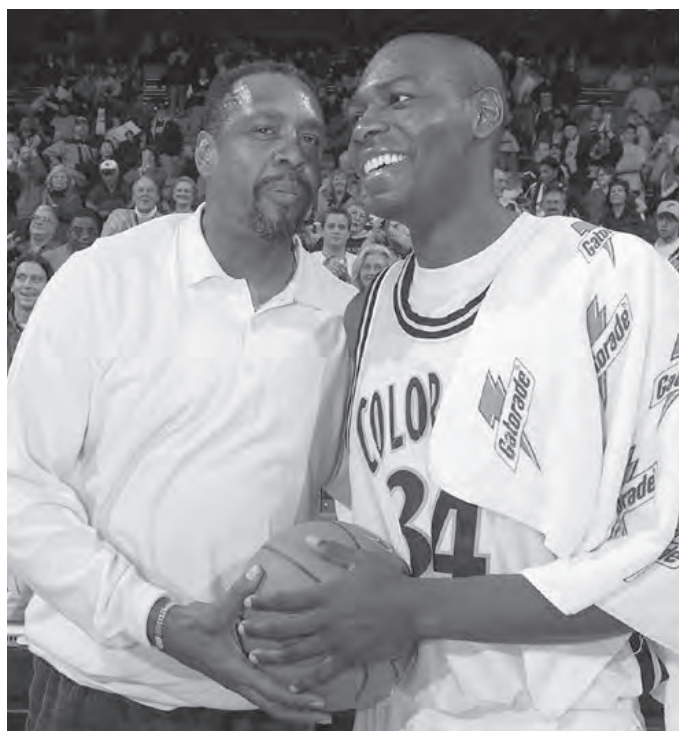
**Jan. 17, 1995** — Ted Allen becomes CU's all-time leader in blocked shots after swatting five against Texas-San Antonio.

**Feb. 22, 1995** — Colorado wins its 900th game in program history, a 67-64 triumph over Washington in Boulder.

**Feb. 25, 1995** — Donnie Boyce becomes CU's all-time leading scorer in the Buffs' 80-74 win at Nebraska.

**March 12, 1995** — Colorado receives a bid to the 1995 NIT, just its second postseason invitation in 25 years and first since 1991.

**Dec. 2, 1996** — Colorado establishes a single-game scoring record in its 132-117 overtime win over George Mason in Boulder.



**Stephane Pelle stands with Cliff Meely after CU's 98-83 home victory over Texas A&M on Feb. 15, 2003. Pelle broke Meely's rebounding mark of 971 with 12 boards against the Aggies. Pelle finished his four-year career with 1,054, the most rebounds in school history.**

Also in this game, freshman Chauncey Billups assembles the first triple-double (and sixth in Big Eight History) with his 24-point, 11-rebound, 11-assist effort.

**Feb. 16, 1996** — Following Colorado's 82-80 overtime loss at home to Southern Utah, Joe Harrington announces his resignation as head coach. Ricardo Patton is named interim head coach by then-athletic director Bill Marolt.

**Feb. 29, 1996** — Ricardo Patton gains his first win as CU's head coach, a 106-94 victory over Missouri on ESPN.

**March 5, 1996** — Patton is named head coach on a permanent basis, becoming the 16th head mentor in program history.

**Jan. 11, 1997** — Colorado breaks the nation's longest home court winning streak, defeating No. 20 Texas Tech 80-78 in Lubbock. The win also gives CU its first win on the road against a nationally ranked opponent since 1973.

**Jan. 20, 1997** — Ranked 18th in the AP poll, CU earns its first national ranking since Dec. 30, 1969, a span of 9,882 days.

**Feb. 24, 1997** — Colorado defeats Wofford 65-58 to earn its second 20-win season in program history.

**Feb. 24, 1997** — Basketball Times names CU sophomore Chauncey Billups a first-team All-American, the eighth in CU



**Blair Wilson broke the 3-point school record held by Stevie Wise (214, 1987-91) with six treys in CU's 88-70 victory over Iowa State on Jan. 17, 2004.**



history (ninth overall honor). The Associated Press later honors Billups as well.

**March 9, 1997** — Colorado is selected to participate in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since the 1968-69 season.

**March 13, 1997** — With 24 points versus Indiana, Chauncey Billups becomes the 19th CU player to score over 1,000 points. He finishes his career with 1,020. Colorado defeats Indiana 80-62 for its 22nd win of the season the most in CU history.

**March 4, 1998** — Kenny Price is named the Big 12 Newcomer of the Year.

**March 4, 1999** — Colorado breaks a nine-game conference tournament losing streak with a 69-61 win over Iowa State in Kansas City.

**March 5, 1999** — Kenny Price's nine three-pointers against Texas in the second

round of the Big 12 tournament sets a single-game CU record, and helps Price to his total of 97 for the year, the highest single-season total in CU history.

**March 10, 1999** — Colorado beats Pepperdine, 65-61 in the first round of the National Invitation tournament. It marks the second time in three full years as head coach Richard Patton has led the Buffs to the postseason.

**March 16, 2000** — Colorado hosts Southern Illinois in an opening round NIT game. It marks CU's third post-season berth in four years.

**Jan. 22, 2001** — Jamahl Mosley reaches the 1,000 point plateau. He'll finish the season 13th all-time with 1,171 points. That same night, a 5th ranked Kansas team will help draw an Events Center attendance record of 11,363.

**March 8, 2001** — Colorado finishes their season 15-15, the first time in 35 years the Buffs have had three consecutive .500 seasons or better.

**Nov. 19, 2001** — Colorado wins its 1,000 game in its history defeating Regis, 77-56 at the Coors Events/Conference Center. The Buffs are the 10th Big 12 school to reach the 1,000 win plateau.

**Jan. 16, 2002** — Head Coach Ricardo Patton earns his 100th career coaching victory with an exciting last second home win over Iowa State, 63-61. Stephane Pelle converted a 10-foot fade away with 2.9 seconds remaining.

**March 6, 2002** — Stephane Pelle earns his first Big 12 post-season honor earning a third-team selection by the conference coaches.

**Nov. 24, 2002** — Stephane Pelle becomes the 20th player in CU history to score 1,000 points in his career with 15 points in the Buffaloes 107-74 victory over Stetson. Pelle converted lay up at 10:26 of the second half. David Harrison becomes the first CU player since 1995 to record a triple-double. Harrison scored 31 points, grabbed 17 rebounds and blocked 10 shots against the Hatters.

**Jan. 22, 2003** — For the first time since Feb. 20, 1991, CU defeated Kansas, 60-59 at the Events Center. The victory over the Jayhawks snapped a 27-game losing streak to its conference nemesis and broke KU's

23-game Big 12 winning streak. Stephane Pelle's 10-footer with 25 seconds remaining was the difference.

**Feb. 4, 2003** — Michel Morandais scored 24 points with seven assists, three steals and was 3-of-3 from the 3-point arc helping CU upset No. 3 Texas, 93-80. The Buffs went on a 13-0 run to end the game and its win was the biggest victory over a ranked team since 1991-92 when CU defeated No. 2 Oklahoma State.

**Feb. 15, 2003** — Stephane Pelle breaks Cliff Meely's (1968-71) school record of 971 rebounds with 12 of his own to become CU's all-time leading rebounder with 974 with nine games remaining to play.

**Feb. 22, 2003** — Michel Morandais notched his first career double-double with 17 points and 10 assists and Blair Wilson made 6 3-pointers for a game-high 26 points leading CU to an 89-68 rout of Missouri in Boulder. It was CU's third win over nationally-ranked team of the season.

**Feb. 25, 2003** — Stephane Pelle became the first CU men's basketball player to record 1,000 rebounds in a career with eight boards at Iowa State. Pelle would finish his four-year career with 1,367 points and 1,054 rebounds, the first men's player to hit 1,000 in both categories.

**March 5, 2003** — For the first time ever, CU defeated four nationally ranked teams in the same season upsetting Oklahoma State, 68-56 in Boulder. David Harrison scored 14 points with 16 rebounds and Stephane Pelle scored 14 with 11 rebounds.

**March 8, 2003** — David Harrison became the first Buffs player to register two triple-doubles in a season and career. Harrison stymied Nebraska with 20 points, 11 blocks and 10 rebounds in CU's 84-69 home finale win.

**March 13, 2003** — James "Mookie" Wright made the most dramatic last-second shot in recent memory hitting an 18-footer as time expired leading CU to an incredible 77-76 victory over Kansas State in the first round of the Big 12 Tournament. CU was given its last opportunity when Pervis Pasco traveled with the ball in celebration giving the Buffs possession with 1.8 second left.

**March 21, 2003** — Under the tutelage of head coach Ricardo Patton, the Buffs embarked of their second trip to the NCAA Tournament since the 1996-97 season.



**James "Mookie" Wright banked in a 3-pointer at the buzzer for an exciting 77-76 victory over Kansas State, March 13, 2003 at the Big 12 Basketball Championships in Dallas.**

CU, seeded 10th in the south region, lost to eventual Elite Eight entry Michigan State, 79-64.

**Nov. 26, 2003** — Michel Morandais becomes the 21st player in CU history to score over 1,000 points in his career. He will finish seventh overall (1,428). Later in the season, Blair Wilson reached the 1,000-point barrier on Dec. 31 against Richmond and finished with 1,253 and 14th overall. David Harrison scored his 1,000-point against Kansas (Jan. 5) to finish with 1,317 (11th).

**Dec. 23, 2003** — David Harrison broke the CU record for blocks in a career with three against Utah. Harrison bettered Ted Allen's eight-year mark of 161. Harrison would go on to block 225 shots and after only three years in a CU uniform would hold every blocked shot record category.

**Jan. 17, 2004** — Blair Wilson broke the CU record for career 3-pointers made with six against Iowa State. In that game, Wilson set or tied four school records against the Cyclones making his first six 3-pointers without a miss (CU Record); tying a half



**Andy Osborn made a 3-pointer with 15.9 seconds remaining in overtime lifting CU to a 54-52 win at Iowa State (Jan. 22, 2005), CU's first in Ames since Feb. 19, 1991.**



record (6), tying for 3s made in a conference half, and tying consecutive 3-pointers made.

**Feb. 7, 2004** — Blair Wilson tied his personal best with seven 3-pointers at home against Kansas State. Ironically, it's the second time in his career he has netted seven treys against the Wildcats (Jan. 1, 2002). Wilson also became one of three players to make seven 3-pointers in a game, twice.

**March 6, 2004** — The Buffs won 10 Big 12 Conference games the most since recording 11 back in 1996-97 and earned the number four seed at the conference tournament in Dallas.

**March 17, 2004** — Colorado earned its third NIT berth during Coach Patton's eight years as head coach. Despite David Harrison's 26 points and 12 rebounds, host Oregon was led by Luke Jackson's 40 points in the Ducks, 77-72 victory at Eugene.

**Dec. 21, 2004** — Head Coach Ricardo Patton becomes the second winningest coach at CU getting his 148th career win in



**2011-12 Pac-12 Tournament Championship Team**

the Buffs 74-58 victory over Radford. Patton passes Forrest B. Cox, who coached CU from 1936-50.

**Dec. 28, 2004** — Head Coach Ricardo Patton reaches the 150-win plateau as the Buffs defeat Gardner-Webb, 97-88 at the Coors Events Center.

**Jan. 22, 2005** — Andy Osborn made a 3-pointer with 15.9 seconds remaining lifting CU to a 54-52 overtime win at Iowa State. It's the first win for the Buffaloes in Ames since Feb. 19, 1991, ending a streak of 13 consecutive losses.

**March 10, 2005** — Colorado upset No. 6 Texas, 81-69 in the first round of the Big 12 Tournament becoming the first No. 11 seed to defeat a sixth seed in the nine-year history of the tournament.

**Jan. 14 & 21, 2006** — CU won at Oklahoma State for the first time at Gallagher-Iba Arena since Jan. 12, 1980 (20 games); and at Missouri since the 1996-97 season and only the second time winning at Columbia since Jan. 15, 1973 (a span of 32 games).

**Jan. 28, 2006** — The Buffs started Big 12 play with a 5-2 record, a first since 1996-97. The 5-2 start is the 14th time CU started 5-2 or better in league play in 59 years.

**Feb. 6, 2006** — CU was nationally ranked for the first time since the 1996-97 season (USA Today). They were ranked as the No. 25th team in the USA Today/Coaches' Poll for two straight weeks (Jan. 30-Feb. 5, Feb. 6-12).

**Feb. 25, 2006** — Head Coach Ricardo Patton recorded his 175 career victory when CU defeated Missouri, 78-60.

**Mar. 15, 2006** — CU earned their eighth NIT berth in school history and their 14 wins at home ties the 2002-03 season for home wins.

**Feb. 3, 2007** — Colorado upset No. 12/14 Oklahoma State, 89-77 at the Events Center. The win marks the fifth straight year (since 2002-03) CU has defeated a nationally ranked opponent at home.

**Apr. 4, 2007** — Jeff Bzdelik becomes the 17th men's basketball head coach in the school's history.

**Mar. 13, 2008** — Colorado, seeded No. 12 at the Big 12 Basketball Championship becomes the first 12th seed to defeat a No. 5 seed, upsetting Baylor, 91-84 in double-overtime.

**Mar. 14, 2008** — Richard Roby scores 18 points becoming the school's all-time leading scorer with 2,001 points. He also grabs 10 rebounds for his 11th career double-double.

**Apr. 19, 2010** — Tad Boyle becomes the 18th men's basketball head coach in the school's history.

**Jan. 15, 2011** — Tad Boyle became the first CU head coach to win his first three conference games since Henry Iba (1933-34).

**Feb. 26, 2011** — CU rallies from a 22-point second half deficit — the second largest deficit in school history to stun No. 5/5 Texas, 91-89 at the Coors Events Center. The Buffs scored 58 points and shot 58.1 percent in the second half. Alec Burks scored 33 points.

**Mar. 11, 2011** — CU plays three games in three days falling to eventual conference champion Kansas in the Big 12 Championships semifinal round. It's the first time the Buffs advanced the semifinals in the 15-year history of the tournament. Alec Burks becomes the first CU player to be named to the all-tournament team.

**Mar. 26, 2011** — The Buffs playing in their ninth NIT appearance, advanced to the NIT semifinals for the first time since 1990-91 falling to Alabama, 62-61 at Madison Square Garden. Cory Higgins scored 13 points tying the all-time school mark for career points (2,001) and Alec Burks was named to the all-tournament team.

**Feb. 4, 2012** — Head coach Tad Boyle wins his 40th game in just his 61st game at CU with a 72-71 home win over Oregon tying former head coach Frosty Cox (1935-39) for quickest CU coach to win 40 career games.

**Mar. 7, 2012** — Head coach Tad Boyle won his 100th career college game in the opening round of the Pac-12 Tournament defeating Utah, 53-41.



**On Feb. 26, 2011, CU rallies from a 22-point deficit to shock No. 5 Texas in Boulder. Levi Knutson came off the bench to score 21 points. The 22-point rally ranks second all-time in school history for greatest comeback victories.**



**Mar. 10, 2012** — CU defeated Arizona, 53-51 at Staples Center in L.A. to claim the Pac-12 Championship. CU became the first conference school to win four games in four days and just the 10th team from the “big six” conferences to win four games in four days en route to the conference title. Carlon Brown was named the tournament’s most outstanding player; Brown and Andre Roberson were both named to the all-tournament team.

**Mar. 11, 2012** — Since winning the Pac-12 Championship 24 hours earlier, CU earned the automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament by being named the No. 11 seed in the South Region. It’s the first NCAA Tournament Appearance in nine years (2002-03).

**Mar. 15, 2012** — Seeded No. 11 in the NCAA South Region, CU upset No. 6 and No. 23/25 ranked UNLV, 68-64 in the first round at The Pit in Albuquerque, N.M. The Buffs also tied the school record for wins in a season with 24, previously set in 2010-11.

**Mar. 15, 2012** — Trey Eckloff, Austin Dufault and Nate Tomlinson (2008-2012) became the most successful class over a four-year period with 72 victories. The 72 victories tops the 1996-2000 class of 71.

**Feb. 26, 2012** — CU’s home win over California (70-57) on Senior Day was the 500th game at the Coors Events Center. It’s also the first time in back-to-back seasons CU has drawn over 9,000 average fans in conference play (2010-11: 9,809; 2011-12: 9,160). The win over Cal was the Boyle coaching staff’s 32nd home triumph at the Coors Events Center, a two-year best in history of CU men’s basketball.

**Nov. 18, 2012** — CU defeats Murray State in the Charleston Classic final to win its first in-season tournament since the 2002-03 season winning the Pepsi Classic in Charlotte, N.C. At Charleston, the Buffs behind MVP Askia Booker defeat Dayton (67-57), upset No. 16/17 Baylor (60-58) and the Racers (81-74).

**Nov. 27, 2012** — After winning its first six games to open the season, CU was ranked in the AP poll (#23, then #19) for two weeks. Then were ranked a week in the USA Today top-25 poll at No. 19. It was first time CU was ranked in either poll since the 2005-06 season (USA Today poll).

**Dec. 12, 2012** — Andre Roberson grabs 20 rebounds in a game in CU’s 50-43 win at Fresno State.

**Feb. 9, 2013** — Spencer Dinwiddie made CU history in the 72-68 win at Oregon State (Feb. 9). He recorded the top “perfect game” in Colorado basketball history when he scored the most points ever by a Buffalo without missing a shot (24 pts. (6-of-6 FGs, 8-of-8 FT, 4-of-4 3FGs).

**Mar. 22, 2013** — CU made back-to-back NCAA Tournaments appearances (2011-12 & 2012-13) for the first time since 1961-62 & 1962-63 (50 years). Head Coach Tad Boyle is the first CU head coach since Sox Walthers to lead the Buffs to back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances. For the first time in 112 years of CU basketball, the three consecutive post-season appearances (2010-11 NIT semifinal, 2011-12 NCAA 3rd Round, 2012-13 NCAA 2nd Round) - are a school-first in post-season play. Boyle is the first CU men’s coach to guide the team to three straight 20+ winning seasons.

**Dec. 7, 2013** — Askia Booker forever etched his name in buzzer-beater lore, sinking a 30-footer as time expired as CU upset No. 6 Kansas, 75-72 at the Coors Events Center.

**Dec. 28, 2013** — CU went 26-for-26 from the charity stripe against Georgia, marking their first perfect outing from the line since Feb. 27, 2010 (12-of-12 vs. Iowa State). It also marked the first time in program history a CU squad shot 1,000 from the line while attempting at least 15 FTs. This was just the 10th known time in CU history that CU was perfect from the FT line and just the sixth time with 10 or more FTA.

**Mar. 13, 2014** — Colorado’s last three wins in March were all by the same score, 59-56, the first time that has occurred in program history, including two back-to-back (a 66-65 overtime loss is wedged in there after the first one).

**Mar. 16, 2014** — For the third straight season, the Buffaloes made the NCAA Tournament as the eighth seed in the South Region. CU won 23 games during 2013-14 campaign, the fourth straight year they eclipsed the 20-win plateau.

**Jan. 2, 2015** — Head coach Tad Boyle wins his 100th career CU game defeating UCLA. It’s the first time the Buffs defeat the Bruins since 1962.

**Feb. 7, 2015** — Josh Scott scores 10 points for an even 1,000 career points. He’s the 32nd player in school history to reach that plateau.

**Dec. 22, 2015** — Colorado defeats Penn State 71-70 in the semifinals of the Las Vegas Classic, giving the Buffaloes their 11th straight win, the fifth longest in team history and the best since 1961-62. The Buffaloes won 11 of their first 12 games, their best start to a season since the 1941-42 team won their first 14 en route to the NCAA Final Four.

**Feb. 24, 2016** — Colorado records its 400th win at the Coors Events Center in style by upsetting No. 9/10 Arizona 75-72 in front of a sold out crowd of 11,309.

**Feb. 28, 2016** — Colorado defeated Arizona State 79-69 to record its 21st win of the regular season tying the 2013-14 and 1996-97 teams for the most regular season wins in team history.

**Mar. 17, 2016** — Colorado made its 14th NCAA Tournament appearance in program history and fourth in the past five seasons, but also just the sixth since 1970. Colorado’s No. 8 seed matched its best since national seeding began in 1979.

**Mar. 4, 2017** — Tad Boyle picks up his 148th win as Colorado’s head coach, ranking third all-time in program history.

**Mar. 8, 2017** — Colorado’s comeback from a 19-point deficit against Washington State in the first round of the Pac-12 Tournament was the largest in team history in a postseason game and fourth-largest overall.

**Mar. 15, 2017** — Colorado participates in its 10th Postseason NIT, losing to UCF on the road in the first round. It marked Colorado’s seventh-straight postseason appearance.

**Nov. 19, 2017** — Colorado defeated Mercer 79-70 to win the 2017 Paradise Jam. It was Colorado’s seventh preseason tournament title and just the third on a neutral court. Freshman guard McKinley Wright IV was named the tournament’s Most Valuable Player by averaging 17.7 points and 6.0 rebounds while shooting 61 percent from the field (20-33). He had the game-winning 3-pointer at the buzzer in the first round vs. Quinnipiac and had 11 points and dished out six assists in the championship game. He was the first freshman to be named MVP in the 18-year history of the Paradise Jam.

**Jan. 4-6, 2018** — After an 0-2 start to the Pac-12 season, Colorado turned heads nationally with back-to-back upsets of No. 4/6 Arizona State and No. 14/16 Arizona at the CU Events Center. Colorado claimed wins over ranked teams in back-to-back outings for the first time since defeating #9 Missouri in Boulder and No. 21 Kansas State in Manhattan Jan 8 & 12, 2011. It’s the first time in program history Colorado has defeated AP Top 15 teams in back-to-back games

Colorado was named the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Division I Team of the Week. The Buffaloes earned the same honor from NCAA.com and Dick Vitale. McKinley Wright IV averaged 17.5 points, 7.5 assists and 3.5 rebounds while shooting 50 percent from the field (13 of 26) and made 81.8 percent from the free throw line (9 of 11). He was named National Freshman of the Week by Vitale, the Wayman Tisdale Freshman of the Week by the U.S. Basketball Writers Association and the Pac-12 Player of the Week.



Wesley Gordon