

COLORADO vs. Notre Dame (Orange Bowl), Jan. 1, 1990)

TEAM STATS-N-FACTS

- The Buffaloes were the only undefeated regular season team in college football in 1989, the catalyst to owning the top record in college football since the start of the 1989 season: 21-2-1 (Colorado's 21-1-1 regular season mark is also the best in that time frame, and it's the 26th best two-season record in the NCAA since most colleges went to 11 game schedules in 1971). CU's lone loss this season (23-22 at Illinois) was it's first regular season loss to a non-league opponent since losing to Oregon in 1987.
- The Buffaloes enter this game ranked No. 1 in the nation for the second straight year, and once again need just a win to cinch the school's first ever national championship in football. It's the second time in CU's 101-year football history that the Buffs are the nation's No. 1 team (holding the spot for three polls in 1989 and three so far in 1990).
- Colorado attained its first-ever No. 1 national ranking last November (1989), and followed that up by appearing in the wire service top five in the preseason for the first time since 1972 (AP and UPI had CU No. 5 to open the season). The Buffs finished No. 4 in all major polls following the Orange Bowl loss to Notre Dame last January.
- CU fell in the wire service polls three times after victories this year (after wins over Stanford, Missouri and Iowa State). Colorado slipped from 9th to 14th in the UPI poll and from 11th to 14th in the AP two weeks after the win over Missouri, despite defeating Iowa State the following week. Thus, there were still repercussions to be felt following the controversial finish to the Missouri game.
- Colorado posted a 4-1-1 mark against teams ranked in the top 25 this year (all were ranked at the time CU played them, and all at some point were in the top 12). In fact, if you go by the old days of the Top 20, Colorado is the only team in the nation to have played six Top 20 teams. The Buffs are 3-1-1 against teams playing in 1990 bowls.
- Colorado has been ranked in the AP poll for 32 straight weeks (the low rank was No. 20 after the Sept. 15 Illinois loss), which ties the school record for consecutive weeks ranked in the AP (CU did it 32 weeks in a row between 1971 and 1973). The Buffs have been ranked in the UPI Top 25 for 31 straight weeks and in 34 of the last 35 polls.
- The opponent scored first in nine of the 12 games this season, including in each of the first seven. Tennessee led the Buffs 7-0; Stanford was up 14-0; Illinois was up 3-0; Texas took a 7-0 lead; Washington went ahead of the Buffs 7-0; Missouri took a 7-0 lead, Iowa State was on top 9-0, Oklahoma was up 7-0 and Nebraska led 12-0 (the Huskers took that lead into the fourth quarter).
- Colorado has trailed four times at halftime this season but has rallied to win all four. The Buffs trailed Stanford (14-0) before winning 21-17; were behind Washington (7-3) and won 20-14; spotted Oklahoma a 14-12 lead but rallied for a 32-23 win; and trailed Nebraska going into the fourth quarter before putting a record 27 points on the board in the final stanza for a 27-12 win. CU led Illinois 17-10 at intermission (the only loss) and was tied 10-10 with Tennessee.

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- **SIX-PACK OF HEART STOPPERS...** The first six games of the 1990 season all went down to the wire. The first five games were not decided until the final two minutes (with key plays within scoring range in the final minute in four of them). The sixth game turned out to be the most thrilling of them all, as CU drove 88 yards in 15 plays in the final 2:32, with quarterback Charles Johnson scoring from the one as time expired to give CU a 33-31 win at Missouri (albeit controversial). The six games have been decided by 20 points (0, 4, 1, 7, 6, 2), the closest stretch of six games at any point in a season in CU history (in 1950, there was a six game span separated by 29 points (CU went 2-3-1).
- **COACH BILL MCCARTNEY...** Bill McCartney (Missouri '62) is completing his ninth season at the reins of the CU football program, compiling a 56-46-2 record in that time frame. "Mac" is 49-21-1 since 1985, and is 42-12-1 since the start of the 1986 conference season.) "Mac" is 0-3 against Notre Dame and 0-4 in bowl games. He has been the Buff pilot for 104 games, topped only by Eddie Crowder (119) and Dal Ward (110). Those two along with Fred Folsom and Myron Witham are also the only ones ahead of McCartney in number of seasons coached (Folsom 15, Witham 12, Ward and Crowder 11 each) and in victories (Folsom 77, Crowder 67, Witham and Ward 63 each). In the Big Eight, Mac is 36-26-1 in conference games (32-10 since 1985), and is second only to Tom Osborne of Nebraska in longevity in the league. This past July 26, McCartney signed a new contract (a 15-year deal) to remain at Colorado.
- Colorado's live mascot, Ralphie the Buffalo, is the only such live mascot in the Big Eight Conference, and is one of the premier sights in college football as she leads the Buffs on to the field prior to the start of each half.
- Colorado did not have as quick a climb to the top as some people think, as the Buffs set the table for their recent successes through diligent work, methodically improving annually since 1985. The 49 wins by the Buffs in that time frame are the most by a CU team in a six-year span ever (winning 7, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 10 in the six campaigns).
- Since an 0-4 start in 1986, CU is 42-9-1 in regular season games (0-3 in bowls). The Buffs are 28-7 in Big Eight league games in that time frame (14-2-1 non-conference).
- Since converting to the wishbone in 1985 (and moving to the I-Bone in 1988, Colorado is 49-21-1 overall and has posted the following records (bowl games included):
 - 31-2-1 when rushing for 300 or more yards;
 - 18-19 when held under 300 yards rushing; 4-11 when held under 200);
 - 12-0 when rushing for 400 or more yards;
 - 25-5 when passing for 100-plus yards (4-0 with 200-plus);
 - 28-0-1 when amassing 400-plus yards total offense (11-0 with 500-plus);
 - 13-0 when punting two or fewer times (18-4 with three or fewer);
 - 26-0 when holding opponent to under 100 yards rushing;
 - 29-5 when holding opponent under 300 yards total offense;
 - 32-6 when scoring first (have won 26 of last 28);
 - 24-2 when running more plays than the opponent;
 - 37-2-1 when holding edge in time of possession (12-19 when not);
 - 34-8 when committing two or fewer turnovers (10-1 with zero);
 - 5-8-1 when committing four or more turnovers;
 - 27-1 when converting over 50 percent on third down attempts;
 - 28-2 when making 20-plus first downs;
 - 39-6 when average field position is CU30 or better;
 - 38-7 when holding opponents to 17 points or less (42-7 in Mac Era);
 - 11-0 when two CU players rush for 100-plus yards.

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- Colorado went 11 years (1976 to 1987) before playing a game without committing a turnover. The Buffs have committed zero turnovers in 12 of their last 46 games, with the five they had against Tennessee was the most in a game since 1988 (six against Oklahoma State). The Buffs had only 13 in 1989, the second fewest in the nation, but doubled that total this year with 26.
- Colorado has thrown only 28 interceptions in the last 40 games (505 attempts), and has only 64 turnovers in its last 37 games, less than two per outing.
- Colorado has allowed 40 or more points only twice in the last six seasons (spanning 71 games), and Oklahoma State did it both times (OSU, twice, Tennessee and Missouri are the only teams to score more than 30 on the CU defense in the last 57 games). In 46 of the last 67 regular season games, the opponent has been held to 17 points or less (and to 21 points or less in 54 of the last 71 games).
- As a team, Colorado had 18 interceptions (the team record is 22, set in 1965), giving the Buffs 81 picks in their last 56 games (1.4 per outing). Only one of those is by a down lineman, Tom Reinhardt against Iowa State in 1988; that's the only intercept by a DT, NT, NG, MG, DE, DL, etc. since 1978 (George Visger).
- Colorado's defense held the opponent to zero or minus yardage on 310 of 823 plays this season, an awesome 37.7 percent of the time. On first down, opponents were held to two yards or less on 181 of 340 plays, 53.2 percent of the time. The foe averaged a mere 3.6 yards on first down against CU in 1990.
- **THIRD DOWN TURNAROUND...** After Colorado's 1-1-1 start, the Buffs were a dismal 15-of-48 on third down conversion attempts, a paltry 31.2 percent. The Buffs turned it around the next game (converting 11-of-15 against Texas, a school record 73.3 percent), and clicked at a 55.0 percent rate the remainder of the year (77-of-140). Colorado was 55-of-83 (66.3) on third-and-five or less, and was a respectable 17-of-49 (34.7) on third-and-10 or more. By contrast, the opponent was stifled by the Buffaloes: enemies were just 13-of-97 (13.4 percent) on third-and-seven or longer (and 24-of-99 when passing on third down). If you take out the opponents' 17-of-20 performance on third and one, and the foe clicked at only 25 percent on third down (40-of-160).
- **TWO-MINUTE WARNING...** One thing that Colorado has excelled at in the past two years has been an effective two-minute drill. The Buffs were 9-of-9 in such situations in 1989, but got off to a rocky start in 1990 (scoring only once in its first four tries in the two-minute offense). However, starting with the Washington game, where Darian Hagan drove the Buffs for a quick field goal late in the first half, CU has scored eight straight times when it has gone to the quick shoot offense. Dating back to 1988, when CU scored 10 times out of 12 tries in the drill, the Buffaloes have turned in a score 28 times out of 33 tries.
- Colorado has penetrated the opponents' 20-yard-line 38 times this year, scoring 31 times (23 touchdowns). Since 1988, the Buffs have scored on 112 of 129 penetrations of the opponent 20. The Buffs had 31 scoring plays this year take place outside the 20.
- The opponent scored on 28 of 37 penetrations of CU's 20 (20 for touchdowns) this fall, and have penetrated the CU 20-yard line times (42 touchdowns). CU has allowed only 39 TD's the last 86 times the enemy has cracked the 20 (the other 47 times: 27 field goals and 20 non-scores).
- Once in a goal-to-go situation, the Buffs have been all business. CU had 18 G-T-G's this fall, scoring 16 times (all touchdowns). Since 1985, the Buffs have scored in "goal-to-go" situations 108 of 116 times (93.1 percent), 103 of those scores going for touchdowns. Three of the eight misses came when CU did not try to score late in routs.

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- Of Colorado's 62 total scores on offense this season, half came from inside the 20 and half from outside the 20. Inside the so-called "redzone," the Buffaloes scored 31 of 38 times (23 touchdowns, 8 field goals); amazingly, CU scored one more touch-down from outside the 20 (24) than inside. Mike Pritchard was the biggest threat, as he averaged 48.8 yards for his 11 touchdowns.
- **STATISTICALLY SPEAKING...** Here's where the Buffs ranked in some statistical categories in the Big Eight and in the NCAA for 1990 (rankings are final):

		Big 8	NCAA			Big 8	NCAA
Rushing Offense.....	(271.2)	3rd	6th	Rushing Defense.....	(114.2)	1st	19th
*Passing Offense.....	(160.3)	5th	76th	Rush. Avg. Allowed...	(2.9)	1st	15th
Total Offense.....	(431.3)	2nd	14th	Pass Eff. Defense....	(114.4)	5th	48th
Scoring Offense.....	(32.4)	3rd	15th	Total Defense.....	(309.3)	3rd	25th
Net Punting.....	(37.2)	4th	22nd	Scoring Defense.....	(18.3)	3rd	29th
Kickoff Returns.....	(17.2)	8th	97th	Turnover Margin.....	(0.00)	5th	52nd
Punt Returns.....	(14.9)	1st	4th				

*--Colorado ranked third nationally in yards gained per attempt (9.4) behind Army (11.9) and Virginia (9.5). Colorado was second in yards per attempt (19.6; Army led with 25.8).

Individually, **Eric Bieniemy** was second in the league and nation in rushing (148.0 per game, Oklahoma State's Gerald Hudson led with 149.3), was seventh nationally in scoring (9.3, which led the Big Eight), and was fourth in the country in all-purpose yardage (165.3; also tops in the league); **Dave McCloughan** led the nation in punt returns (16.4); **Mike Pritchard** led the Big Eight in yards per reception (26.1); was third in the league and 31st nationally in all-purpose yardage (126.3), and was third in the Big Eight in receiving yards per game (61.1); **Darian Hagan** was fifth in the Big Eight in total offense (165.0 per game; Bieniemy was sixth at 149.4). Hagan was third in the league in pass efficiency (137.7); **Jim Harper** was sixth in the conference in both field goals and scoring (43rd and 49th respectively in the NCAA); **Tom Rouen** was third in the league in punting (40.8), which was 31st nationally; **Tim James** was second in the league and 21st nationally in interceptions (six, .50 per game). **Alfred Williams** led the Big Eight in quarterback sacks (12.5), with **Garry Howe** tops in the league in tackles for losses (22; Williams was second). **Greg Biekert** led the conference in tackles (150), with Howe leading all down lineman (96).

- Colorado is now 12-0 on its new turf at Folsom Field (going 6-0 in both 1989 and 1990). The Buffs won nine straight on the initial artificial turf at Folsom (1971-72) and five straight on the new second carpet (1978). CU has won 66 percent of the time through the years at home, regardless of the surfacing, and have won 14 in a row dating back to 1988, just one shy of tying the school mark (set between 1908 and 1912).
- The Buffs were 4-1 on the road this year (wins at Texas, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, with the lone loss at Illinois; the tie with Tennessee was on a neutral surface). The Buffs have won 15 of the last 17 times away from Boulder in regular season play, and are 22-8 on the road since 1985.
- A total of six Colorado football seniors will have graduated by the time the Buffs take the field on New Year's Night. Linebackers Rob Hutchins and Scott DeGoler will have graduated in December, joining four other Buffs who received their sheepskin in August (David Brown, David Gibbs, Tim James and Dave McCloughan).
- This will be Colorado's second game on grass in 1990, as the Buffaloes opened the season on the real stuff against Tennessee in the Disneyland/Pigskin Classic. The Orange Bowl will be only the 13th game since 1980 (out of 127) that CU will play on grass (the Buffs are 3-8-1 in those games, including an 0-4 mark in bowls). The last bowl game that CU won on grass was the 1969 Liberty Bowl, when the Buffs beat Alabama, 47-33.

(key player sketches follow)

PLAYER STATS-N-FACTS(1) Eric Bieniemy, TB (UNANIMOUS ALL-AMERICAN, UPI BACK-OF-THE-YEAR)

- The nation's second leading rusher in 1990, averaging 148.0 yards per contest (1,628 total). He lost the title on the final day of the season when Gerald Hudson rushed for 274 yards, most coming after CU's game was already over.
- Finished third in the Heisman Trophy balloting, and he was selected as UPI's Offensive Back-of-the-Year. He gathered in 114 first place votes and 798 points for the Heisman.
- Is Colorado's all-time leading rusher (3,940 yards) and scorer (254 points), taking over both positions this season. He's also the first CU back to eclipse the 1,000-yard mark in two different seasons.
- His 1,628 yards this season established a Colorado single season standard at CU, and his 1,243 yards as a sophomore is the fourth-best season total. He probably would have set a single season record that year had he not pulled a hamstring in the first quarter in the next-to-last game of the season, forcing him to miss most of the two games.
- Needs 153 yards against Notre Dame to become CU's all-time postseason rushing leader.
- Of the 11 games he played in, he only saw action in the fourth quarter in seven of them (and for only one series against Oklahoma). He gained only 275 yards of his season total in the fourth quarter (on 59 carries, 4.7 per), but came up with seven touchdowns in the quarter... three of them game winners (Stanford, Texas and Nebraska).
- He was one of seven finalists for the Walter Camp Foundation's "Player-of-the-Year," and also finished third in the Maxwell Award voting.
- Is CU's all-time all-purpose yards leader as well, with 4,351 yards.
- Ripped the Nebraska defense for 137 yards and four touchdowns (NU had allowed only one rushing TD prior to the CU game). His numbers would have been better had he not been credited with a 21-yard loss on a fumble that took a nasty backward bounce.
- Has rushed for 100 yards in 10 of his 11 games this season, missing only against Texas, when he had 99 yards (in all the others he gained at least 115 yards). He sat out the Tennessee game, serving a one-game suspension for a minor altercation with fire department officials from Aurora (Colo.) in early July. He received an eight month deferred sentence after pleading no contest to the charges (that's leagalese for not admitting guilt but to work the matter out).
- Colorado is 18-3 in games when he has rushed for 100 or more yards (18-2 regular season). He has the school record for the most regular season 100-yard games, 20, in CU history, as well as the most in a season (10), and most consecutive (eight).
- Eric is third in total offense (4,003) at Colorado, and is only one of seven players at the school to eclipse the 3,000 yard mark. Darian Hagan is currently second with 4,194 yards, passing Bieniemy in the final game of the regular season.
- Suffered a clean break of his right fibula (leg) bone in the 1989 Iowa State game, which forced him to miss the last five games of the season (he got in for a play against Nebraska, an option pass, and Kansas State), but was at 100 percent for the Orange Bowl. In that game, he rushed for 66 yards on 11 carries. Though he played half a season, he was still an honorable mention all-American by The Sporting News.
- A unanimous first-team All-Big Eight selection as a sophomore, and garnered honorable mention all-America honors.
- Finished sixth in the nation in rushing in 1988, averaging 124.3 yards per game. He rushed for 100-plus yards seven times (which tied the school record at the time).
- A favorite with the fans in Boulder because of his diminutive stature (5-foot-7). He's got a pair of nicknames, "Scooter," and "E.B."
- His best single-game effort came against Missouri this year, when he rushed for 217 yards and three touchdowns.
- Has worked as a teacher's aide (4th grade) at University Hill Grade School in Boulder.
- The only current member of the team to be selected to CU's "All-Century" Team, which was selected through a unique balloting system which involved both lettermen and fans.
- Has good speed (4.39 in the 40) and strength (owns a 500-pound squat); his running style is comparable to Barry Sanders, as both are very hard to bring down.
- A second-team USA Today All-American in high school, as he rushed for 2,002 yards and 30 touchdowns his senior year at Bishop Amat in La Puente, Calif.

(2) Deon Figures, CB

- Had an impressive 13 tackles (10 solo) in the season opener against Tennessee, his first game in two years, and has 71 on the year with 58 of those solo stops.
- Has four interceptions in his career: two two-pick games, against Iowa State in 1988 and against Washington this year, including a game-saver with 0:59 left.
- Displaced David Gibbs as the starting right cornerback with a week left in fall drills. Figures started the last five regular season games as a freshman in 1988, along with the Orange Bowl, and probably would have started last year had he not been serving a disciplinary suspension.
- An honorable mention all-Big Eight player (AP) as a freshman.
- Was a member of the boys' choir at Compton High School.

(3) Darian Hagan, QB

- Has had more than his fair share of injuries this season, which have all but eliminated him from Heisman contention. He had a sprained finger and a slightly torn tendon (against Tennessee), a sprained ankle and shoulder sprain (against Washington). He reinjured the shoulder against Missouri and did not start against Iowa State.
- Colorado is 19-2-1 in games he has started; 25-4-1 in games he has appeared in.
- He has excelled in directing the Buffs to scores in the two-minute drill, as he has led CU to scores 15 times in 17 opportunities in his career (9-of-9 in 1989).
- Finished the season on a hot streak, as he became the first Buff quarterback since 1984 to pass for over 200 yards in back-to-back games (against Oklahoma State and Kansas State). He ended the year with 1,980 yards of total offense, including a CU single-season record 1,538 passing yards.
- Has moved into second place on CU's all-time total offense chart (4,194 yards, which includes 2,573 passing yards, which is fourth all-time at Colorado).
- Is in 14th place on the school's rushing charts (1,621 yards), and is 12th on the scoring chart (144 points).
- Finished fifth in the Heisman Trophy balloting (52 first place votes; 292 points) as a sophomore in 1989. He was just happy to make his first-ever trip to New York.
- He was selected The Sporting News' "Player-of-the-Year" in college football for 1989.
- Selected as the Big Eight's 1989 Offensive player-of-the-year by AP and UPI.
- Became the sixth player in NCAA history (the first and only ever in the Big Eight Conference) to rush and pass for 1,000 yards in the same season (1,004 rushing and 1,002 passing) in 1989. Ironically, three players did it in '89... Hagan's feat is even more awesome when it is realized that he played in roughly 33 of the 44 quarters.
- His 2,006 yards of total offense in 1989 was the second most ever at Colorado, with his 1,980 this season the third best season effort.
- Led the Buffs to scores an amazing 61 percent of the drives he engineered (63 scores in 104 drives) in 1989. CU averaged 3.78 points per drive he engineered. This season, those numbers were down a bit, but were still healthy: the Buffs scored on 40 percent of the drives he started, and CU averaged 2.38 points per drive.
- Became the first CU quarterback since 1975 to complete over 50 percent of his passes by connecting on 48 of 85 attempts for 56.5 percent in 1989.
- Rushed for 100-plus yards five times in 1989, a CU record by a quarterback, and also did it in the Orange Bowl. He did it once in 1990 (Stanford), so that's seven times in his career he's topped the century mark (CU is 6-1 in those games).
- An excellent baseball player; in fact, he was drafted this past summer (40th round) as a shortstop by the Toronto Bluejays in the 1990 Amateur Draft.
- Has the ability to throw the ball with both arms. He's a natural right hander, but has scrambled to his left in practice and has thrown, with decent strength and accuracy, with his left arm. He has pitched the ball with both arms in a game, and threw for the first time with his left arm against Illinois (a seven-yard completion to Bieniemy).
- Did not have enough plays to letter as a freshman (71; needed 100), but did see action for two fourth quarter drives in the Freedom Bowl (field goal, interception).
- Is big-time scared of heights; did not want to visit any of the tall sites in New York City on his Heisman Trophy visit.
- A very distant cousin of Walter Payton (see press guide for detailed explanation).

(4) Charles Johnson, QB

- Made college football "lore" by scoring on what turned out to be fifth down against Missouri to win the game for CU. But he's quick to remind people that he wouldn't have spiked the ball on what he thought was third down if he had known it was really fourth.
- Stepped in to start two games (Missouri and Iowa State) in Darian Hagan's place, and performed admirably. For the year, he's directed the team to eight scores in 25 drive opportunities (five TD's). He engineered CU's 15-play, 88-yard touchdown drive in the final 2:24 to win the Missouri game.
- Is the team's holder on placements... a tough job in that he's replacing Jeff Campbell, who 'held' the job for four years. Campbell, who is now with the NFL Detroit Lions, didn't muff one in four years (200-plus tries).
- A very capable backup to Hagan, and looks great when he's in there with the first-team linemen. A very flashy runner who has proven that he can make the smart decision at quarterback. He has had clutch drives in a pair of situations when Hagan had to leave the lineup (against Washington and Kansas).
- Rejoined the team midway through the 1989 spring practice, as he was going to leave school due to financial problems (as an out-of-state walk-on, he was faced with major expenses). He worked them out, and has since earned a scholarship.
- President of CU's Black Student Alliance, and is a member of Students for Campus Unity.
- Has "custody" of his younger brother, Chris, 17, as Chris is a junior at Boulder's Fairview High School. His mother let Chris move in with Charles so Chris could get a better education than in his native inner Detroit. Chris is much taller (6-4) and is on the Knights' basketball team.

(5) O.C. Oliver, WB

- Saw limited action this fall (kickoff coverage unit, a few scrimmage plays), but his eight yard scamper for a touchdown against Kansas State brought the house down at Folsom Field. It was O.C.'s first score since 1986.
- Was switched to wingback in 1989, his third position in as many years. In 1988, he was switched from halfback to cornerback during spring ball, but never really adjusted to the position. He was moved back to halfback (which eventually meant tailback in the CU offense) one week into the '89 season, and then was redshirted.
- Saw limited action in 1987, as he missed the first game of the year with a slightly separated shoulder and never worked his way back into the lineup.
- Oliver was brought along on a schedule in 1986, seeing increased action as the season progressed, and he wound up gaining 668 yards, a new freshman record at Colorado.
- He was only the second freshman to ever lead CU in rushing, joining Lee Rouson (currently of the NFL New York Giants) who gained 656 in 1981.
- Actual first name is Darius (O.C. is a nickname that has stuck with him since his grandmother called him that when he was a youngster). Very few people call him Darius, just some friends and relatives in Louisiana.
- Uncle (Marcus Anderson) played collegiately at Tulane and was a five-year NFL veteran as a wide receiver.
- Was runnerup to Oklahoma State's QB Mike Gundy for the 1986 Big Eight Conference's Newcomer-of-the-Year.

(6) Eric Hamilton, SS

- CU's nickel back in passing situations, as he has the most plays (193) of all the non-starters on defense.
- Led the Buffs in "special teams points" with 24, on the strength of 12 solo stops on punt and kickoff coverage. A fierce competitor, he's one of the toughest hitters on the team... he has had several clutch tackles and knockdown blocks on special teams the last two years.
- Still carries a souvenir of sorts around in his body, albeit not a pleasant one; he was an innocent bystander in a drive-by shooting over Christmas break (Jan. 1989) and took a bullet in his chest. It's lodged deep inside him and offers no health threats.

(9) Mike Pritchard, WR

- A big play man for CU... he has 133 career touches (rushes, receptions, returns) for 2,525 yards (19.0 per touch). Minus kick returns (31 for 687 yards), it's a healthy 18.0 average every time he has touched the ball.
- Scored 11 touchdowns this fall, to the tune of 48.8 yards per score. For his career, he scored 15 touchdowns, which averaged out to 41.7 yards per play.
- Is second on the all-time CU receiving yards list (1,241), as climbed into the spot on the strength of his school record 733 yards this season.
- For the season opener, he was moved from wide receiver to tailback, although he actually started the game at wingback, his 1989 position. He has demonstrated the ability to play all three quite well.
- Rushed for a career high 217 yards against Tennessee... actually he more than doubled his previous career yardage (146 going in). It was the sixth best rushing day in CU history and the top effort in a season opener.
- May be the only player in history who went from 217 rushing yards to zero between games without being injured... but he caught two passes for 41 yards in the Stanford win.
- Named the Big Eight Offensive Player-of-the-Week (and the CU Athlete-of-the-Week) for his efforts against the Volunteers, the first time he has won either award.
- Touched the ball twice in CU's 33-31 win at Missouri, for a 69 yard average: he ran a reverse in from 68 yards for a score and caught another for 70 yards for another TD.
- Moved to wide receiver in spring practice and looked good there, although he has practiced at all three positions for the Tennessee game.
- Became the first Buff to have two touchdown receptions in a game since 1984 when he did it at Iowa State last October (1989).
- Third on the team in pass receiving in 1988, with seven catches, and averaged a whopping 30.9 yards per reception -- and that was second on the team.
- Averaged an impressive 6.9 yards per carry as a freshman (17 carries, 117 yards).
- Was the Nevada Player-of-the-Year his senior season at Las Vegas' Rancho High School, as he rushed for over 1,200 yards.

(10) Tom Rouen, P (ALL-AMERICAN CANDIDATE)

- Kicked inconsistently the last few games, and he's even searching for the reasons. He suffered a groin pull on his next-to-last kick against Stanford and didn't kick during practice the next week. He hasn't kicked as consistent since the injury but he doesn't use it as an excuse. He's also had an inordinate number of kicks into stiff winds and inside the 50-yard-line.
- Earlier this season, he had a career effort in back-to-back games (64 yards against Stanford, and 65 against Illinois), both kicks of which pinned the enemy inside the two (the one against Illinois led to a safety, and the Stanford one helped turn the game around for CU). A pooch 35-yarder at Texas also led to a safety.
- A Playboy Preseason All-American, the magazine's first acknowledgement of a CU punter.
- A consensus All-American in 1989 (AP, UPI, Writers, Camp), CU's fourth in the last five years at punter. He was consensus all-Big 8, the fifth straight year for CU punters.
- In '89, he averaged 45.9 yards per punt, as he became the second straight CU punter to lead the nation (Keith English did it in 1988).
- His net average, 43.8, also topped the NCAA, as Colorado's punt coverage team is the nation's best since 1985 (averaging a net of 41.9, three yards up on Auburn).
- He averaged 47.8 yards on punts inside the CU 30 last season.
- Had the task of filling a position that has seen two consensus All-Americans the last four years: Keith English (1988) and Barry Helton (1985, 1986). Helton is now the punter for the San Francisco 49ers; English signed as a free agent with the Chargers.
- Transferred to Colorado from intrastate rival Colorado State because he felt that the CU coaching staff emphasized the punt more (since Mike Hankwitz arrived at CU in 1985, the Buffs have had three consensus All-America punters and five all-Big Eight punters).
- Very active in community relations, as he often speaks at high schools and to young people in the Denver-Boulder metro area.

(12) Dave McCloughan, CB

- Led the nation in punt returns this season (16.4 average), becoming the second Buff to lead the country in that category (Homer Cook's 10.1 in 1958 topped the NCAA).
- Has two touchdowns on punt returns (55 yards against Tennessee, 90 yards at Kansas), the first CU player to return multiple kicks for touchdowns since 1971 (Cliff Branch returned four punts for scores that season).
- Suffered a fractured nose and a deviated septum in practice the Wednesday prior to the Tennessee game. He was sore for the game, but played with a special face mask and went out and had an interception, eight tackles, and became the first CU player since 1981 to return a punt for a touchdown.
- Has four interceptions (for 75 yards in returns), and with his 599 punt return yards, he has accounted for 69% of Colorado's return yardage (kickoffs not included).
- He was a first-team all-Big Eight pick by the league coaches at punt returner, and was a third-team pick as a cornerback (he was second-team by UPI and honorable mention by AP). He was a second-team (coaches) in 1989.
- Switched from right corner to the left side the first week of August drills in 1989 and has remained on the left side since.
- A two-time academic all-Big Eight selection, he has already graduated (marketing) and is currently enrolled in CU's M.B.A. program.
- Suffered a knee injury in the 1988 Iowa game (on the play, he forced Chuck Hartlieb to fumble, ending what would have been a clinching scoring threat by the Hawkeyes on the CU 15. The Buffs then drove 85 yards for the winning score). He had an arthroscope on the knee the next day and missed just the next game.
- Was given a shot at playing halfback in the spring of 1987 (after he was redshirted in 1986 -- he suffered a fracture of the fibula bone in his left leg. He did heal enough so he could practice with the team for its Bluebonnet Bowl drills). He was returned to cornerback for the fall of 1987.
- In the first series of his career, he intercepted a pass late in the fourth quarter against Kansas. However, on the very next play, Willie Vaughn beat him enroute to a 98-yard touchdown (which tied a Big Eight record). Quite an interesting debut.
- At one time, he was a member of CU's track team (long jump). He owned the team's second best leap last spring at 21-7 1/4 (1988).
- Father (Kent) played collegiately at Nebraska and six years with the Oakland Raiders.

(14) Pat Blottiaux, PK

- Started kicking barefoot following the Orange Bowl and kicked shoeless during the spring and season. He made good all three extra points and his only field goal (47 yards), which were all in the Kansas State game.
- Redshirted last year and played in two games in 1988 as a freshman.
- Dates Buffy Romero, a junior on the nationally ranked CU volleyball team.

(15) David Gibbs, CB

- Displaced as a starter by Deon Figures in August drills, but sees special teams action.
- Suffered a slight concussion late in the Tennessee game, but was okay the next day. He suffered another against Washington, and will be monitored closely by CU's sports medicine staff if he comes close to another.
- Had two interceptions as a starter in 1989. He performed well, considering that he stepped into the starter job in August (due to a pair of team suspensions).
- The son of Alex Gibbs, the offensive line coach of the NFL Los Angeles Raiders. Joined the team as a walkon in 1986, but was redshirted. He was second on the team in 1987 in special team points (several statistical categories for CU special teams), and was rewarded with a scholarship in the offseason for his efforts.
- He was second on team in special team points in 1987 with 23, as he had eight tackles (three solo, all inside the 20), and had eight pressures on opponent punt, PAT or FG attempts. It necessitated a jersey change, as he wore 18 for the first four games, but his playing time improved to where he was issued his own number -- 15. (He was in a duplicate jersey which was worn by M.J. Nelson).
- A two-time member of the Big Eight Honor Roll, he has already graduated (marketing) and is currently enrolled in CU's M.B.A. program.

(16) Jim Harper, PK

- Made good on a 54-yarder against Illinois, and nailed three straight 57-yard efforts in practice leading up to the game. Has a low trajectory on his kicks, part of the reason that he has had three blocked this season.
- Made 41-of-41 PAT's, as CU kickers have made 110 straight PAT's in regular season play.
- Has put 29 of 68 kickoffs into or through the end zone for touchbacks; the opponent's starting yardline is the 22 on all his kicks (the 24 on just returns).
- The winner in a fierce August battle at placekicker, and handled kickoffs and placements against Tennessee (4-4 XP, 1-2 FG, the miss was blocked). He thus won the job permanently with that performance.
- The last player to sign a scholarship in the '90 recruiting year for the Buffs, as he earned several California JUCO honors after a stellar career at L.A. Valley College.

(17) Tim James, FS

- Has 13 career interceptions, including two against Tennessee in the Pigskin Classic, the first multiple pick game of his career. The theft against Washington moved into sole possession of third place on CU's all-time pick list (the leader has 16, the runnerup 14).
- Was second in the Big Eight in interceptions (six), and was 21st in the NCAA.
- A unanimous first-team all-Big Eight selection (AP, UPI, Coaches).
- Moved back over to the strong side this past spring after playing the 1989 season on the free side.
- Has started 36 straight games (including two bowls), tied for the longest on the team.
- Switched from the strong side to the free side in 1989 spring practice, and had trouble at first adapting to the new position. He did just that in August drills, finally looking at home at the position after two-a-days.
- A very active player on CU's special teams as well, as he had seven solo tackles on kick coverage last season.
- Has already graduated (sociology) and is currently taking graduate courses in criminology at CU. He had an offer to join the Los Angeles Police Academy this past summer, but he elected to play his senior year. He is interested in corrections work once his football days are over.

(19) Greg Biekert, ILB

- Led the Big Eight in tackles (150), and probably is among the national top 10 (tackle statistics are not kept nationally).
- Named the Big Eight's Defensive Player-of-the-Week for his effort against Illinois. In that game, he had 20 tackles (including a school record 19 solo), three of which were for losses. One of those was for a safety, and he also added a special teams tackle.
- Had an impressive outing in his first career start against Tennessee: 13 tackles (eight solo), two for losses and a pass broken up. He had 17 last week against Oklahoma.
- A player the coaches have been keen on since his arrival at CU. Has seen action at both inside and outside 'backer (he backed up Kanavis McGhee a year ago), and moved permanently to an inside spot this past spring.
- Won the Fred Casotti Award for the team's top junior-to-be following spring practice. The award is gauged on the year in the program as opposed to athletic eligibility.
- Wore #53 last year, and temporarily relocated into #49 for two days earlier in August drills. He didn't like the number, so he moved into #19 instead.

(21) Dwayne Davis, FS

- See some action in CU's nickel defensive package, as well as on special teams (he is on the coverage teams and also returns kickoffs).
- Is third on the team in "special team" points with 16, as he has earned points in five different categories.
- High school teammate of Chris Jackson, the Denver Nuggets number one draft pick (and the NBA's third overall) in the league's June 1990 draft. Davis and Jackson were guards at Gulfport (Miss.) High School.

(22) George Hemingway, FB

- The man who nailed Coach Mac with a jug of ice water on Mac's 50th birthday last week.
- Is in the top condition of his CU career, and is a double threat out of the fullback position. He has demonstrated that he can break the long run (is tough to tackle), and has exceptional hands and is a weapon as a receiver.
- Has moved his way into 55th place on CU's all-time rushing list (659 yards).
- Top game of career came against Texas earlier this season, as he rushed seven times for 76 yards and caught three passes for 54 yards, including a 38-yard TD pass from Hagan.
- Against Iowa State, he earned six first downs in seven touches.
- His running against Washington in 1989 (5 carries, 44 yards), helped CU break Washington's defensive game plan, paving the way for a 45-28 win.
- Had a trial at halfback in the spring of 1988, but was moved back to fullback in fall drills the same year.
- Was switched from fullback to tight end on first an experimental basis after CU's first game in 1987, and got into the lineup at the position for the first time on a PAT kick for the injured Troy Wolf). He went on to start five games that season.
- Lost his father (George, Sr., complications from a kidney transplant) in the summer of 1989, but he said the experience helped him mature. He went through a tumultuous season nonetheless, and it all reached a boil when he was sent home from the Orange Bowl for violating team rules.
- Several schools backed off this high school All-American because of his academics, but Hemingway passed the ACT with room to spare and was admitted with no problem to CU.
- A second-team USA Today All-American his senior year at Colton (Calif.) High School, as he led the state of California in rushing with 2,245 yards.

(25) Mark Henry, WR

- A player who has paid his dues and has seen a good amount of action this season. He was hobbled for awhile (sprained ankle, he did not travel to Missouri). With Mike Pritchard playing at tailback, he was a "co-starter" for the Tennessee game.
- Caught two passes for 54 yards against Kansas State, including his first career TD.
- Played as a prep at Fleming High School, located on the northeaster Colorado plains.
- Though he is not listed as such on the roster, he was CU's backup punter the past two years and can perform the duties in an emergency situation.
- Sister, Mindy, plays on Colorado's women's basketball team (she's a sophomore).

(27) Greg Thomas, FS

- Made his first career start against Tennessee, and played well at times. Has developed nicely and with marked improvement through the season's initial eight games.
- Had the special teams play of the game against Oklahoma, as he blocked a Sooner field goal attempt late in the first half, causing the momentum to switch to CU's side.
- Had two key defensive plays against Kansas, as he intercepted a pass and recovered a fumble, one ending a KU scoring threat and the other setting up a CU score.
- One of, if not the biggest hitter on the team. He put wide receiver Rico Smith out of practice for three days during two-a-days with a fierce hit to the waist.
- At one time, he had decided to transfer from CU. He changed his mind during the spring of 1989 and eventually came back out for the team.

(32) Dave Brown, TE

- Switched over to offense this past spring, as he will play tight end his senior year. He has looked good at the position and is tied for second-team honors on the depth chart. He caught his first career pass for seven yards against Kansas.
- Had a clutch catch in the Nebraska game, which set up CU's go-ahead touchdown.
- Third on the team in 1989 with 17 special team points (highlighted by 12 solo tackles; his top defensive game was against Oklahoma State: six tackles and a fumble recovery).
- Was to contend for starting honors at inside linebacker in 1989, but never really threatened those ahead of him for the job. A disciplinary suspension for the Texas game probably hurt him.
- Has already graduated (sociology) and is currently taking graduate courses in criminology at CU.

(33) James Hill, FB

- The latest in a long line of versatile CU fullbacks, as he can run with style and determination and also catch the ball, a key at the position in the CU offense.
- He had a spectacular 22-yard catch against Iowa State on a crucial third down play right before halftime which eventually led to CU's go-ahead score in the game.
- Has shown that he's hard to bring down, as he broke three tackles enroute to the Oklahoma three-yard line this year; his 14-yard run set up CU's clinching touchdown.

(34) Chad Brown, ILB

- Played as a redshirt freshman in 1989, and the coaches have really been high on him since his first day in pads... his playing time increased weekly in 1989, and he even started one game (Oklahoma State) as a freshman (seven tackles in that contest).
- Forged his way to the top of the depth chart midway through August drills. A late season bout with mononucleosis limited his playing time the final four games.
- Was held out of spring ball as he completed rehabilitation for broken collarbone (an old injury which had been bothering him).
- A solid hitter, and he seldom needs to finish a tackle... 45 of 50 stops in '89 were solo, and 72 of 106 this year are unassisted.
- A good special teams player... he was fifth in special team points last season.
- Has one of the more interesting hobbies on the team, if not in college football: he collects and breeds both snakes and lizards. Through the summer of 1990, he had 11 snakes (3 pythons, 2 boa constrictors, 2 California Kings, 2 green snakes and 2 northern pines) and four lizards (2 iguanas, 2 solomon's isle monkey tail skinks).

(35) Chuck Snowden, TB

- Has a smooth, slashy running style which makes him a very capable backup to Bieniemy at tailback. He's gained 121 yards on only 18 carries (6.7 per), as he is tough to bring down (he's spurted free after several defensive first hits).
- His father is a regular attendee at CU's practices (his parents live in Boulder).

(42) Michael Simmons, WB

- Can see action at any of three positions: tailback, wingback and fullback, and he made his first start at tailback since 1987 against Tennessee (rushed 9 times for 52 yards). He returned to his starting position at wingback against Stanford.
- Caught his first career pass (for 11 yards) against Tennessee, and his second career reception went for a 32-yard touchdown against Illinois. He has two touchdown catches in four career catches, not a bad percentage.
- Returned to the team in 1989 after serving a one year suspension (personal reasons). He came back with a vengeance, as he is averaged 7.8 yards per carry last fall.
- Top game was against Oregon in 1987, the first of his career. He gained 142 yards on 18 carries as a redshirt freshman in the 10-7 loss to the Ducks.
- His locker is next to Eric Bieniemy's, thus the nature of his biggest complaint: with all of Eric's media attention, he can't get to his locker after games.
- Celebrated his second wedding anniversary (Rebecca) on Sept. 2. He is one of three players on the team who are married.
- Clubbed a softball 350-feet (over a fence) for a three-run homer in the Seniors 21-18 win over the Football Staff this past summer. Hitting from the left side, he sent a softball about as far as those present had ever seen.

(46) Paul Rose, OLB

- Has seen limited action at outside 'backer in his career (53 plays last season, 69 this year), but contributes several other ways, most notably on special teams.
- One of the top special teams players on the the Buffs; he led CU in special team points with 25 in 1989, highlighted by 15 tackles and six knockdown blocks. He was second on the team this year (21 points), with a team-high seven knockdowns.
- Wore #50 the first two-plus seasons of his career before switching to #46 midway through his junior year. The reason for that became known in CU's 20-14 win against Washington, as he caught a 24-yard pass from Tom Rouen out of the punt formation. He had to switch to a eligible receiver number to be legal for that play.

(48) Terry Johnson, ILB

- Started 10 games a year ago, and played very well. He was to compete with David Brown for the starting role, but Chad Brown emerged and eventually shared time with T.J.
- Johnson's been displaced primarily by Brown and the emergence of Greg Biekert as a force at inside linebacker (Biekert was moved from OLB in the spring). He did see a lot of action late in the season, and he started the last three games with Brown out due to sickness. He's a starter heading into bowl week.
- First start of his career came in the '88 game against Oklahoma State, subbing for the injured Don DeLuzio.
- "T.J." led the nation in interceptions for one week -- he plucked off two in the season opener vs. Fresno State: one of five Buffs to have two interception games since 1987.
- Celebrated his first wedding anniversary on Sept. 23 (Michelle), as he proceeded down the isle during CU's open week in 1989. Unfortunately, that same night was when Sal Aunese passed away.

(52) Jay Leeuwenburg, OC

- The unanimous all-Big Eight center in 1990 (AP, UPI, Coaches).
- An honorable mention all-Big Eight selection (UPI) in 1989, and has been tabbed as a preseason All-American (first and second team) by several preseason publications.
- Played his best game of the season against Oklahoma, as position coach Mike Barry said he dominated in the trenches. He was CU's offensive nominee for Big Eight player-of-the-week in that game.
- Did not have a muffed center-quarterback exchange in 600-plus snaps in 1989, and the same happened in 1990 over 799 snaps, which was the second most plays on the team by any player (offense or defense).
- Had the task of replacing All-Big Eight center Erik Norgard, who is one of two Buffs to garner first-team league honors at the position in the last three seasons (Eric Coyle did it in 1986).
- The coaches felt he would develop into an excellent center, and their call was correct; the talent around him last year (three all-Big Eighters) helped him mature.
- An english major, he will graduate prior to his senior year (either next May or August) and will work for his certification as a teacher (preferably high school in english). He also has an interest in becoming a football coach on the prep level.
- A diabetic since eighth grade, he gives himself two shots of insulin daily and is monitored by CU's sports medicine staff. He has to eat three square meals fairly close to a daily schedule, so a team "brunch" really throws him out of kilter.

(62) Joe Garten, OG (UNANIMOUS ALL-AMERICAN; OUTLAND TROPHY RUNNER-UP)

- Started all 12 games, and had 73 pancake (eyes-to-the sky) blocks for a 6.1 average per game. He was in for 739 snaps this season, and graded out to 86 percent. He allowed just one sack and was called for one penalty this season.
- Dating to last year, he's allowed two sacks and was called for one penalty in over 1,400 plays. In his career, he has been in for over 2,400 plays, and has allowed just three sacks and has been flagged for just two penalties.
- Selected as one of the two team captains (along with Alfred Williams) following CU's non-conference season. With so many seniors, the coaches wanted leaders to emerge before allowing the players to select their captains.
- Runner-up for the Outland Trophy, as he was one of three finalists for the honor (it was won by Miami's Russell Maryland).
- One of three Buffs who was nominated for the Lombardi Award. Only 12 players were on the committee's initial nomination list, and CU had three of those. Kanavis McGhee and Alfred Williams were the other Buffs nominated, and they all but cancelled each other out in the voting as none advanced to the final four.

Garten, continued

- Colorado's first consensus all-American lineman since 1970 (Don Popplewell), as he was named to the AP, UPI, Kodak and Writers teams. He was the first CU guard to receive national accolades since 1968 (Mike Montler). With his earning consensus honors this season, he joins Joe Romig as the only lineman at Colorado to ever repeat that feat, and is one of five two-time consensus All-Americans at CU (three of which earned the nod this year).
- One of CU's first three unanimous All-Americans, as he was named to the five teams that the NCAA recognizes for that accomplishment (AP, UPI, AFCA/Kodak, FWA, Camp). He was joined by teammates Eric Bieniemy and Alfred Williams in the unanimous honor.
- Started all 11 games at left guard as a redshirt frosh, as he has become CU's first four year starter on the offensive line. Has 44 career starts to his credit, as he broke Mickey Pruitt's school record of 39 at Kansas on Oct. 20. The only time he didn't start, he didn't play (ironically, he missed the 1988 game at Kansas with a sprained ankle). He has started 30 straight games since that injury.
- Has been named CU's lineman of the week 11 times in his career, a top honor when you look at the strength of CU's offensive line.
- Won the Derek Singleton Award, as he was selected by the CU coaching staff for the honor which goes to the player who shows the most spirit, dedication and enthusiasm.
- From an athletic family: his brother (Steve) played football at UNLV; his sister (Donna) volleyball at Cal-State Fullerton.
- The strongest player on the team, with 1,307 total pounds to his credit in the August conditioning drills... He is tied for a team-high 455 pound bench press and also has a 545 pound squat to his credit.
- Nicknamed "Big Daddy" (mainly due to his accomplishments in the weight room).

(72) Mark Vander Poel, OT

- Was one of 20 initial finalists for the Outland Trophy.
- A unanimous all-Big Eight selection for the second straight season (AP, UPI, Coaches), and he was selected a second-team All-American by the Football News.
- Had an outstanding game against Iowa State, so good that he was CU's nomination for the Big Eight's Offensive player-of-the-week.
- A Playboy Preseason All-American, and is projected by many as a first-round NFL draft pick. Also made the preseason teams by several other publications.
- A first-team all-Big Eight selection in 1989 (AP, UPI, Coaches), and was an honorable mention all-American by UPI and The Sporting News.
- Has started 36 straight games (including two bowls), tied for the longest on the team.
- The first player in Colorado history to line up on opening day at 300-plus pounds, which he did as a junior in 1989. His weight has fluctuated between 290 and 305 pounds the last two years.
- The team giant, standing 6-foot-8 to go with his 300-pound frame. Yet, he is quick on his feet, as he owns 5.05 speed in the 40. Thus, the reason he coveted by the pros.
- From an athletic family; his sister (Jackie) was a three-year starter on the Cal-Irvine basketball team; and his uncle (Dutch Warmerdam) was the first person in the world to clear 15-0 in the pole vault using a bamboo pole (in 1940).

(76) Ariel Solomon, OT

- Made his first career start against Tennessee.
- An honorable mention All-Big Eight selection by UPI this past season.
- Selected as a preseason all-Big Eight pick by The Sporting News.
- A two-time member of CU's "Academic Starters" team, as he is an economics major.
- A very quiet and reserved person, but he has an interesting background. He was born in Brooklyn, but moved to El Salvador as a toddler when he parents ventured into the exotic business of collecting reptiles. His parents currently own Reef Encounter, an aquarium business of international scope in Boulder.

(77) Jim Hansen, OT

- CU's first Academic All-American since 1987, as he earned the honor this past fall. Since he is only a sophomore, he could become CU's first three-time Academic pick.
- A candidate for the Rhodes Scholarship in the future, as he carries a 3.986 grade point in a difficult major, aerospace engineering. He has all "A's" in his college career with the exception of one "A-."
- He was selected as the sophomore "engineering student-of-the-year" on the CU-Boulder campus last April. That award is for all students, not just athletes.
- Switched to offense from defensive tackle during spring ball, and changed from #90 into #77... it keeps a CU tradition alive, as Bill Coleman wore that number for three seasons, and he, too, was an engineering major.

(78) Bryan Campbell, OG

- Made his first career start at Kansas, and played well enough to take over the starting role the remainder of the season. He displaced Russ Heasley (who missed two weeks of practice due to various injuries) as the starter at the position, making the most of the opportunity.
- He's moved around a bit in his short career; he was recruited as a defensive tackle, moved to offensive tackle during his first fall practices, and then to guard last spring.

(79) Russ Heasley, OG

- Made his first career start against Tennessee, and has played well. He was hampered at midseason by an assortment of injuries, most notably a sprained shoulder, which forced him to miss a start at Kansas. He never worked his way back into the starting lineup.
- Reported in the best shape of his CU career and has accepted the challenge of becoming a starter on one of the nation's top offensive lines.
- Has the task of replacing all-Big Eight guard Darrin Muilenburg, who came close to making the Denver Broncos as a free agent.

(81) Jon Boman, TE

- Missed two games (Kansas, Oklahoma) with a severely sprained foot. The injury cost him his starting slot, as Sean Brown took over the rest of the season. He still saw playing time upon his return from the injury.
- Had a big 30-yard reception on the game-winning TD drive against Stanford... he tipped the ball into the air, caught it and proceeded downfield. He took exception when the media wrote the next day, "he 'lumbered' downfield...".
- Made his first career start against Tennessee.
- Switched from inside linebacker to tight end during 1989 spring practice, as it was probably the most successful personnel move that season. He looked excellent at the position his first year in it, and comes back as the starter.
- Took over as the snapper on punts and placements midway through the 1989 season.
- Redshirted as a true freshman in 1987, as injuries kept him from earning a spot on the depth chart.

(86) Rico Smith, WR

- Though listed second on the depth chart at wide receiver, he sees plenty of playing time. He's in there when the Buffs split with two receivers, and when the offense calls for one receiver, he alternates bringing in plays with Mike Pritchard.
- Averaging 29.0 yards per reception, as he has 358 receiving yards on just 12 grabs. The highlight was an 85-yard touchdown catch and run against Oklahoma from Darian Hagan, which was the fourth longest pass play in school history.
- Also a threat as a punt returner (averaged 11 yards on seven returns).

(87) Sean Brown, TE

- Made his first career start against Missouri, when CU opened in a two tight end formation (and did the same the next week against Iowa State). He started seven games in all, as he took over for the injured Jon Boman against Kansas and never lost the first-team role.
- His first career catch was for only three yards... but it was for a touchdown against Iowa State, and it put the Buffaloes ahead (14-12). He caught four passes for 51 yards in the win against Oklahoma, his most active game of the season.
- A junior college transfer (Los Angeles Valley College, the same school that sent CU placekicker Jim Harper), he has been one of CU's better finds in the JUCO ranks. This year, CU struck it big in the JC's, scoring three regulars (Rico Smith as well).

(91) Lamarr Gray, OLB

- One of the best "behind-the-scenes" players on the CU team. Six times in 1989 he won scout team player-of-the-week honors, which is presented by the coaches (hardly anyone had ever been singled out three times in a season).
- Is quite active when he gets his chance (and that's minimal since he backs up Alfred Williams). Had three sacks against Kansas State in 1988, and has 20 tackles while he has been in on his 159 career plays (an 8-to-1 play-to-tackle ratio).
- A genuine "nice guy" with an infectious smile, he owns the nickname of "Gooch."

(93) Joel Steed, NT

- Received plenty of preseason accolades (some All-America mention), but didn't get the recognition he deserved when postseason rolled around. He should be a contender for the Outland and Lombardi Awards in 1991: he's that good.
- A unanimous first-team All-Big Eight pick in 1990 (AP, UPI, Coaches). The last CU nose tackle to earn the honor was Kyle Rappold in 1987.
- His clogging of the middle has helped to hold opponent running games in check. His number of plays on defense is always less than the rest of the defense, as he comes out when CU goes into the nickel defense.
- He had 7 1/2 sacks this past fall, as 12 of his 43 solo tackles were for losses. Nine of his 36 solo stops in '89 were tackles for losses (including two sacks). The biggest of these was on a third-and-short play by Nebraska late in the game, which helped to preserve CU's 27-21 win.
- The youngest defensive starter for the Buffs in 1989 (a sophomore), but the coaches expected big things from him. He won the Hale Irwin Award in spring '89 as the team's top sophomore-to-be.
- Trimmed about 15 pounds from his frame after arriving at CU, and has built himself into one of the three strongest players on the team (tied for the team best with a 455 pound bench press).
- One of the players who hates to be on television, but when he gives in and does it, he is eloquent with an impressive vocabulary. A sociology major, he worked as intern this past summer in a Denver law office.

(94) Alfred Williams, OLB (BUTKUS AWARD WINNER; UNANIMOUS ALL-AMERICAN)

- Selected as one of the two team captains (along with Joe Garten) following CU's non-conference season. With so many seniors, the coaches wanted leaders to emerge before allowing the players to select their captains.
- Winner of the Dick Butkus Award, presented to the nation's top linebacker. He is the first Colorado Buffalo player to ever win one of college football's major trophies.
- One of CU's first three unanimous All-Americans, as he was named to the five teams that the NCAA recognizes for that accomplishment (AP, UPI, AFCA/Kodak, FWAA, Camp). He was joined by teammates Eric Bieniemy and Joe Garten in the unanimous honor.
- Also named winner of the Columbus Touchdown Club's Linebacker-of-the-Year, and award he also won in 1989.
- One of three Buffs who was nominated for the Lombardi Award. Only 12 players were on the committee's initial nomination list, and CU was the only school with three; none advanced to the finalist stage, as they probably cancelled each other in the voting.
- Has succeeded at something that he has struggled at during his career... keeping on weight. He's played each of his first three years between 225 and 230, but an off-season conditioning program had him in at 245 earlier this year. His present weight has been hovering between 236 and 240.
- Has started 36 straight games (including two bowls), tied for the longest on the team.
- Had a quarterback sack in 10 straight games to open the season, and has a sack in 27 of 47 career games. He's CU's all-time leading "sacker" with 35.
- A Playboy Preseason All-American, and is projected by many as a first-round NFL draft pick. Selected by several other publications as a first-team All-American and as the preseason Big Eight defensive player-of-the-year.
- A consensus All-American selection in 1989 (UPI, Kodak, Football Writers; second-team AP), and was an across-the-board Big Eight pick. He was the first consensus all-American linebacker in CU history (although Joe Romig played the position, he was honored more for his ability at guard).
- The unanimous Defensive Player-of-the-Year in the Big Eight Conference for 1990. He led the Big Eight in sacks (12.5) for a second straight year, with 88 tackles, 21 total tackles for loss and six pass break ups.
- The unanimous Defensive Player-of-the-Year in the Big Eight Conference for 1989. He led the Big Eight in sacks (10.5) to go with 81 tackles (58 solo) and five PBU's.
- Named the Big Eight's Defensive Player-of-the-Week (the fourth time in his career) for his effort against Texas (10 tackles, three for losses (two sacks), a safety a 2 PBU).
- Rated the top outside linebacker in the nation by The Sporting News in its college football preview edition... teammate Kanavis McGhee is listed second.
- Won CU awards for the top junior-to-be in 1989 and the top senior-to-be last spring.
- He is 13th on the all-time tackles list at CU (254; he's only 11 out of the top 10).
- One of 1987's recruits who contributed a lot in a short time. He saw considerable action (320) plays as a freshman, and became a permanent starter as a sophomore.
- He always has had trouble gaining weight because of his love for basketball (he plays in the off season and in the summer, and even spent six weeks as a member of the men's varsity last winter).
- In the last regular season game of his career, Coach McCartney made good on a promise to him, that if he "behaved himself" that he would have something special for him. The surprise was letting Al play a few downs at tight end, and the results included Al catching a pass for 17 yards with the crowd going wild.
- The coaches originally planned on playing him as a down lineman, but moved him to outside 'backer his freshman year.
- One of the "H-Boys", as he and fellow defender Kanavis McGhee both hail from Houston. Former Buff Arthur Walker completed the trio, which first hit campus in unison in 1987.

(95) Garry Howe, DT

- Enjoying a great season, and he had his best game of the year against Oklahoma. He had 13 tackles, a half sack, two tackles for losses and a hurry, an effort in which he was nominated for the Big Eight's player-of-the-week.
- A unanimous all-Big Eight selection at defensive tackle (AP, UPI, Coaches).
- Other solid games included efforts against Stanford (eight tackles (six solo), a sack, a hurry and a forced fumble) and Illinois (11 tackles and two sacks).
- He has at least half-a-quarterback sack in eight of CU's nine games this year, hiding in Al Williams' shadow. He's got 7.5 for the season and 11 in his career.
- Had a great Orange Bowl, as he had seven tackles (two for losses), a quarterback sack and a blocked field goal against Notre Dame.
- The last thing he looks like is a football player (short, big gut), but he may be the most underrated football player in college football.
- Transferred to CU from Drake after the Bulldog program dropped a classification. He sat out 1988, and saw plenty of playing time as junior in 1989 (288 plays).
- Has a very interesting background, as he recently turned to religion in his life, but doesn't profess his beliefs on honors. He thinks some born-again's bother others.

(96) Kanavis McGhee, OLB

- A unanimous first-team all-Big Eight selection, making it three years in a row for him; the last two Buffs to accomplish that were P Barry Helton and SS Mickey Pruitt in 1985, 1986 and 1987.
- One of three Buffs who was nominated for the Lombardi Award on the list of 12 finalists. None made the final four, as they likely hurt each other in the voting. He was one of four finalists for the 1989 Lombardi Award, as he was flown to his native Houston to attend the ceremonies.
- Spent much of the season as a Butkus Award nominee, but the committee selects only one player from a school, and Al Williams got the nod.
- With 299 career tackles, he ranks sixth on CU's all-time tackle list. He passed CU inside linebacker coach Brian Cabral in the final game of the season.
- A first-team All-American in 1989 (Walter Camp), and a second-team choice by UPI. He was all-Big Eight by AP and UPI.
- Rated as the number two outside linebacker in the nation by The Sporting News in its college football preview edition... losing out to teammate Alfred Williams. Several have tabbed him as a preseason All-American.
- Fourth on the team in tackles in 1990 (94, including 55 solo and 14 for losses).
- Third on the team in tackles in 1989 (75, with 46 solo), to go with seven sacks (six full sacks and two half sacks). He played his best game of the year at Oklahoma, with 13 tackles (seven solo) in CU's 20-3 win.
- He broke his ankle late in the 1988 Nebraska game. He was held out of spring practice while he completed rehabilitation, and it took him halfway into the season to regain confidence in the ankle. He returned to his old form midway through the season.
- Was a unanimous all-Big Eight pick in 1988 and garnered second-team All-America honors.
- Had 102 tackles (66 solo) in 1988, and was a very active player. He had the best day of his career against Oklahoma, as he had 23 tackles (15 solo) and two for losses.
- High school coach at Houston's Wheatley High School was Kenny Houston, the former all-pro safety from the Houston Oilers.
- His biggest moment in college isn't on the football field; it was when he was accepted into CU's tough business school this past summer. He even posed for a poster last spring for a Norlin Library promotion on the CU campus.
- Was surprised by his high school last Jan. 18, when his former school celebrated "Kanavis McGhee Day." He was presented with a mayorial proclamation and was honored by his school, parents, and his high school lead coaches.
- One of the "H-Boys", as he and fellow defender Alfred Williams both hail from Houston. Art Walker, who is with the Phoenix Cardinals, completed the trio in 1989.

(97) Marcellous Elder, DT

- Has battled Leonard Renfro for playing time at left defensive tackle, and started a couple of games after Renfro went out with an injury. Renfro was hurt again later in the year, and Elder took over the starting nod for good in the final three games.
- Has 30 tackles in 217 scrimmage plays, as he has seen the most action of the non-starters with the exception of Eric Hamilton, who is in on nickel plays.
- Nickname is "Earthquake," as he owns a 6-5, 285-pound frame.
- Has over 400 comic books in his collection.

(99) Leonard Renfro, DT

- Was off and running as a freshman, until he was sidelined for the year after breaking a bone in his right foot against Illinois. Since that came early in the third game of the season, he was granted a hardship year by the Big Eight Conference. He did participate in spring drills at 100 percent.
- Has developed nicely at the position, but was sidetracked for a couple of games due to a knee sprain. He did not suit up for the Missouri game, and he came in off the bench against Iowa State before returning to the starting lineup against Kansas. Other injuries forced him out of the lineup for the Nebraska game, and he is fighting to regain the starting slot.
- Has 45 tackles on the season with 1.5 sacks and a "pass deflection from hell." He batted a pass back behind the line of scrimmage against Kansas which was almost picked off by Alfred Williams.
- Could be the oldest looking 20-year-old you'll ever see... mainly due to a full mustache and goutee-style beard, not to mention his size (6-4, 285).