

## COLORADO vs. Texas (Sept. 22, 1990)

### TEAM STATS-N-FACTS

- The Buffaloes were the only undefeated regular season team in college football in 1989, and had the longest undefeated string in the nation, 14 games, in regular season play (CU was 13-0-1 in that span) until last week's 23-22 loss at Illinois. That was CU's first regular season loss to a non-league opponent since losing to Oregon in 1987.
- Colorado had spent 19 straight weeks in the AP's Top 10, a school record, but the Buffs dropped to No. 18 in the UPI poll and to No. 20 in the AP balloting after the Illinois loss. CU had been No. 9 in both polls.
- Colorado attained its first-ever No. 1 national ranking last November, 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.
- Against Stanford, the Buffaloes spotted the Cardinal a 14-0 lead before rallying for a 21-17 win, marking the first time CU rallied from a two-touchdown deficit to win a game since Nov. 19, 1983... CU also trailed Kansas State 14-0 prior to rallying for a 38-21 victory. When Stanford took a 17-14 lead late in the game, it was the first time since Oct. 1, 1988 that Colorado trailed in the fourth quarter and rallied for a win (CU scored a touchdown with :36 left to beat Colorado State, 27-23).
- By contrast, the loss to Illinois marked the first time in 30 games that CU lost a game after it had led at the half. CU's last blew a halftime lead against Arizona in 1986 (the Buffs led 14-6 before losing 24-21).
- 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. She travels usually only to bowl games, but on occasion makes a special road trip. Ralphie won't be in Austin to hob-knob with Bevo.
- The players dedicated the 1989 season to their cancer-stricken quarterback, Sal Aunese. Sal was diagnosed with inoperable stomach cancer in March, 1989, and passed away on Sept. 23. As a tribute to Aunese, the uniforms had "SAL" embroidered on the left sleeve and number "8" emblems were worn on lockers, towels and wristbands. In 1990, Sal's locker is still maintained in the Colorado lockerroom, enclosed in glass. The locker contains pictures, poems, and a marble plaque given to the team by Sal's family. The locker will stay until the building is torn down following this season's finale against Kansas State, as a new \$9 million building will be in place for 1991.
- **COACH BILL MCCARTNEY...** Bill McCartney is in his ninth season at the reins of the CU program, compiling a 47-46-2 record. "Mac" is 40-21-1 since 1985, and is 33-12-1 since the start of the 1986 league season. Mac has been the Buff pilot for 95 games, topped only by Eddie Crowder (119), Dal Ward (110), Fred Folsom (102) and Myron Witham (96). Those same four 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, McCartney is 29-26-1 in conference games (25-10 since 1985), and is second only to Tom Osborne of Nebraska in longevity in the league.

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- Colorado set the table for 1989 through hard, diligent work, as the Buffs methodically improved annually from 1985. The 39 wins by the Buffs in that time frame are the most by a CU team in a five-year span ever (the previous most was 37 on three occasions).
- Since an 0-4 start in 1986, CU is 33-9-1 in regular season games (0-3 in bowls). The Buffs are 21-7 in Big Eight league games in that time frame (12-2-1 non-conference).
- Since converting to the wishbone in 1985 (and moving to the I-Bone in 1988, Colorado has posted the following records (bowl games included):
  - 27-2-1 when rushing for 300 or more yards;
  - 13-19 when held under 300 yards rushing; 2-11 when held under 200);
  - 12-0 when rushing for 400 or more yards;
  - 16-5 when passing for 100-plus yards (2-0 with 200-plus);
  - 22-0-1 when amassing 400-plus yards total offense (10-0 with 500-plus);
  - 12-0 when punting two or fewer times (15-4 with three or fewer);
  - 22-0 when holding opponent to under 100 yards rushing;
  - 24-5 when holding opponent under 300 yards total offense;
  - 29-6 when scoring first (have won 23 of last 25);
  - 20-2 when running more plays than the opponent;
  - 31-2-1 when holding edge in time of possession (9-19 when not);
  - 28-8 when committing two or fewer turnovers (9-1 with zero);
  - 4-8-1 when committing four or more turnovers;
  - 21-1 when converting over 50 percent on third down attempts;
  - 22-2 when making 20-plus first downs;
  - 32-6 when average field position is CU30 or better;
  - 33-7 when holding opponents to 17 points or less (37-7 in Mac Era).
- Colorado went 11 years (1976 to 1987) before playing a game without committing a turnover. The Buffs have committed zero turnovers in nine of their last 36 games, but 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 (No. Illinois had 12), but already have eight this fall; however, CU had none last week.
- CU has scored in "only" nine of 12 quarters this season, compared to 39 of 44 quarters in 1989. Only Oklahoma held CU without a score two quarters in a game last year, which Stanford did in game two. The Buffaloes scored in all four quarters in seven games enroute to scoring a team record 452 points.
- Colorado has thrown only 23 interceptions in the last 31 games (352 attempts), and has only 46 turnovers in its last 28 games, less than two per outing.
- Colorado has allowed 40 or more points only twice in the last five seasons (spanning 62 games), and Oklahoma State did it both times (OSU, twice, and Tennessee are the only teams to score more than 30 on the CU defense in the last 48 games). In 40 of the last 58 regular season games, the opponent has been held to 17 points or less (and to 21 points or less in 48 of the last 62 games).
- Colorado had 83 plays of 20 yards in length or longer in 1989, including 61 from scrimmage (41 rush, 20 pass). Twenty-five of the long scrimmage plays were 40 yards or longer. The Buffs scored on 50 of 57 penetrations of the opponent 20 (the first team failed to score only twice when penetrating the 20), and the Buffs scored 22 times from outside the 20-last season. Against Tennessee, CU again demonstrated its ability for the big play with six over 20 yards, including three scores: 55 and 78-yard runs by Mike Pritchard and a 55-yard punt return by Dave McCloughan, and went out and had nine plays of 20-plus yards against Stanford and four against Illinois.

## PLAYER STATS-N-FACTS

### ( 1) Eric Bieniemy, TB (HEISMAN TROPHY CANDIDATE)

- Sat out the Tennessee game, as he served a one-game suspension for a minor altercation with fire department officials from Aurora (Colo.) in early July (he has pleaded not guilty to three charges against him, the biggest of which is impeding fire personnel, and the case will be later this month). He did make the trip and was on the sidelines.
- Rushed for 149 yards and three touchdowns, including the game winner on a fourth-and-1 play with 12 seconds left in CU's 21-17 win over Stanford, and came back with 127 last week against Illinois.
- He is second on CU's all-time rushing list (2,588 yards), and is closing in on career leader Charlie Davis (370 away at 2,958). "EB" is also fourth on the school's all-time scoring list with 170 points, only 42 points out of first.
- Suffered a clean break of his right fibula (leg) bone in last year's 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 roughly half the season, he was still an honorable mention all-American by The Sporting News and an honorable mention all-league pick by UPI. He still gained 561 yards for the year.
- Eric is 15th Buff to accumulate 2,000 yards of total offense in a career.
- 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, tying the school record for most 100-yard rushing efforts in a season.
- His 1,243 yards in 1988 was the third highest season total for rushing yards in Colorado history. Charlie Davis set the record with 1,386 in 1971, and James Mayberry was next with 1,299 in 1977. He probably would have set a single season rushing standard at CU if he had not suffered a pulled hamstring against Nebraska, which limited him to six carries in that game and sidelined him the next week.
- Became only the third player in CU history to eclipse the 1,000-yard mark for a career as a sophomore (joining only Charlie Davis and Lee Rouson).
- Colorado is 10-3 in games when he has rushed for 100 or more yards (10-2 regular season). He is tied with Davis for the most 100-yard games, 13, in CU history.
- His best career effort came against Oregon State in 1988, when he rushed for 211 yards and three touchdowns. It was the fifth best rushing day in Colorado history.
- Has worked as a teacher's aide (4th grade) at University Hill Grade School in Boulder.
- A favorite with the fans in Boulder because of his diminutive stature (5-foot-7). He's earned the nickname, "Scooter."
- 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 Bakersfield, Calif.

### ( 2) Deon Figures, CB

- Had an impressive 13 tackles (10 solo) in the season opener against Tennessee, and followed that up with eight (five solo against Stanford).
- 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 (HEISMAN TROPHY, DAVEY O'BRIEN AWARD CANDIDATE)**

- Colorado is 12-2-1 in games he has started; 16-3-1 in games he has appeared in.
- 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.
- Led the Buffs to scores an amazing 61 percent of the drives he engineered (63 scores in 104 drives). CU averaged 3.78 points per drive he engineered.
- Became the first CU quarterback to complete over 50 percent of his passes since 1975 by connecting on 48 of 85 attempts for 56.5 percent last fall.
- Led the Buffs in first downs earned in 1989 with 101 (62 rush and 39 pass).
- He was 9-of-9 directing the Buffs in their two-minute drill (scoring in the final two minutes of a half in eight different games, twice against Washington).
- Rushed for 100-plus yards five times in 1989, a CU record by a quarterback, and also did it in the Orange Bowl. Counting the Stanford game, that's seven times in his career, in which CU is 6-1 in those games.
- Already is in 22nd place on the school's rushing charts (68 yards out of the top 20), and is 14th on the passing yards list and 18th on the scoring chart.
- 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**

- 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 miff 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.
- Played a couple of plays in the Tennessee game as Hagan was out with a slight knee sprain for a little over a minute.
- 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.

**( 5) O.C. Oliver, WB**

- 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.

**( 9) Mike Pritchard, WR**

- 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.
- Moved to wide receiver in spring practice and looked good there, although he has practiced at all three positions for the Tennessee game. He will see action at wide receiver, wingback and tailback.
- Has become a big play man for CU... he has 85 career touches (rushes, receptions, returns) for 1,329 yards (15.6 per touch). Minus kickoff returns, it's a 14.1 average every time he has touched the ball.
- A top kickoff return threat; he spent much of the year among the national leaders in 1989, but eventually didn't have enough returns to qualify. His 44-yard return at Oklahoma after the Sooners had cut the CU lead to 10-3 gave CU the ball at midfield, and the Buffs went in for a field goal.
- Is 24th on the all-time CU receiving yards list (549), and is just 58 yards shy of cracking the top 20.
- Became the first Buff to have two touchdown receptions in a game since 1984 when he did it at Iowa State last October.
- 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)**

- Has punted very well, as he is ninth in the nation (44.9 average), and that includes games in Anaheim and Champaign for you altitude buffs. He has had a career effort in each of the last two 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).
- Suffered a groin pull on his next-to-last kick against Stanford and didn't kick for a week. He was a bit tentative for his first three at Illinois, and then he let loose.
- 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.
- A Playboy Preseason All-American, the first acknowledgement from the magazine of a CU punter.
- 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, a good three yards better than the closest competitor, 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 emphasizes the punt more. In fact, since Mike Hankwitz arrived at Colorado in 1985, the Buffs have had three consensus All-America punters and four 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 (ALL-BIG EIGHT CANDIDATE)**

- 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 "protective frog." He went out and had an interception, eight tackles, and became the first CU player since 1981 to return a punt for a touchdown.
- His 55-yard punt return touchdown came on only his fourth punt return of his career... he had two returns as a junior and one earlier in the Tennessee game. He returned one 42 yards against Illinois, setting up CU's second touchdown.
- A second-team (coaches) all-Big Eight selection in 1989, and is one of the most underrated players in the nation at his position.
- 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. The kicking race is very close, odds are that he will be kicking at some point during the upcoming season.
- 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**

- Recently displaced as a starter by Deon Figures, but he will see plenty of action, in the nickel defense and on special teams.
- Suffered a slight concussion late in the Tennessee game, but was okay the next day.
- Had two interceptions in his first season as a collegiate starter in 1989. He played exceptionally 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 last week, as he nailed three straight 57-yard efforts in practice leading up to the game.
- 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 had a 50-yard FGA fall short against Stanford. He thus won the job permanently with that performance.
- He's 9-of-9 on PAT's, as CU kickers have made 75 straight PAT's in regular season play.
- 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 (ALL-BIG EIGHT CANDIDATE)**

- Currently leads the Big Eight in interceptions (three), and is tied for fifth in the nation at the present time.
- Moved back over to the strong side this past spring after playing the 1989 season on the free side.
- 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 10 career interceptions, including two against Tennessee in the Pigskin Classic, the first multiple pick game of his career. The theft against Illinois moved him into a third-place tie on CU's all-time pick list (the leader has 16, the runnerup 14).
- 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**

- 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, and answered the bell against Stanford with 14 stops (11 solo) and a pass broken up.
- 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.

**(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.
- 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) this past summer, but he said the experience helped him mature.
- 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 will see plenty of action this season for CU. With Mike Pritchard playing at tailback, he was a "co-starter" for the '90 opener against Tennessee.
- 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.

**(27) Greg Thomas, FS**

- Made his first career start against Tennessee, and played well at times. Has developed nicely through the first three games.
- 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.

**(31) Matt Bell, TB**

- Did not participate this past spring as he had to take care of academic matters.
- A solid tailback, he gained 85 yards in a little over a half against Iowa State last fall.
- In 1988, he became the first player to sign with CU out of the Denver Prep League since 1972.



**(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.
- Third on the team in 1989 with 17 special team points (highlighted by 12 solo tackles; he also turned in an extraordinary effort against Oklahoma State: five tackles, one assist 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.

**(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.
- Was held out of spring ball as he completed rehabilitation for shoulder surgery he had in January. The surgery was to correct an old injury (separation).
- A solid hitter, and he seldom needs help tackling... 45 of 50 stops in '89 were solo, and 25 of 34 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).

**(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.
- 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.
- 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), but contributes several other ways, most notably on special teams.
- One of the top special teams players on the Buffs; he led CU in special team points with 25 in 1989, highlighted by 15 tackles and six knockdown blocks.
- Had four tackles alone on special teams against Illinois (two solo, two assists).
- Wore #50 the first two-plus seasons of his career before switching to #46 midway through his junior year.

**(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 those two shared time at the position.
- 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).
- 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 (ALL-AMERICAN CANDIDATE)**

- 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.
- Did not have a muffed center-quarterback exchange in 600-plus snaps in 1989.
- 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.

**(62) Joe Garten, OG (ALL-AMERICAN CANDIDATE)**

- One of three Buffs who have been nominated for the Lombardi Award. Only 12 players are on the committee's initial nomination list, and CU is the only school with three players nominated (Auburn is the only other with two). Kanavis McGhee and Alfred Williams were the other Buffs nominated.
- 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).
- Seems to have bad luck when it comes to ankles... both have been severely sprained during his CU career.
- 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 35 career starts to his credit, and he will threaten Mickey Pruitt's school record of 39. The only time he didn't start, he didn't play (missed the 1988 Kansas game with a sprained ankle).
- Has been named CU's lineman of the week nine times in his career, a top honor when you look at the strength of CU's offensive line.
- 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.

**(72) Mark Vander Poel, OT (ALL-AMERICAN CANDIDATE)**

- 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 27 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.
- 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 person; you'd never think he was born in Brooklyn.

**(77) Jim Hansen, OT**

- 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.

**(79) Russ Heasley, OG**

- Made his first career start against Tennessee.
- 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**

- 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.

**(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).

**(93) Joel Steed, NT (ALL-AMERICAN CANDIDATE)**

- Received plenty of preseason accolades, and some tabbed him as a All-America.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 (ALL AMERICAN CANDIDATE; BUTKUS, LOMBARDI AWARD CANDIDATE)**

- One of three Buffs who have been nominated for the Lombardi Award. Only 12 players are on the committee's initial nomination list, and CU is the only school with three players nominated (Auburn is the only other with two). Kanavis McGhee and Joe Garten were the other Buffs nominated. He's a top candidate for the Butkus Award as well.
- Has succeeded at something that he has struggled at during his career... keeping on weight. He's played each of his first three years at 230, but an off-season conditioning program has him every between 242 and 245 this year.
- Has started 27 straight games (including two bowls), tied for the longest on the team.
- 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 1989. He led the Big Eight in sacks (10.5) to go with 81 tackles (58 solo) and five PBU's.
- 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 CU's all-time leader in sacks with 26 1/2; and is 34th on the all-time tackles list at CU (204; he's only 21 out of the top 25).
- 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).
- 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.

**(95) Garry Howe, DT**

- Coming off a two solid games: against Stanford, as he had eight tackles (six solo), a sack, a hurry and a forced fumble; at Illinois, he had 11 tackles and two sacks.
- 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.

**(96) Kanavis McGhee, OLB (ALL AMERICAN CANDIDATE; BUTKUS, LOMBARDI AWARD CANDIDATE)**

- One of three Buffs who have been nominated for the Lombardi Award. Only 12 players are on the committee's initial nomination list, and CU is the only school with three players nominated (Auburn is the only other with two). Joe Garten and Alfred Williams were the other Buffs nominated; he's a top candidate for the Butkus Award as well.
- One of four finalists for the 1989 Lombardi Award, as he was flown to his native Houston to attend the ceremonies.
- 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.
- 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.
- With 234 career tackles, he ranks 20th on CU's all-time tackle list.
- 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**

- Will likely battle Leonard Renfro for playing time at left defensive tackle, but don't be surprised if they're both in there at the same time.
- 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.
- Could be the oldest looking 19-year-old you'll ever see... mainly due to a full mustache and goutee-style beard, not to mention his size (6-4, 285).