

BUFFALO BITS / Colorado vs. Texas

**QUICKLY...** Colorado, at 1-1-1, remained in the top 20 (see in the polls in below), and will return to the road this week to play the University of Texas. It's the sixth time in the last seven games that Colorado will be playing away from Folsom Field (four on the road and two neutral sites)... The Buffs are coming off their first regular season, non-league loss since 1987 (Oregon), as Illinois rallied for a 23-22 win over the Buffaloes last Saturday.

**IN THE POLLS...** The Associated Press poll (media members) saw the Buffaloes drop to No. 20 (from No. 9) following last week's 23-22 loss at Illinois. The United Press International poll, which utilizes head coaches for its voters, has the Buffaloes in at No. 18 this week, also dropping from No. 9. This marks the second straight week Colorado is facing a top 20 team, and the Washington game will make it three straight next week in Boulder.

**COACH BILL MCCARTNEY...** Bill McCartney is in his ninth season at the reins of the CU football program, and has compiled a 47-46-2 record through eight-plus campaigns. ("Mac" is 40-21-1 over the last four-plus seasons, and is 33-12-1 since the start of the 1986 conference season.) He is 1-1 against Washington and is 8-7 against Pacific Ten Conference members (in fact, at least one Pac-10 team has appeared on CU's schedule in every year of Bill's tenure). This will be Mac's 96th game at Colorado, topped only by Eddie Crowder (119), Dal Ward (110), Fred Folsom (102) and equalled by 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, Mac 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. Last July 26, McCartney signed a new contract (a 15-year deal) to remain at Colorado.

**SCOOTIN'...** Senior tailback Eric Bieniemy, who is averaging 138.0 rushing yards per game, has moved into second place on the all-time Colorado rushing list. He has 2,588 career yards, and is now looking at the all-time mark of 2,958 owned by Charlie Davis (1971-73). He has tied Davis for the most 100-yard rushing games, 13, for a career by a CU back. Eric is also in fourth place on the scoring list (170 points), trailing Bobby Anderson (212), Tom Field (190), and Byron White (177). In 1989, Bieniemy as a junior was selected to CU's "All-Century Team," which was a part of CU's 100-year football celebration.

**STATISTICAL RANKINGS:** Here's where Colorado ranks statistically in the Big Eight and NCAA through last week:

	Big 8	NCAA		Big 8	NCAA
Rushing Offense.....	(266.3)	4th 9th	Rushing Defense.....	(108.0)	4th 30th
Passing Offense.....	(114.0)	6th 95th	Pass Effic. Defense..	(123.7)	6th 73rd
Total Offense.....	(380.3)	6th 35th	Total Defense.....	(356.3)	4th 56th
Scoring Offense.....	( 24.7)	6th 39th	Scoring Defense.....	( 23.7)	6th 67th
Net Punting.....	( 39.8)	1st 15th	Turnover Margin.....	(-0.33)	7th 71st
Kickoff Returns.....	( 14.8)	8th 101st	Punt Returns.....	( 13.4)	2nd 17th

Individually, Eric Bieniemy leads the league in rushing with 138.0 yards per game, which would have him third nationally; however, Eric won't qualify nationally until he plays in 75 percent of CU's games (which will be next week; Tom Rouen leads the Big Eight and is ninth nationally in punting (44.9 average); Tim James is tied for the lead league and fifth in the country in interceptions (3, 1.0 per game); Dave McCloughan is fifth in the league (42nd in the NCAA) with .67 per. McCloughan is second in the league and 14th nationally in punt returns (15.9); Darian Hagan is fifth in the league in total offense (180.3 per game).

**BIEKERT MAKES HISTORY...** Sophomore linebacker Greg Biekert had quite a game at Illinois last Saturday, as he was in on 20 tackles for the day... including a school record 19 solo. The old mark, 17, was held by Rodney Rogers in a 1985 game against Oklahoma. Biekert also had three tackles for losses, including one for a safety, and added a special teams tackle. The above effort won Greg his first ever honor as the Big Eight's Defensive Player-of-the-Week.

**LAST WEEK IN REVIEW...** Howard Griffith's one-yard dive with 1:18 left in the game enabled Illinois to rally to a 23-22 win over the Colorado Buffaloes last Saturday in Champaign. The Buffs spotted the Illini a 3-0 lead before reeling off the next 17 points. A two-yard touchdown run by George Hemingway and a 54-yard field goal by Jim Harper put CU ahead 10-3 early in the second quarter. Following a 42-yard punt return by Dave McCloughan, Darian Hagan hooked up with Michael Simmons for a 32-yard touchdown pass. Illinois sliced the lead to 17-10 by intermission and tied the score midway through the third quarter. A safety and another Harper field goal had CU ahead 22-17 early in the final period, but the Illini used a 10-play, 63-yard drive late in the game to forge ahead by one. The Buffs had one last gasp but weren't able to get within range for Harper to have a shot at kicking a winning field goal. **Hidden Factors In The Loss ---** 1. The Buffs, who usually convert 60 percent of their attempts in third-and-8 or less situations, were 0-of-9 against Illinois. CU's 3-of-14 rate on third down was the poorest mark since a 2-of-12 effort against Oklahoma in 1988. 2. Ball Control. The offense had a hard time holding on to the ball, as Illinois' defense gave CU fits. The 25:54 time of possession by the Buffs was also the lowest since the '88 Oklahoma game (24:05).

**STATS-N-FACTS...** Since converting to the wishbone in 1985 (and moving to the Power-I in 1988 and the I-Bone in 1989), Colorado has posted the following records under certain circumstances. In that time, Colorado is 40-21-1 (0-4 in bowls); here's a look:

- 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);
- 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).
- 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;