

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



TOP 150 SPORTS MOMENTS

The 150 significant moments in Colorado's sports history will be announced weekly leading up to the state's sesquicentennial (150th) birthday on August 1, the date Colorado was admitted to the Union as the 38th state in 1876. A committee with over 275 years of involvement in Centennial State sports is selecting the moments we will count down at a rate of five per week, then daily for the top 10 by the end of July. Colorado. David Plati, the Colorado Sports Hall of



Fame historian, has identified more than 1,930 of these moments, all listed chronologically by date to indicate their importance at the time. The Denver Gazette has partnered with the CSHOF to publicize Colorado's top 150 sports moments. Plati and Denver Broncos icon Jim Saccomano will unveil the list weekly on the CSHOF podcast at coloradosports.org/podcast/.



No. 71 - October 15, 1984. In one of the more memorable Monday Night Football games - the 200th televised by ABC - Denver defeated Green Bay in blizzard conditions at Mile High Stadium. The Packers fumbled on their first two plays, **Steve Foley** recovering the first and returning it 22 yards for a touchdown, with **Louis Wright** doing the same from 27 yards to give the Broncos a 14-0 lead 37 seconds into the game. Denver held on to win, 17-14, as a 30-yard second-quarter field goal by the bare-footed **Rich Karlis** was the difference for the 62,546 that braved the elements to attend in person. Foley (2026) and Wright (1992) are Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductees as well as in the Broncos Ring of Fame.

No. 72 - November 19, 1994. Less than two years after hiring Sonny Lubick as the head football coach on December 21, 1992, Colorado State earned its first Western Athletic Conference win since joining the league in 1968 with a 44-42 win at Fresno State. The Bulldogs jumped out to a 24-3 second-quarter lead, but three touchdown runs by **E.J. Watson** pulled CSU even in the third quarter. A 30-yard blocked punt return for a score by **Raymond Jackson** put the Rams ahead for good at 31-27, and some distance was created when **Antoney Hill** and **Paul Turner** connected on a 78-yard TD pass. The No. 10 Rams improved to 10-1 with the win and are 7-1 in WAC play. CSU's first league title since 1955 (Skyline) secured a Holiday Bowl berth opposite Michigan. Lubick was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

Rams get a Holiday



No. 73 - May 31-June 1, 1974. In the NCAA baseball District 7 playoffs in Greeley, Northern Colorado swept the series against No. 1-ranked Arizona, defeating the Wildcats 6-5 in the first game and 6-2 in the second to earn a trip to the College World Series. The Bears, who swept Gonzaga to reach the finals, improved to 31-11 on the season and ended Arizona's season with a 58-6 record in one of the all-time upsets in NCAA history. **Rick Thoren** (7-1) scattered five hits, and UNC broke a 2-2 tie with two runs in both the sixth and seventh innings in the series finale for Coach Tom Petroff, a 2002 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee.

No. 74 - June 9, 2018. CU women's basketball coach Ceal Barry was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. In 22 seasons coaching the Buffaloes, she compiled a 427-242 record, leading CU to four conference titles, 12 total NCAA tournament berths, with six NCAA Sweet 16's and three Elite Eighths. Hired on April 12, 1983, to replace Sox Walseth, Barry coached her last game at CU on March 2, 2005. She was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.



No. 75 - October 29, 1922. In what was billed at the time as "the biggest thing in the history of Denver baseball," **Babe Ruth** came to Denver (with fellow New York Yankee **Bob Meusel**) to play in an exhibition at Merchants Park. Ruth played on Carl Milliken's "Whiz-Bangs" while Meusel suited up for the Denver Bears. Ruth went 5-for-5 with two home runs, a double, two singles, and a stolen base, leading the Whiz-Bangs to a 9-6 win (Meusel was 2-for-4 with two singles). Prior to the game, Ruth and state golf champion **Larry Bromfield** attempted to break the world record for driving a golf ball (350 yards), but cold temperatures (in the 40's) prevented a new record.

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No. 76, September 9, 1960 - A 59-yard pass play from 1983 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee Frank Tripucka to Al Carmichael and a 76-yard punt return by [Gene Mingo](#) gave the underdog Denver Broncos a 13-10 win over the Boston Patriots as the American Football League ushered in its initial season before 21,597 fans at Boston University Field. In the preseason, the Broncos lost 43-6 to the Patriots. Mingo, a 2014 Bronco Ring of Fame inductee, also became the first Black placekicker in professional football during this game.

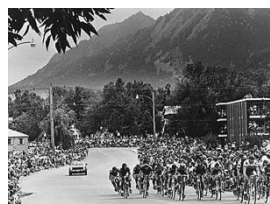


DOG RACING



No. 77, July 11, 1949 - The grand opening of the Mile High Kennel Club took place, officially bringing greyhound dog racing to the Denver metro area. Built on property in Adams County, the grandstand seated 3,800 people. That same year, the Rocky Mountain Kennel Club in Colorado Springs (July 1) and the Pueblo Kennel Club (Aug. 1) also began operations, with two others emerging in later years (Cloverleaf in Loveland, Interstate in Byers). Dog racing would cease in 2008 and eventually be officially outlawed in the state in 2014.

No. 78, June 21, 1975 - The first Red Zinger Bicycle Classic, sponsored by Boulder's Celestial Seasonings (and later the Coors Brewing Company in 1979), is run for the first time. The race attracted the top cyclists in the world; three-time Olympians John Howard and Hannah North won the first men's and women's titles. In later years, Tour de France champions Greg LeMond (1981, 1985) and Bernard Hinault (1986) won Coors men' titles; Connie Carpenter (1995 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee), a 1984 Olympic gold medalist, won three Zinger/Coors crowns (1977, 1981, 1982), with her husband, Davis Phinney (2006 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee), winning the last men's title in 1988 before the race went defunct. At its peak, it was the fourth-largest race in the world.



No. 79, March 26, 1949 - The Regis Rangers won the inaugural National Catholic Invitational Basketball (NCIB) tournament in its only appearance, defeating St. Francis, N.Y., 51-47. Held in Denver, Regis defeated Iona (63-51), St. Francis, Pa. (66-49), and Loyola, Md. (67-60) to reach the championship game. Coached by 1997 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee Larry Varnell, Regis finished with a 34-3 record; the tournament went defunct after 1952. The first NCAA championships in any sport were held in the state when Colorado A&M hosted the 19th NCAA Wrestling Championships in its South

College Gymnasium. Oklahoma A&M won its 16th wrestling title; the host Aggies finished 10th. A&M also hosted the 1952 event - CU tied for sixth.

No. 80, December 9, 1979 - Bruce Ford (1996 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee), from Kersey, won his first of five world titles in rodeo bareback riding. He went on to capture the titles in 1980, 1982, 1983, and 1987. During his career, he shattered or tied every bareback riding record: all-time bareback earnings; most NFR bareback qualifications (18); and tied for the most world bareback champion titles with five. In 1982, he became the first cowboy to win more than \$100,000 in a single event in one year and had over \$1 million in career earnings.



No. 81 - May 28, 1979. The first BolderBOULDER is held, starting and ending on the streets of Boulder. The co-creation of Bank of Boulder president **Steve Bosley** and Olympic medalist **Frank Shorter**, the inaugural race had 2,200 finishers. In 1981, in cooperation with the University of Colorado, the race's finish was moved to Folsom Field, with Olympic medalist **Frank Shorter** the winner, and in the years since, has annually drawn anywhere from 40-50,000 runners (over 1.5 million finishers through 2025); the event is the third largest 10k race in the nation and ends with the country's largest Memorial Day celebration.

No. 82 - November 21, 2010. The Colorado Rapids claim their first (and only to date) Major League Soccer Cup title, defeating FC Dallas 2-1 in extra time in Toronto. Forward **Macoumba Kandi's** shot was deflected by a Dallas defender and scored as an "own goal." The Rapids finished 12-8-10 for fifth place in the more competitive Western Conference but were actually seeded third in the playoffs in the East; they defeated Columbus and San Jose to reach the final.



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No. 83 - August 14, 1986. The first regular PGA Tour stop in the state since the Denver Open (1947-63), debuted in Castle Rock, as Denver oilman **Jack Vickers** created "The International at Castle Pines," which featured the unique Stableford scoring format. **Ken Green** won the inaugural event over **Bernhard Langer**, but not all players liked the format; **Jack Nicklaus** for one, thought it was "stupid and silly," and he was good friends with Vickers.

No. 84 - March 25, 2000. The Metro State Roadrunners dealt favorite Kentucky Wesleyan a 97-79 setback to claim the NCAA Division II men's basketball championship, avenging a loss to the them in the '99 finals. All-American and tournament MVP **DeMarcos Anzures** led the way with 32 points and **Mike Dunlap** was honored as the NABC National Coach of the Year as Metro finished with a 33-4 record. (Anzures was the first Division II state collegiate to earn first-team All-American honors).



No. 85 - March 26, 2026 – or just last week -- the Colorado Mesa women's basketball team just missed advancing to the Division II title game, falling to Indiana (Pa.) University, 75-70. The Mavericks fell behind 12-0, but rallied to tie the game at 23-all before trailing 36-29 at the half; CMU never got closer than four the rest of the way. **Olivia Reed Thyne** led Mesa with 34 points, 14 rebounds and three blocked shots as the Mavericks finished the season with a 37-2 record, having won 34 in a row – the longest in state history – prior to the semifinal loss. The 37 wins are also the most-ever in the state by a college team – men or women.

No. 86 - October 25, 1986. Colorado's 20-10 win over No. 3 Nebraska in Boulder that sunny afternoon became known as "The Turning Point" in the 13-year Bill McCartney coaching era. Not only was it CU's first win over the Huskers since 1967, but it was also the highest-ranked opponent the Buffaloes had defeated in 14 years. The Buff defense shone, holding Nebraska to 123 yards rushing; the Huskers finished second in the nation that year with 306 per game. The fourth quarter opened with a 52-yard touchdown pass on a halfback option, O.C. Oliver to Lance Carl, giving CU a two-score lead at 17-7.



No. 87 - March 28, 2026. Before a National Women's Soccer League record crowd, the Denver Summit FC played its first home game, dueling to a scoreless tie with the Washington Spirit before 63,004 in attendance at Empower Field at Mile High. It topped the league-best 40,061 set by Bay FC – also versus Washington last August. It was the second-largest crowd ever for an inaugural home game by a state team, behind the 80,227 at the Rockies-Expos opener in 1993.

No. 88 - July 22, 1984. Boulder's Marianne Martin won the inaugural women's Tour de France. The 26-year-old University of Colorado graduate, who didn't make the U.S. Olympic Cycling team, completed the 616-mile, 18-stage course in 29 hours, 39 minutes, and 2 seconds, besting Helen Hage of the Netherlands by three minutes and 17 seconds. Crowned champion in Paris, over two million people lined the course for the final stage.



No. 89 - September 27, 1970. The Denver Broncos played their first home game after the AFL-NFL merger, defeating the Pittsburgh Steelers, 16-13. The game was played before a sellout crowd of 50,705, starting a professional sports record sellout streak that has reached 464 at the end of the 2025 season - 440 regular season games and 24 playoff; the streak was not paused during the 2020 season when the COVID-19 pandemic limited Attendance - the maximum people allowed in continued the streak.

No. 90, January 27, 1996. Colorado Springs resident Judy Bell was named president of the United States Golf Association (USGA), elected to a two-year term (1996-97). A member of the World Golf and Colorado Golf Halls of Fame, she was the first female president of the organization since its founding in 1894; she had previously served as vice president.



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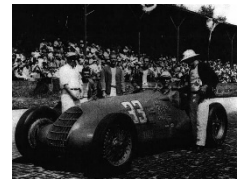
No. 91 - October 19, 1968. University of Colorado track All-American and graduate **Bill Toomey** won the gold medal in the decathlon at the Mexico City Summer Olympic Games. He won three of the 10 events, the 100-meter run, the long jump, and the 400-meter run, for which he set a world decathlon record. He racked up an Olympic record 8,193 total points, winning by 82 over East Germany's Hans-Joachim Walde in the 33-man field. Toomey won 23 of the 38 decathlons he competed in, including the '67 Pan American Games leading up to the Olympics, and held the world record for the most points in a decathlon for nearly three years. He was inducted into the CSHOF in 1971.

No. 92 - July 21, 1952. Denver native and East High School and University of Denver graduate Jerome Biffle won the gold medal in the broad (long) jump at the Summer Olympics in Helsinki, Finland. In claiming the gold with a jump of 7.57 meters (24-feet, 10.03 inches), the 23-year-old was the city of Denver's first Olympic gold medal winner and second medalist. He beat Cornell graduate Meredith Gourdine, who earlier had beaten him in the Olympic Trials, for the gold by an inch-and-a-half.



No. 93 - November 24, 1892. One of the state's oldest high school football rivalries was born on Thanksgiving Day when Pueblo Central defeated Pueblo Centennial, 4-0 (touchdowns were worth four points at the time; the conversion was missed). Cited previously as one of the greatest moments in Pueblo sports history, the touchdown was scored by Marvin, his first name unknown. They have played 125 times overall, the most of any high school rivalry in the state, and along the way, the game became known as the Bell game," the 75th of which was played last September. Central leads the series 63-53, with 9 ties.

No. 94 - May 31, 1948. A native of Denver, 37-year-old **Johnny Mauro** became the first Coloradan to race in the Indianapolis 500. He started 27th with his Alfa Romeo chassis and engine and completed 198 laps before being flagged, finishing eighth. His average speed was 121.79 miles per hour. Mauro raced in Indy cars for Ferrari in the 1940s and 1950s – his family owned several car dealerships and was the only Ferrari importer in Denver for many years. He passed away due to a car accident in 2003 at the age of 92.



No. 95 - May 1898. Town and Gown Golf Club opened in Colorado Springs; to this day, it is one of the oldest continuously operated 18-hole public golf courses west of the Mississippi (the third-oldest overall). The course was purchased by William Jewett in 1910 and renamed the Colorado Springs Golf Club. On June 25, 1919, it was renamed in honor of his wife, Patty Jewett, after he deeded the property to the city for \$1.

No. 96 - December 6, 2025. Cherry Creek sprinted to a 28-0 lead and went on to defeat Ralston Valley, 56-28, giving head coach **Dave Logan** his 13th state championship, his sixth with the Bruins. The only coach to win titles at four different schools (no one else has more than two), he moved into a tie for the 29th-most nationally. He added to his winningest total in the state of Colorado, as earlier in the decade, he passed Limon's Floyd Gaskill, who won 10. Logan's 355 wins are second all-time in the state, as is his .833 winning percentage through the 2025 season.



No. 97 - January 30, 2025. The National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) awarded an expansion franchise to Denver, the league's 16th, which would begin play in 2026. The expansion fee was \$110 million, and the team was officially named "Denver Summit FC." It made its debut on March 14, 2026, losing 2-1 to Bay FC at PayPal Park in San Jose. **Melissa Kossler** scored the first goal in franchise history in the 20th minute that tied the game at 1-1.

No. 98 - October 29, 1930. **Ken Pearson** scored a national high school record that still stands - 12 rushing touchdowns in Hugo's 176-6 win over Vona at home. The 12 TD's remain a state record and tied for the second-most in the history of schoolboy football nationally. The 182 combined points were the most in a Colorado prep game at the time and, almost a century later, are still second; the margin of victory is still first. Hugo scored over 100 points two other times that season (106-0 over Flagler, 104-0 versus Burlington). Pearson died in 2008 at the age of 96.



26. Ken Pearson, Hugo (Colo.)

Date: Oct. 29, 1930

Stat Line: 12 touchdowns.

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No. 99 - December 14, 1975. Floyd Little capped his nine-year professional career by leading Denver to a 25-10 win over Philadelphia in his final home game. After the Eagles tied the game at 10-10 in the third quarter, he scored what proved to be the winning points with a 66-yard touchdown reception on a screen pass from **Steve Ramsey**. He then scored the final points of the game on a 2-yard TD run with 1:57 to play, finishing the game with 56 yards on 19 carries and five receptions for 94 yards. Fans, who braved the 15-degree temperatures to watch the NFL's seventh all-time leading rusher in his final home appearance, gave him standing ovations every time he left the field and carried him off as he blew kisses to the spectators in Mile High Stadium's fabled South Stands.

No. 100 - August 22, 1948. Ben Hogan won the Denver Open at Wellshire Golf Course, defeating Fred Haas, Jr., by one stroke; his 18-under par 270 scorecard earned him \$2,150. It was his sixth straight win on the PGA Tour, the second-longest streak at the time and still tied for the third-longest to this day (and not matched until 2000 by Tiger Woods). Wellshire opened in August 1926 and will celebrate its 100th anniversary this summer. Its history includes the longest active continuous tournament in Colorado (the Wellshire 4-ball), **Arnold Palmer** finishing third in the '58 Denver Open, two years before returning to the state to win the U.S. Open, and **Bill Wright** winning the '59 Public Links title, the first African American to win a major golf tournament.



101 - November 29, 1954. After weeks of speculation and negotiation, Bob Howsam purchased the defunct Kansas City franchise (for \$75,000), which elevated Denver to the American Association and triple-A baseball, while the New York Yankees remained the parent club of the franchise in its move to Denver. The banner headline on the Denver Post's sports page screamed in all caps: DENVER GETS TRIPLE A!

102 - September 19, 1959. The U.S. Amateur was held for the first time in the state, with 19-year-old Ohio State University junior Jack Nicklaus emerging as the winner on the Broadmoor East Course, defeating Charlie Coe, 1-up. It was the first USGA championship of his career.



103 - April 10, 2004. The Denver Pioneers won their sixth NCAA hockey title - their first in 35 years - with a 1-0 win over the University of Maine in Boston. Gabe Gauthier took a pass from Connor James and scored on a power play for the game's only goal at the 12:26 mark of the first period; Adam Berkhoel stopped 24 Black Bear shots on goal to earn the shutout, including two in the final 90 seconds when Maine had a rare 6-on-3 man advantage.

104 - October 5, 1976. Hockey was back, but in the NHL for the first time ever - the Kansas City Scouts had relocated to Denver as the Colorado Rockies. They won their first game, defeating the Toronto Maple Leafs, 4-2, before a sparse crowd of 7,359 at McNichols Sports Arena. Rookie Larry Skinner scored the first Colorado goal, which was assisted by Chuck Arnason and Wilf Paiement (who had a goal and two assists), with two Colorado goalies combining to stop 39 of 41 shots.



105 - May 24, 1959. The driving force behind Grand Junction landing the Division I Junior College World Series was Sam Suplizio, who settled there after his professional playing days. The inaugural event the year before was held in Miami, but the former major leaguer sold the Baseball Congress on relocating the tournament to Grand Junction in 1959, where it has been held ever since, and played on the field that has been named in his honor. Paris (Texas) Junior College won the first one held in Grand Junction, besting Northeastern Oklahoma in the title game, 14-4.

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106 - January 1, 1959. The Air Force Academy, the football program in just its fourth year of existence and ranked No. 6, earned its first New Year's Day Bowl berth, opposite No. 10 TCU in the Cotton Bowl. On a cool, 48-degree day in Dallas, the teams battled to a scoreless tie, combined for just 458 yards of offense, and fumbled the ball 13 times, turning it over 8 times. AFA, in its first season under coach Ben Martin, finished 9-0-2 and was undefeated against state schools (CU, CSU, and DU).



Back: Neil Hansen, Hergenrother, Jim Sargent, Carl Jennings, Clark Wilson, Chris Roe, Bill MacDonnell, Andy Gambucci, Tony Frasca, Ron Marshall, Len Macchi, Paul Schwaib, Dan Berry, Burkham, Alvin, Gartner, Abramo. Front: Harry Whitworth, Russ Collins, Coach, Coach Cheddy Thompson, Mike Sakic, Alan Ford (center), Andrew, Russ (center), (from right).

107 - March 18, 1950. Colorado College won the state's first NCAA championship, played in Colorado Springs, as the Tigers' men's hockey team defeated Boston University, 13-4. Chris Ray led the offensive explosion with four goals and two assists, with Tony Frasca scoring twice and aiding on two others as CC poured it on in the third period, scoring 10 goals. Coach Cheddy Thompson's team defeated Boston College, 10-3, in the semifinals. Colorado Sports Hall of Famer Andy Gambucci was a member of that team. CC posted an 18-5-1 record, scored 190 goals in 24 games, including 10 or more on nine occasions. The 13 goals remain the most in a championship game, matched just one time - by CC in 1957.

108 - March 3, 1999. Peter Forsberg led the largest comeback in Avalanche history, scoring three goals with three assists for six points in Colorado's 7-5 win in Miami. With the Panthers ahead 5-0, Forsberg got the Avs on the board at the 18:11 mark of the second period; Colorado then exploded for a team-record tying six goals in the third period, with Forsberg scoring the third and final goals, with the other four put in the net by four different players. The six points by Forsberg tied the Avalanche single-game record set by Joe Sakic in 1996.



109 - March 4, 1989. Heading into the final day of the regular season, Colorado State was 11-4 in Western Athletic Conference play, tied atop the standings with New Mexico and one game up on Texas-El Paso. Coach Boyd Grant, wanting to ease the tension among the team, took the Rams to a movie on Friday Night: Lean on Me. Pat Durham scored 31 points to lead CSU to an 89-72 win, though BYU led 40-38 at the half; the Rams shot 78 percent from the field in the second half (14-of-18, including six threes) to pull away for a decisive win. Later that day, New Mexico was upset at home by Hawai'i (71-70), CSU was alone in first and won its first conference title since the Mountain States in 1954.



110 - August 25, 1944. One of the top athletes from northwest Colorado, Lewis "Dude" Dent, was gunned down by Nazi forces near Troyes, France in World War II. He earned eight letters combined in football, basketball, and track at Craig High School, and earned a football scholarship to Colorado A&M, where he earned all-conference honors and the Mountain States Conference "best all-around athlete" honor in 1943. Four credits shy of earning his degree in mechanical engineering, he was called up to fulfill his officer commission. He was awarded the Silver Star posthumously for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States.



No. 111 - December 13, 1983. The wildest - and highest scoring - game in NBA history took place at McNichols Sports Arena in Denver: 370 total points were scored in a three-overtime thriller. The visiting Detroit Pistons left town with a 186-184 victory. It was tied at 74 at halftime and 145-all at the end of regulation. At another time, while the Nuggets and Pistons combined to take 251 shots, each team was just 1-of-2 from 3-point range; thus, 140 of the 142 field goals were traditional two-point baskets. Six players scored 28 or more points - four over 40, with Denver's **Kiki Vandeweghe** leading all scorers with 51, with Alex English adding 47 and Dan Issel 28; Detroit was led by Isaiah Thomas with 47 and John Long with 41.



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No. 112 - April 5, 1924. Tiny Windsor High School, the two-time state champ from the town with the same name northeast of Loveland and a population of 1,290, won the National Interscholastic Basketball Championship in Chicago, defeating Yankton, S.D., 25-6. The event started with 40 teams, and in the end, the Bulldogs beat four other state champions and won five games in all, leaving them the only undefeated team standing. **Arthur Law** led the way in the title game with 12 points. The school

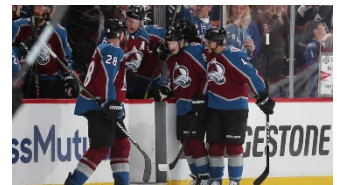
changed its nickname to Wizards following the win after being referred to as such in media accounts.

No. 113 - July 29, 1984. Boulder's **Connie Carpenter-Phinney** became the first American woman to win the gold medal in Olympic road cycling, winning the 79-kilometer race at the Los Angeles Summer Games. Neck-and-neck with fellow American **Rebecca Twigg**, the two accelerated into a frantic sprint over the last 50 meters, with Carpenter winning by all of two inches to claim the gold. It would be 40 years before the next American woman won gold. Her husband, **Davis Phinney**, won a bronze medal in cycling in the same L.A. games.



No. 114 - March 18, 1961. In Hutchinson, Kan., Pueblo Junior College won the National Junior College Athletic Association's (NJCAA) basketball title, completing a four-game tourney sweep by defeating Tyler (Texas), 79-66. **Bob Warlick**, named the tournament's MVP, led the Indians in the tournament, scoring 86 points; he had 26 in the title game. The team was coached by the late **Harry Simmons**, a 1982 inductee into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame.

No. 115 - April 15, 2019. One of the great debuts in local hockey history, and it happened in the playoffs. Three days after **Cale Makar** was named winner of the Hobey Baker Award as the top collegian and two days after his UMass Minutemen lost to Minnesota in a Frozen Four semifinal, Makar made his professional debut in game three of the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs. The first (and to date only) defenseman in NHL history to make his debut in the playoffs and score a goal in his very first game - and on his very first shot-on-goal - in Colorado's 6-2 win over the Calgary Flames.



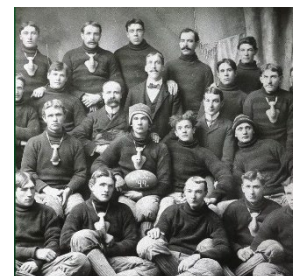
116 - On October 6, 1990 - Not exactly the greatest moment, but certainly a memorable one since it has occurred three times in history: CU's 33-31 win at Missouri made major headlines. Trailing 31-27, the Buffs had a first-and-goal at the Mizzou 3. The chain crew failed to move the down marker from second to third. Mizzou's Omni-Turf was also in terrible condition, and the correct shoe was needed to avoid slipping; MU never informed CU of that fact, and coaches documented 92 slips and falls by Buff players - 16 of which were documented and shown on ESPN's GameDay the next Saturday. But Fifth Down was the bigger controversy.



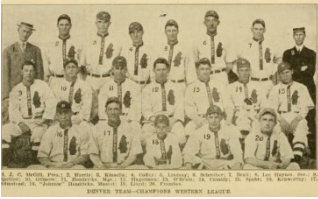
117 - On February 1 1965 - Until Gerald H. and Allan R. Phipps purchased undisputed control of the Denver Broncos for \$1.5 million on February 14, 1965 - to increase their ownership of the team to 94 percent by gaining 52 percent with the immediate cash payment - the voting trust headed by spokesman and team president Calvin Kunz were seriously flirting with selling the team to the Atlanta-based Cox Broadcasting Company. Kunz and the trust had an offer of slightly over \$4 million from them to purchase all of the stock until the Phipps brothers and their firm, Empire Sports Inc., took full control of the franchise and saved pro football in

Denver (they purchased the Denver Bears the same day).

118 - On November 30, 1899 - The first meeting in the series that would eventually be known as the "Border War" took place when Colorado Agricultural College (Colorado State) and the University of Wyoming met for the first time. It was the first game CSU ever played outside of the state, and it won 12-0 by forfeit after a controversial ending with the officials, who were provided by both schools. They have played 117 times, with CSU leading 60-52 with five ties. The two will be in different conferences for the first time in over a century beginning this fall, but the schools have agreed to keep the series alive - it's the opener for both on September 5 in Fort Collins.



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119 - The 1911 Denver Grizzlies of the Class-A Western League were voted one of the top 100 minor league teams of all-time in 2001 (No. 22 on the list); the team finished with a 111-54-3 record. Games were much quicker (no radio or television, or lights); Denver won a game 6-0 at Topeka that was played in 1 hour and 15 minutes; it had a 13-inning game played at 2:10. Games were called because of darkness or if one or both teams needed to catch a train to their next location. A pitcher on that

team was named Ed Kinsella - no idea if his name was utilized in 1989's Field of Dreams (Kevin Costner played Ray Kinsella, who had a dysfunctional relationship with his major league father, John).

120 - **On February 17, 2001.** In what many called the biggest prep wrestling upset in state history, Wasson's Brett Roller defeated Pomona's Tom Clum, 13-12, in the Colorado 5A 125-pound state wrestling championship before over 17,000 in attendance at Pepsi Center. At the time, Clum was an undefeated, three-time state champion with a 148-0 career record and was seeking to become the first-ever state champion in Colorado history. Roller earned five points in the final seconds (two for a takedown, three for back points) to win the match; he finished the season with a 39-1 record.



121 - **December 8, 1996.** The Colorado Xplosion's Debbie Black became the first woman and only the fifth professional ever to record a quadruple-double, with 10 points, 14 rebounds, 12 assists, and 10 steals in a 91-75 home win over the Atlanta Glory (40-minute game as compared to the NBA's 48-minute game). It has occurred only four times officially in the NBA, all before Black's - by Nate Thurmond, Alvin Robertson, Hakeem Olajuwon, and David Robinson. It is likely that Wilt Chamberlain did it before blocked shots were tracked. Black's is the last quadruple-double in pro ball; Grambling's Shakyla Hill had two, one each in 2018 and 2019.

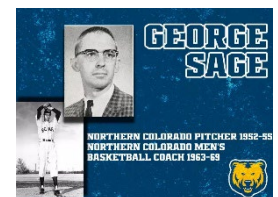
122 - **November 30, 1985.** In what many consider to be one of the greatest upsets ever in Colorado high school football, Lakewood, with all of 27 players on its roster, manhandled heavily favored Cherry Creek, 47-8, in the 4A championship game. It wasn't a fluke; Lakewood finished 13-1 with the Tigers' average margin of victory being 22 points. On a frigid day at CU's Folsom Field, Lakewood zoomed to a 31-0 halftime lead and never looked back; the Tigers outgained the Bruins, 401-194 in total offense in what is still one of - if not the - most lopsided title games in state prep history.



123 - **May 3, 1972.** The Denver Spurs, regular-season champions of the Western Hockey League, went on to win the Lester Patrick Cup by defeating the Portland Buckaroos 6-0 and the championship series in five games. Denver had swept the San Diego Gulls, four games to none in the semifinals. Frank Huck, the league MVP, scored nine goals with four assists in the playoffs; rookie defenseman Glen Patrick was the first to receive the Patrick Cup postgame, as it was named after his grandfather. It was the city's first

professional hockey title, some 24 years before the Colorado Avalanche won the Stanley Cup.

124 - **June 11, 1955.** In its third appearance in the College World Series, the University of Northern Colorado recorded the first win by a state college in the event, upsetting top-ranked Southern California, 2-1. Wayne Coates doubled home, George Sage in the fourth inning, giving the Bears a 2-0 lead; Sage pitched a complete game and allowed only six hits, striking out three. UNC would then be eliminated by Wake Forest and Arizona. Northern Colorado has the most appearances of any state school in the College World Series, as the Bears have won 10 District VII and/or Regional titles to advance to the Series, the last time in 1974; the Bears are 3-20 in CWS games.



125 - **August 25, 1920.** The state's first Olympian, Denver native and Longmont High School graduate and 1966 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee Eddie Eagan, won the gold medal in the light heavyweight competition at the 1920 Summer Olympics in Antwerp, Belgium. Twelve years later, he made Olympic history that still hasn't been matched: he became the first and only athlete to win gold medals in the Summer and Winter Olympics - on February 15, 1932, he was on the U.S. team that won the gold in the four-man bobsled at Lake Placid, N.Y.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

126 - November 28, 1889. The first game in one of college football's longest rivalries was played in Colorado Springs, with Colorado Mines defeating Colorado College in a Thanksgiving Day battle, 14-6.



127 - KDKA-Radio in Pittsburgh was the first to broadcast sporting events on radio in 1921, beginning with a prize fight and then expanding into team sports. The "first" sports broadcast in Colorado was on an experimental station owned by H.H. Buckwalter and located at 713 Lincoln Street. While not a truly complete broadcast in the sense, on **February 10, 1922**, constant live updates were provided for CU's 32-20 win in basketball at DU. On April 15, 1926, the first full game involving a team from the state was broadcast, as 5,000-watt KOA-Radio, which began broadcasting in 1924 and was then located at 830 am on the dial, picked up the Denver Bears' season opener at St. Joseph (Denver lost, 6-2). The first full game originated locally was on November 25, 1926, once again on KOA, which selected the annual CU-DU Thanksgiving Day clash at DU Stadium. The station remained off the air from the previous night until the 2 p.m. kickoff – Denver won the game, 20-9.



128 - May 22, 1914. University of Colorado freshman pitcher Bob McGraw - a future major leaguer - struck out what remains a state collegiate record 20 batters in the Silver & Gold's 7-1 win versus Colorado College in Boulder. In throwing a 2-hitter, McGraw also went 2-for-4 at the plate with a home run. It was the second-most strikeouts at the time in all of college baseball, and the win also clinched the RMAC title for CU. In 1917, he signed with the Philadelphia Phillies and became the state's first player to reach the major leagues. (By the way, CU batters struck out 13 times, for 33 total whiffs in the game).



129 - August 1, 1934. The 19th Denver Post Baseball Tournament, later known as the "Little World Series of the West," was integrated for the first time. Post sports editor Poss Parsons wanted the tournament to feature the most competitive teams, thus he invited Negro League players to participate for the first time, starting with the Kansas City Monarchs (the Negro League champions) and the Denver White Elephants. The White Elephants featured the only Colorado-born player in the Negro League, Theodore "Bubbles" Anderson, a 2025 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame

inductee. The tournament started in 1915 and attracted the top semi-pro teams in the sport until it was discontinued in the mid-1940s

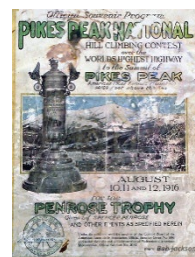
130 - January 29, 1906. The recently completed National Western Stock Show was born from several stock fairs and exhibits, originally called the Western Livestock Show, and was held in the stockyards in North Denver. Three local businessmen were credited for organizing the initial gathering of no less than six associations: Elias Ammons and George Ballantine of the Denver Union Stock Yard Company, and Fred P. Johnson (publisher of the Record-Stockman). When all was said and done, 351 cattle, sheep, and hogs were shown over the six-day event. One of the actual early precursors to the National Western was on June 30, 1874 - Denver Blood Stock Association's Blood Stock Fair opened, five days of showing thoroughbred cattle divided into five groupings of purebred cattle: Shorthorns, Herefords, Devons, Jerseys & Ayrshires, and Galloways (a purse offered \$15,000 in prizes).



131 - January 8, 2012. After heavily favored Pittsburgh battled back to force overtime with the Denver Broncos after tying the game at 23-all in this AFC wild-card contest. Denver got the ball first at its own 20 to start the extra session, which would last all of 11 seconds. Tim Tebow threw a play-action pass to 2023 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee Demaryius Thomas, who caught the ball at the Denver 38 and then outdistanced Steeler defenders to the end zone for an 80-yard score, a 29-23 Bronco win that culminated in the quickest ending to an overtime in NFL history.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

132 - August 10-12, 1916. The Pikes Peak International Hill Climb is run for the first time. Originally intended to stimulate tourism in the Colorado Springs and Pikes Peak region, it drew tremendous crowds from the start. Initially called the Pikes Peak Auto Hill Climb, Rea Lentz in a Romano Special won the inaugural race that covered 12.42 miles in 20 minutes and 55.6 seconds, with Floyd Clymer winning the motorcycle class in a time of 21:58.41. Over the years, the legendary Unser family (Louis, Bobby, Al, Robby, and Al Jr.) won a combined 25 titles racing the course, which climbs 4,725 feet from 9,390 feet to a summit of 14,115 feet, with 156 turns in between.



133 - March 15, 1999. Playing in her final home (a second-round NCAA tournament game), Colorado State senior and 2015 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee Becky Hammon scored 30 points to lead the Rams to an 86-70 win over Southwest Missouri State to advance to the Sweet 16. Hammon was 6-of-12 from the field and 16-of-17 from the line and had eight assists. CSU finished the season 33-3 after dropping the next game to UCLA. She scored 21 points in the 77-68 loss to the Bruins, finishing as the state's all-time leading scorer by a woman's collegian (2,740 points).

134 - April 15, 1970. Spencer Haywood scored an ABA record 59 points in the regular season finale, leading the Denver Rockets to a 152-116 win over the Los Angeles Stars in Denver. He also grabbed 25 rebounds (and had three assists); the record would stand for two years. The 152 points matched Denver's most in an ABA game at that point, first done just a week before (April 8) against the Dallas Chaparrals in a 152-113 home win. Denver would top 152 points three times in future ABA play, 156 and 153 in overtime games, and in a 155-128 regulation win over Virginia in the league's last season, when all 10 players scored in double figures.

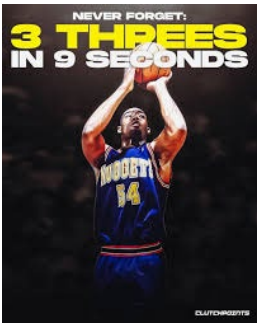


135 - July 13, 1984. The second "Denver Dream" old-timers baseball game drew 38,899 to Mile High Stadium, with the highlight being Vice President George H.W. Bush not only in attendance but also playing in the game. Donning a Denver Bear uniform, he went 1-for-2 from the plate; he first faced Warren Spahn, popping up to second baseman Milt Pappas (who intentionally dropped the ball) before singling to center of Pappas his next time up. He also played a couple of innings at first base, where he robbed Tony Oliva of a single, guarded by Secret Service agents. The 60-year old Bush was in town for the state's GOP convention that weekend. On hand to sign autographs among many Hall-of-Famers were Joe DiMaggio and Billy Martin.

136 - June 16, 1996 (Father's Day). 2013 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee Steve Jones is the second Colorado high school alum (Yuma) and second Colorado Buffalo to win the U.S. Open, as he turned in a 2-under par performance (74-66-69-69-278) at Oakland Hills Country Club in Michigan, defeating Tom Lehman and Davis Love III by one stroke. The three battled it out over the back nine, and all were tied at 2-under down the stretch, Love on the 18th green and Jones and Lehman on the 18th tee. Love three-putted, Lehman hit a bad drive and would bogey. Jones hit his approach to 12 feet and two-putted for the win. The win wasn't a fluke—only 51 subpar rounds were recorded over the four days, and Jones was the only player with three. In the process, he became the first sectional qualifier to win the U.S. Open in 20 years and the second Coloradan to attend high school and college in the state to win a U.S. Open, the other, of course, being Hale Irwin.



Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



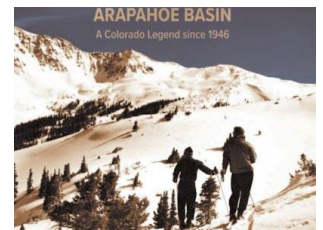
137 - February 8, 1994. Though Denver lost to Utah, Nuggets forward Rodney Rogers accomplished a feat unmatched before or since. He scored nine points in as many seconds on three 3-point field goals. He made the first from the top of the key with 29.4 seconds to play; Robert Pack stole the ball and fed it to him, and Rogers drilled the second from the same spot with 24.9 seconds on the clock. He then stole the in-bounds pass himself and strutted to the three-point line on the right baseline and sank his third three-pointer with 20.9 seconds to go – the crowd at McNichols Sports Arena went bananas. But Jeff Malone made the game-winner for the Jazz with 12 seconds left for a 96-95 win. Rogers suffered a paralyzing accident in 2008 and passed away this past November at the age of 54.

138 - February 14-15, 1912. The Winter Sports Club of Hot Sulphur Springs hosted the state's first Winter Sports Carnival, which drew 8,000 spectators, including competitors. The competitions included sledding, skating, cross-country skiing, and jumping. Norwegian transplant Carl Howelsen, who moved to the state a year earlier, was the star, winning the jumping event with a 79-foot leap. Hot Sulphur Springs is halfway between Kremmling and Granby, so it begs the question: in 1912, how did 8,000 people get there, and where did they stay?



139 - Jim: May 10, 1967. In perhaps the greatest single game in state collegiate baseball history, Air Force senior outfielder John McBroom had a career in the Falcons' 38-7 win over Colorado College. He set what still stand as NCAA records as he batted 1.000 – going 9-for-9, the most hits in a single game and the highest 1.000 average that a player did not make an out. He scored six runs and had 12 runs batted in and 19 total bases (the latter two still AFA marks). He almost hit for the cycle twice – he hit two home runs, with one triple, three doubles, and four singles. He would go on to become a flight instructor, among other accomplishments, and retire as a Major General.

140 - November 1, 1946. Arapahoe Basin is the first ski area after World War II to begin operations in the state; it borders the Continental Divide with a summit elevation of 13,050 feet, one of the highest ski resorts in the world. The original cost was estimated at \$150,000, which included two lifts, a rope tow, and trails; lift tickets for the '46-'47 ski season were just \$1.25. A year later, it added its first chair lift and attendance soared to over 12,000 (70,000 by the '61-'62 season).



141 - July 3, 1982. Denver entered the national record books again, as the Bears' annual Fireworks Night drew a minor-league record 65,666 fans - as announced at the time. The Denver fire marshal told team officials the crowd had to be capped at that number, but the true attendance was 73,155 as confirmed years later by business manager **Bobby Burris** (not to mention by looking at an aerial photo of the Mile High Stadium from that night - in no way were there 10,000 empty seats).

Omaha spoiled things with a 7-4 win in a strange game, outhitting the Bears 17-5, with the contest scoreless through five and then each team scoring in their remaining four frames. In fact, Omaha's Bill Kelly had a no-hitter entering the sixth and had it broken up with a triple by Denver native and Abraham Lincoln High School grad **Nick Capra**. 1990 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee Jim Burris was the Chief Executive Officer of the Denver Bears.

142 - August 5, 1967. The Denver Broncos became the first AFL team to defeat an NFL team, downing the Detroit Lions, 13-10, at DU Stadium in what some called "The Little Super Bowl." The Lions' Alex Karras stated prior to the game that there was no way Denver would win, and if it did, he'd walk back to Detroit. Did he? Of course not. Two weeks later, the Broncos defeated Minnesota 14-3 at DU Stadium. It was the first year the two leagues played preseason games ahead of the 1970 AFL-NFL merger; of the 15 games that year, the AFL won three, two by the Broncos.



Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



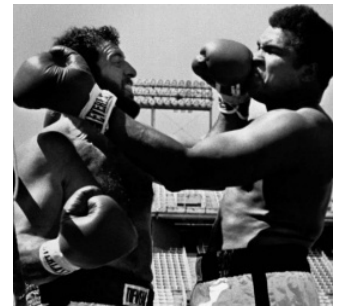
143 - January 5, 1982. Colorado State senior guard Kathy Lightfoot scored 45 points in a 118-54 win over Southern Colorado in Fort Collins, to date the most points in a single game by a Division I player in the state. Lightfoot had 21 field goals and made 3-of-4 from the free-throw line. The state's collegiate best for women, across all divisions, is a 51-point effort by the late Carroll Lillie of Southern Colorado (now CSU Pueblo), in an 82-80 overtime loss to St. Mary's of the Plains on December 3, 1979.

144 - September 4, 2004. At 12:30 p.m. MDT, the **Altitude Sports & Entertainment Network** went on the air, a property of Kroenke Sports Enterprises (KSE). Over \$10 million was spent on building a studio, installing production equipment, hiring personnel, and marketing the channel. The first program? A 30-minute special on the making of the network; there were 850,000 to one million subscribers at its launch. The first game was supposed to be the Colorado Avalanche's season opener at home (on Oct. 1), against San Jose, but the NHL lockout on Sept. 16 cancelled the season.



145 - June 2, 1987. The Denver Zephyrs' **Joey Meyer** hit what many have documented as the second-longest home run in all baseball history - 582 feet - in the Zephyrs' 14-7 win over the Buffalo Bisons. Meyer's shot landed in the upper deck in left field of Mile High Stadium's massive east stands. Meyer hit three homers that night, driving in seven runs; the longer blast came on a 2-2 pitch from Mike Murphy in the bottom of the seventh inning. On September 10, 1960, in Detroit, Mickey Mantle hit a homer estimated at 643 feet that coined the phrase, "tape-measure home run" in the Yankees' 5-1 win over the Tigers, universally considered the longest home run ever hit.

146 - July 14, 1979. It was only an exhibition, as former heavyweight boxing champion **Muhammad Ali** fought an eight-round match against Denver Broncos defensive lineman **Lyle Alzado**. Around 20,000 fans attended the event at Mile High Stadium, which wasn't officially scored but went on all eight rounds; most, if not all, thought Ali won easily. About 600 miles to the East that same night, Jamie Easterly of the Denver Bears pitched a perfect game in the Bears' 10-0 win over the Iowa Oaks in Des Moines. That was the last of seven no-hitters in Denver's minor league history that spanned over 100 years.



147 - September 13, 2000. In high school **boys' tennis**, Wheat Ridge defeated **Cherry Creek**, 5-2, ending the Bruins' remarkable dual-match winning streak at 316, the longest in the nation. The streak ended when **Paul Tinetti** ripped a forehand winner down the line to give him and partner **Brian Fisher** a 7-6 (7-2), 6-2 victory at No. 2 doubles. In 1991, it was Wheat Ridge that ended Cherry Creek's run of 19 straight national record state championships. The streak, which began in 1972 during Richard Nixon's first term as president, was and remains the second-longest in the country, behind only the Brandon, Fla., wrestling team, which won 459

consecutive dual meets from 1973 to 2008.

148 - August 26, 1974. The first championship by any Denver professional team (other than minor league baseball) was claimed by the Denver Racquets. They won the inaugural World Team Tennis league title. The Racquets defeated the top-seeded Philadelphia Freedoms, two games to zero in the best-of-three finals. Denver won the Pacific Section with a 30-14 record and beat the San Francisco Golden Gators and the Minnesota Buckskins to reach the finals. The teams were composed of half men and half women; Philadelphia was led by Billie Jean King, the league MVP; Australian **Tony Roche** (pictured right) was Denver's player-coach; and the team also had the playoffs MVP, **Andrew Pattison** (pictured left).



Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

149 - April 12, 1965. 1991 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee **Bob Martin** hosted the first sports talk show in the state (and possibly the nation) on this April Friday, when he aired "Sports Line," interviewed Bronco head coach Mac Speedie, and took public calls. It aired for one hour (6-7 p.m.) on KTLN Radio (1280 AM). Speedie was named interim head coach the previous October when Jack Faulkner was fired, and the interim tag was removed in an announcement on December 12.



The Colorado Springs team beat the Denver University nine at foot-ball on the 11th, by a score of 12 to 0.

150 - April 11, 1885. In the first intercollegiate football game played west of the Mississippi River, Colorado College defeated the University of Denver Ministers, 12-0. Early newspaper

accounts never listed any stats or even most of the scoring plays, instead focusing on who played in the game and who was the stoutest. Both institutions had been around for a while, DU since 1864 and CC since 1874, as the first intercollegiate football game took place in 1869 (Rutgers 6, Princeton 4). The game methodically spread west.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments / Denver Gazette

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79

Regis Rangers win National Catholic Invitational Basketball tournament



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No. 75 • March 26, 1949
The Regis Rangers won the inaugural National Catholic Invitational Basketball (NCIB) tournament in their only appearance, defeating St. Francis, N.Y., 31-47. Playing in Denver, Regis defeated Iowa (69-51), St. Francis, Pa. (69-49) and Loyola, Md. (67-60) to reach the championship game. Coached by 1997 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee Larry Var-nell, Regis finished with a 34-3 record. The tournament went defunct after 1952. The first NCAA championships in any sport were held in the state when Colorado A&M hosted the 19th NCAA wrestling championships in its South College Gymnasium. Oklahoma A&M won its 16th wrestling title; the host Aggies finished 10th. Oklahoma A&M also hosted the 1952 event when 'U' tied for sixth.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

72

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

80 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Kersey's Bruce Ford wins bareback rodeo world title



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No. 76 • Dec. 9, 1979
Bruce Ford (1996 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee), from Kersey, won his first of five world titles in rodeo bareback riding. He went on to capture the titles in 1980, 1982, 1983, and 1987.

During his career, he shattered or tied every bareback riding record: all-time average earnings; most NFR bareback qualifications (18); and tied for the most world bareback champion titles with five. In 1985, he became the first cowboy to win more than \$100,000 in a single event in one year and had over \$1 million in career earnings.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

73

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026

81 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

BOLDERBoulder hits streets for first time



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No. 81 • May 28, 1979
The first BOLDERBoulder was held, starting and ending on the streets of Boulder. The co-creation of Bank of Boulder president Steve Bosley and Olympic medalist Frank Shorter, the inaugural race had 2,300 finishers. In 1981, in cooperation with the University of Colorado, the race's finish was moved to Polson Field, with the winner, and in the years since, has annually drawn anywhere from 40,000 to 50,000 runners (over 1.5 million finishers through 2025); the event is the third-largest 10K race in the nation and ends with the country's largest Memorial Day celebration.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

74

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

82 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Colorado Rapids win first MLS championship



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No. 82 • Nov. 21, 2010
The Colorado Rapids claimed their first Major League Soccer cup title, defeating FC Dallas, 2-1, in Toronto

in extra time. Forward Macombha Kandji's shot was deflected by a Dallas defender and scored as an own goal. The Rapids finished 12-8-10 for fifth place in the more competitive Western Conference, but were actually seeded third in the playoffs in the East. Jose del Real, Columbus and San Jose to reach the final.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

75

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Babe Ruth and 'Whiz-Bangs' play at Denver's Merchants Park



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No. 75 • Oct. 28, 1922
In what was billed at the time as "the biggest thing in the history of Denver baseball," Babe Ruth came to Denver with fellow New York Yankee Bob Meusel to play in an exhibition at Merchants Park. Ruth played on Carl Milliken's "Whiz-Bangs," while Meusel suited

up for the Denver Bears. Ruth went 5-for-6 with two home runs, a double, two singles and a stolen base, leading the Whiz-Bangs to a 9-6 win. Meusel was 2-for-4 with two singles. Before the game, Ruth and state golf champion Larry Brandfield attempted to break the world record for driving a golf ball (350 yards), but cold temperatures (in the 40s) prevented a new record.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026

76 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Broncos beat Boston Patriots in American Football League's debut



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Plati and Broncos icon Jim Saccamano will unveil the list weekly on a Colorado Sports Hall of Fame podcast at coloradosports.org/podcast/.

No. 76 • Sept. 9, 1960
A 59-yard pass play from 1983 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee Frank Tripeska to Al Carmichael and a 76-yard punt return by Gene Mingo gave the underdog Denver Broncos a

13-10 win over the Boston Patriots as the American Football League ushered in its initial season before 21,997 fans at Boston University Field. In the preseason, the Broncos lost 43-6 to the Patriots. Mingo, a 2014 Ring of Fame inductee, also became the first Black placekicker in professional football during this game.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026

77 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Mile High Kennel Club brings dog racing to Denver



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No. 77 • July 11, 1949
The grand opening of the Mile High Kennel Club took place, officially bringing greyhound dog racing to the Denver metro area. Built on property in Adams County, the grandstand

seated 3,800 people. That same year, the Rocky Mountain Kennel Club in Colorado Springs (on July 1) and the Pueblo Kennel Club (Aug. 1) also began operations, with two others emerging in later years (Cloverleaf in Loveland; Interstate in Byers). Dog racing would cease in 2008 and eventually be officially outlawed in the state in 2014.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

78

83

The International debuts at Castle Pines



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No. 83 • Aug. 14, 1986
The first regular PGA Tour stop in the state since the Denver Open (1947-63) debuted in Castle Rock, as Denver col-

man Jack Vickers created The International at Castle Pines, which featured the unique Stableford scoring format. Green won the inaugural event over Bernhard Langer. But not all players liked the format. Jack Nicklaus, for one, thought it was "stupid and silly," and the Golden Bear was close friends with Vickers.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

84 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Metro State wins NCAA Division II national championship



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No. 84 • March 25, 2000
The Metro State Roadrunners dealt favorite Kentucky Wesleyan a 97-79 setback to claim the NCAA Division II men's basketball championship, averaging a loss to them in the 1999

finals. All-American and tournament MVP DeMarcos Anzures led the way with 32 points and Mike Dunlap was honored as the NAAC National Coach of the Year as Metro finished with a 33-4 record. Anzures was the first Division II state college player to earn first-team All-American honors.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026

85 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Colorado Mesa women reach NCAA Division II Final Four



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No. 85 • March 26, 2026
The Colorado Mesa women's basketball team just missed advancing to the NCAA Division II title game, falling to Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 75-70. The Mavericks fell behind 12-0 but rallied to tie the game at 23-all before trailing 36-29 at the half. CMU

never got closer than four the rest of the way. Olivia Reed Thyne led Mesa with 24 points, 14 rebounds and three blocked shots as the Mavericks finished the season with a 37-2 record, having won 24 in a row — the longest streak in state history — prior to the semifinal loss. The 37 wins are also the most in the state by a college team — men's or women's.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026

Colorado's Bill McCartney gets first win over Nebraska

Happy birthday, Colorado — and Colorado sports.
 Leading into the state's 150th birthday Aug. 1, The Denver Gazette has partnered with the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame to publicize the definitive list of Colorado's top 150 sports moments.
 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian Dave Platt and a committee of 10 compiled and will release the list every week until the No. 1 moment on July 31.

31. Platt and Broncos icon Jim Saccomano will unveil the list weekly on a Colorado Sports Hall of Fame podcast at coloradosports.org/podcast/.
No. 86 • Oct. 25, 1986
 Colorado's 20-10 win over No. 3 Nebraska in Boulder became known as "The Turning Point" in the 13-year Bill McCartney coaching era. Not only was it CU's first win over the Huskers since 1967, but it was also the high-

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026

87 Denver Summit FC plays in front of record home crowd

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No. 87
March 28, 2026
 Before a National Women's Soccer League record crowd, the Denver Summit FC played its first home game, dueling to a scoreless tie with the Wash-

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026

88 Boulder's Marianne Martin wins first women's Tour de France

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No. 88
July 22, 1984
 Boulder's Marianne Martin won the inaugural women's Tour de France. The 26-year-old University of Colora-

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

Broncos start record sellout streak with win over Steelers

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No. 89 • Sept. 27, 1970
 The Denver Broncos played their first home game after the AFL-NFL merger, defeating the Pittsburgh Steelers, 16-13. The game was played before a sellout crowd of 50,705, starting a professional sports-record

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

Colorado Springs' Judy Bell named president of USGA

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States Golf Association (USGA) and elected to a two-year term (2021-22). A member of the World Golf and Colorado Golf halls of fame, she was the first female president of the organization since it was founded in 1894. She had been its vice president.
 —Dave Platt, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2026

Colorado grad Bill Toomey wins gold medal in decathlon

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 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian Dave Platt and a committee of 10 compiled and will release the list every week until the No. 1 moment on July 31.

He racked up an Olympic-record 8,193 total points, winning by 82 over East Germany's Hans-Joachim Walde in the 25-man field. Toomey won 23 of the 38 decathlons he competed in, including the 1967 Pan American Games leading to the Olympics, and held the world record for the most points in a decathlon for nearly three years. He was inducted into the CSOHOF in 1971.
 —Dave Platt, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

92 Denver's Jerome Biffle wins city's first Olympic gold medal

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No. 92
July 21, 1952
 Denver native, East High School and University of Denver graduate Jerome Biffle won the gold medal in the broad (long) jump at the Summer Olympics

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

93 Pueblo Central, Pueblo Centennial football rivalry begins

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will unveil the list weekly on a Colorado Sports Hall of Fame podcast at coloradosports.org/podcast/.
No. 93
Nov. 24, 1922
 One of the state's oldest high school football rivalries was born on this Thanksgiving when Pueblo Central defeated Pueblo Centennial, 4-0 (touchdowns were worth four points at the time; the conversion was missed). C-

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

Denver native Johnny Mauro races in Indianapolis 500

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No. 94 • May 31, 1948
 A native of Denver, 37-year-old Johnny Mauro became the first Colorado driver to race in the Indianapolis 500. He started 27th with his Alfa Romeo chassis and engine and completed

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

Town and Gown opens — and remains third-oldest public golf club in U.S.

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No. 95 • May 1988
 Town and Gown Golf Club opened in Colorado Springs. To this day the course is one of the oldest continuously oper-

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026

Dave Logan wins 13th state football championship

Happy birthday, Colorado — and Colorado sports.
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No. 96 • Dec. 6, 2025
 Cherry Creek sprinted to a 28-0 lead and went on to defeat Ralston Valley, 56-28, giving head coach Dave Logan his 13th state championship, his seventh with the Bruins. As the only coach

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

NWSL awards Denver expansion franchise

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No. 97
Jan. 20, 2025
 The National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) awards an expansion franchise to Denver, the league's 16th fran-

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026

Hugo's Pearson scores high-school record 12 rushing TDs

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No. 98
Sept. 26, 1930
 Ken Pearson scored a national high school record that still stands — 12 rushing touchdowns in Hugo's 176-0 win over Vona at home. The 12 touchdowns were a state record and are tied for the second-most in the his-

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

Broncos icon Floyd Little blows kisses to fans in Mile High goodbye

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No. 99 • Dec. 14, 1975
 Floyd Little capped his nine-year professional career by leading Denver to a 25-10 win over Philadelphia in his final home game. After the Eagles tied the game at 10-10 in the third quarter, he scored what proved to be the winning points on a 66-yard touchdown reception on a screen pass from Steve Ramsey. Little then scored the final

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

100 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Ben Hogan wins Denver Open at Wellshire Golf Course



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No. 100 - Aug. 22, 1948

Ben Hogan won the Denver Open at Wellshire Golf Course, defeating Fred Basa Jr. by one stroke. Hogan's 18-under par 270 scorecard earned him \$2,150. It was his sixth straight win on the PGA Tour, the second-longest streak at the time and still tied for the third-longest streak. (It was not matched until 2000 by Tiger Woods).

Wellshire opened in August 1926 and will celebrate its 100th anniversary this summer. Its history includes the longest active continuous tournament in Colorado (the Wellshire 4-ball); Arnold Palmer finishing third in the 1958 Denver Open, two years before returning to the state to win the U.S. Open; and Bill Wright winning the 1959 Public Links title, the first African American to win a major golf tournament.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026

101 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Bob Howsam brings minor league baseball to Denver



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No. 101 - Nov. 23, 1954

After weeks of speculation and negotiation, Bob Howsam managed to purchase the defunct Kansas City franchise for \$75,000

that elevated Denver into the American Association and Triple-A baseball, simultaneously with the New York Yankees remaining the parent club of the franchise with its move to Denver. It would trigger a series of events over the next 40 years for the city to get a major league franchise.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

102 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Jack Nicklaus wins U.S. Amateur at The Broadmoor on Sept. 19, 1959



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No. 102 - Sept. 19, 1959

The U.S. Amateur was held for the first time in the state, with 19-year-old Ohio State University junior Jack

Nicklaus emerging as the winner on the Broadmoor East course, defeating Charlie Coe, 1 up. It was the first USGA championship of his career. He won all eight matches over the grueling weeklong test, starting with a 7-and-6 win over Robert Tyre Jones III, son of iconic golf star Bobby Jones.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026

103 DENVER PIONEERS HOCKEY WINS SIXTH NCAA TITLE



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No. 103 - April 10, 2004

The Denver Pioneers won their sixth NCAA hockey title — and first in 35 years — with a 1-0 win over the Univer-

sity of Maine in Boston. Gabe Gauthier took a pass from Connor James and scored with his move to Denver. It would only goal at the 12:26 mark of the first period. DU goalie Adam Berkehoel stopped 24 Bluel Bear shots on goal to earn the shutout, including two in the final 90 seconds when Maine had a rare 6-on-5 man advantage.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

104 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Rockies hockey club debuts vs. Maple Leafs at McNichols Sports Arena



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No. 104 - Oct. 5, 1976

Hockey was back but in the NHL for the first time. The Kansas City Scouts had relocated to Denver as the Colorado Rockies. They won their first

game, defeating the Toronto Maple Leafs, 4-2, before a sparse crowd of 7,359 at McNichols Sports Arena. Rookie Larry Skinner scored the first Colorado goal, which was assisted by Chuck Arnason and Wiff Patience, who had a goal and two assists. Two Rockies goalies combined to stop 39 of 41 shots.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

105 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Thanks to Suplezio, JUCO World Series lands in Grand Junction



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No. 105 - May 24, 1959

The driving force behind Grand Junction landing the Division I Junior College World Series was Sam Suplezio, who settled there after his professional playing days. The inaugural event the year before was

held in Miami, but the former major league slugger sold the baseball contract on relocating the tournament in 1959 to Grand Junction, where it has been held ever since and played on the field that has been named in his honor, Paris (Texas) Junior College won the first one held in Grand Junction, beating Northeastern Oklahoma in the title game, 14-4.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026

106 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Air Force football earns first New Year's Day bowl berth



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No. 106 - Jan. 1, 1959

The Air Force Academy, the football program in just its fourth year of existence and ranked No. 6, earned its first New Year's Day bowl berth, opposite No. 10 TCU in the Cotton Bowl.

On a cool, 48-degree day in Dallas, the teams battled to a scoreless tie, combining for 458 yards of offense, as well as fumbling the ball 13 times and turning it over eight times. AFB, in its first season under coach Ben Martin, finished 9-0-2 and was undefeated against state schools (CU, CSU and UNL).

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026

107 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Colorado College erupts for 13 goals in NCAA championship



Happy birthday, Colorado — and Colorado sports. Leading into the state's 150th birthday Aug. 1, The Denver Gazette has partnered with the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame to publicize the definitive list of Colorado's top 150 sports moments.

Colorado College won the state's first NCAA championship, played in Colorado Springs, as the Tigers' hockey team defeated Boston University, 13-4. Chris Ray led the offensive output with four goals and two assists, with Tony Frasca scoring twice and assisting on

two others. CC poured it in on the third period, scoring 10 goals. Coach Chad Thompson's team beat Boston College, 10-3 in the semifinals. Colorado Sports Hall of Fame Andy Gambaccini was a member of that team. CC (18-2-1) scored 190 goals in 24 games, including 10 or more on nine occasions. The 13 goals remain the most in a championship game, matched just one time — by CC in 1957.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

108 Forsberg leads largest comeback in Avalanche history



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No. 108 - March 3, 1999

Peter Forsberg led the largest comeback in Avalanche history, scoring three goals with three assists for six points in Colorado's 5-5 win in Miami. With the Panthers ahead 5-0,

Forsberg got the Avs on the board at the 18:11 mark of the second period. Colorado then exploded for a team record-tying six goals in the third period, with Forsberg scoring the third and final goals, with the other four put in the net by four different players. The six points by Forsberg tied the Avalanche single-game record set by Joe Sakic in 1996.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

109 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

CSU basketball wins surprise WAC title after 'Lean on Me' viewing



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No. 109 - March 4, 1989

Peter Forsberg led the largest comeback in Avalanche history, scoring three goals with three assists for six points in Colorado's 5-5 win in Miami. With the Panthers ahead 5-0,

team, took the Rams to a Friday night movie: "Lean on Me." Pat Durham scored 31 points to lead CSU to an 89-72 win. The Rams shot 78% from the field in the second half (14-of-18, including six 3s) to pull away for a decisive triumph. Later that day, New Mexico was upset at home by Hawaii (71-60). CSU won its first conference title since the Mountain States in 1954.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026

110 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Lewis 'Dude' Dent dies in World War II after star career at Craig High



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No. 110 - Aug. 25, 1944

One of the top athletes from north-west Colorado, Lewis "Dude" Dent, was named Silver Star posthumously for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States.

to Colorado A&M, where he earned all-conference honors and the Mountain States Conference "best all-around athlete" honor in 1943. Four credits shy of earning his degree in mechanical engineering, he was called up to fulfill his officer commission. He was awarded the Silver Star posthumously for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

111 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Boulder's Carpenter-Phinney wins Olympic gold medal in cycling



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No. 111 - July 28, 1984

Boulder's Connie Carpenter-Phinney became the first American woman to win a gold medal in Olympic road cycling, winning the 79-kilometer race at the Los Angeles Summer games. Neck-

and-neck with fellow American Rebecca Twigg, the two accelerated into a frantic sprint over the final 50 meters, with Carpenter winning by all of 2 inches to claim the gold. It would be 40 years until the next American woman would win the gold. Her husband, Davis Phinney, won a bronze medal in cycling in the same L.A. games.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

112 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Windsor High School wins national basketball championship



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No. 112 - April 5, 1924

Tiny Windsor High School, the two-time state champ from the town with the same name northeast of Loveland and a population of 1,290, won the National Interscholastic Basketball Championship in Chicago, defeating

Yankton, S.D., 25-6. The event started with 40 teams, and in the end, the Bulldogs beat four other state champions and won five games in all, the only undefeated team left standing. Arthur Law led the way in the title game with 12 points. The school changed its nickname to Wizards following the win after being referred to as such in media accounts.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

113 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Nuggets play in the highest-scoring game in NBA history



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Dec. 13, 1983

The highest-scoring game in NBA history took place at McNichols Sports Arena in Denver. The Nuggets and Detroit Pistons combined for 370 points in a three-overtime thriller. The Pistons left town with a 186-184 win. It was tied at 75 at halftime and 145 at the end of regulation. While the Nuggets and

Pistons combined to take 251 shots, each team was just 1-of-2 from 3-point range. Thus, 140 of the 142 field goals were traditional two-point baskets. Six players scored 28 or more points. Four had over 40, with Denver's Kiki Vandeweghe leading all scorers with 51. Alex English added 47 and Dan Issel 28. Detroit was led by Isiah Thomas with 47 points and John Long 41.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

114 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Pueblo Junior College wins NJCAA basketball title | March 18, 1961



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Plati and Broncos icon Jim Saccomano will unveil the list weekly on a Colorado Sports Hall of Fame podcast at coloradosports.org/podcast. Today's top moment in Colorado sports history: Pueblo Junior College won the National Junior College Athletic Association's (NJCAA) basketball title, completing a four-game tournament sweep by defeating Tyler (Texas), 79-66. Bob Warrick, named the tournament's MVP, led the Indians, scoring 86 total points. He had 26 in the title game. The team was coached by the late Harry Simmons, a 1992 inductee into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

115 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Avalanches' Cale Makar makes history in his NHL debut



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D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

116 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

CU Buffs win 'Fifth Down Game' against Missouri



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Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian Dave Plati and a committee of 10 compiled and will release the list every week until the No. 1 moment on July 31. Plati and Broncos icon Jim Saccomano will unveil the list weekly on a Colorado Sports Hall of Fame podcast at coloradosports.org/podcast. Today's top moment in Colorado sports history: Colorado's top 150 sports moments.

two seconds late. Johnson then scored on a dive up the middle — on what turned out to be fifth down. What happened is that the chain crew never moved the down marker from second to third. Missouri's Omni-Turf was also the subject of controversy as the referee and the center of the field were not aligned. The referees were informed of this fact, and the game was delayed 22 seconds and by buff players — 16 of which were documented and shown on ESPN's College GameDay the next Saturday.

D4 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

117 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Gerald H. and Allan R. Phipps keep pro football in Denver



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team president Calvin Kunz was seriously illing with selling the team to the Atlanta-based Cox Broadcasting Company. Kunz and the trust had an 80% stake in the team, and the trust had 20%. The trust had 20% of the franchise and saved pro football in Denver (they purchased the Denver Bears the same day).

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026

118 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

CSU, Wyoming football meet in first 'Border War'



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first game CSU ever played outside of the state, and it was 12-0 by forfeit after a controversial ending, with the officials, who were provided by both schools, they have played 17 times, with CSU leading 10-7 with ties. The rivalry will be different centuries for the first time in over a century beginning this fall, but the schools have agreed to keep the series alive — it's the power for both on Sept. 5 in Fort Collins.

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

119 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

1911 Denver Grizzlies put together one of the best minor-league seasons



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was played in 1 hour and 15 minutes; it had a 13-minute game played in 2:10. Games were called because of darkness or if one or both of the teams needed to catch a train to their next location. A pitcher on that team was named Ed Kinsella — no idea if his name was utilized in 1891's "Hall of Dreams" (Kevin Costner played Ray Kinsella, who had a dysfunctional relationship with his manager, played by Gene Hackman).

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

120 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Wasson's Brett Roller upsets Pomona's Tom Clum at state wrestling



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ship before over 17,000 at Pepsi Center. At the time, Clum was an undefeated, three-time state champion with a 148-0 career record and was seeking to become the first four-time state champion in Colorado history. Roller carried five points in the final seconds (two for a takedown, three for back points) to win the match. He finished the season with a 39-1 mark.

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

121 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Xplosion's Debbie Black becomes first woman to record quadruple-double



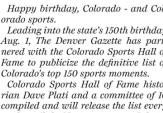
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D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

122 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Lakewood upsets Cherry Creek in 4A football title game



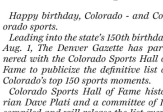
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It wasn't a fluke. Lakewood finished 13-1 with the Tigers' average margin of victory being 22 points. On a Friday day at CU's Folsom Field, Lakewood zoomed to a 31-0 halftime lead and never looked back. The Tigers out-gained the Bruins 401-194 in total offense in what is still one of — if not the — most lopsided title games in state prep history.

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026

123 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Denver Spurs win Western Hockey League championship



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swept the San Diego Gulls in the semifinals. Frank Huck, the league MVP, scored nine goals with four assists in the playoffs. Rookie defenseman Glen Suter was the first to be presented with the Patrick Cup, as it was named after his famous grandfather. It was city's first professional hockey title, some 24 years before the Colorado Avalanche won the Stanley Cup.

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

124 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Northern Colorado records state's first College World Series win



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D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

125 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Denver boxer Egan, state's first Olympian, wins gold medal



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light heavyweight boxing competition in the 1920 Summer Olympics in Antwerp, Belgium. Twelve years later, he made Olympic history that still hasn't been matched; he became the first and only athlete to win gold medals in the Summer and Winter Olympics in different sports. On Feb. 15, 1922, he was on the U.S. team that won the gold in the four-man bobsled at Lake Placid, New York.

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026

126 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Colorado Mines, Colorado College meet for first time in football



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every week until the No. 1 moment on July 31. Plati and Broncos icon Jim Saccomano will unveil the list weekly on a Colorado Sports Hall of Fame podcast at coloradosports.org/podcast. Today's top moment in Colorado sports history: Colorado's top 150 sports moments.

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026

127 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Sports broadcasting debuts on Denver airwaves



Happy birthday, Colorado — and Colorado sports. Leading into the state's 150th birthday Aug. 1, The Denver Gazette has partnered with the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame to publicize the definitive list of Colorado's top 150 sports moments.

1926, the first full game involving a team from the state is broadcast, as 5,000-watt KJKA-Radio, which began broadcasting in 1924, then located at 800 AM on the dial, picked up the Denver Bears' season opener at St. Joseph (Denver lost 6-2). The first full game originated locally on Nov. 25, 1926, once again on KJKA-Radio and located at 710 Lincoln St. While not a true complete broadcast in the sense, on Feb. 10, 1922, constant live updates were provided for CU's 32-20 basketball win in DU. On April 15,

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026

128 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

CU Buffs pitcher Bob McGraw sets college strikeout record



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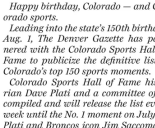
will unveil the list weekly on a Colorado Sports Hall of Fame podcast at coloradosports.org/podcast/.
Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:
No. 128
May 22, 1914
University of Colorado freshman pitcher Bob McGraw — a future major leaguer — struck out what remains a state college record 20 batters in the Silver and Gold's 7-1 win against Col-

orado College in Boulder. In throwing a two-hitter, McGraw also went 2-for-4 at the plate with a home run. It was the second-most strikeouts at the time in college baseball, and the win also clinched the RMAC title for CU. In 1917, he signed with the Philadelphia Phillies and became the state's first player to reach the major leagues. CU batters struck out 31 times for 33 total batters in the game.
—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026

129 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

'Little World Series of the West' integrates Negro League players



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will unveil the list weekly on a Colorado Sports Hall of Fame podcast at coloradosports.org/podcast/.
Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:
No. 129
Aug. 1, 1934
The 19th edition of the baseball tournament that came to be known as the "Little World Series of the West" was integrated for the first time. Organizers wanted the tournament to feature the most competitive teams. Thus, they invited Negro

League players to participate for the first time, starting with the Kansas City Monarchs (the Negro League champions) and the Denver White Elephants. The White Elephants featured the only Colorado-born player in the Negro League, Theodor "Bubbles" Anderson, a 2025 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee. The tournament started in 1915 and attracted the top semi-pro teams in the sport until it was discontinued in the mid-1940s.
—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026

130 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

National Western Stock Show born in Denver on Jan. 29, 1906



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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:
No. 130
Jan. 29, 1906
The National Western Stock Show was born out of a few stock fairs and exhibits. It was originally called the Western Live Stock Show and was held in the stock yards in North Denver. Three local businessmen were credited for organizing the initial gathering of no less than six associations: Elias Ammons and George Ballantine of the Denver Union Stock Yard Company

and Fred F. Johnson (publisher of the Record-Stockman). When all was said and done, 351 cattle, sheep and hogs were shown over the six-day event. One of the early precursors to the National Western was on June 30, 1878, when The Denver Blood Stock Association's Blood Stock Fair opened. It was five days of showing thoroughbred cattle divided into five groupings of purebred cattle: Shorthorns, Herefords, Devons, Jerseys & Ayrshires and Galloways. A purse offered \$15,000 in prizes.
—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

131 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Tebow, Thomas lift Broncos to OT playoff win over Steelers



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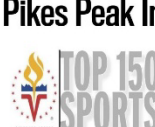
will unveil the list weekly on a Colorado Sports Hall of Fame podcast at coloradosports.org/podcast/.
Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:
No. 131
Jan. 8, 2012
The heavily favored Pittsburgh Steelers battled back from a 20-6 deficit to force overtime with the Denver Broncos after tying the game at 23-23 in an AFC wild-card game. Denver got the ball first at its own 20 to start the extra session, which would last all of 11 seconds. Tim Tebow threw a

play-action pass to Demaryius Thomas, who caught the ball at the Denver 38 and outran Steelers defenders to the end zone for an 80-yard score and a 29-23 Broncos win that eliminated in the quickest ending to an overtime game in NFL history. The play also involved a former Colorado Buffaloes on Thanksgiving Day 1980. David Williams returned the overtime kickoff off 95 yards to give Chicago a 24-17 win at Detroit — 16 seconds into the extra session.
—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

132 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Pikes Peak International Hill Climb makes its debut in 1916



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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:
No. 132
Apr. 15-19, 1916
The Pikes Peak International Hill Climb was run for the first time. Originally intended to be a fundraiser for the Colorado Springs and Pikes Peak region, the race drew tremendous crowds from the start. Initially called the Pikes Peak Auto Hill

Climb, Ben Lentz in a Romano Special won the inaugural race that covered the 12.42 miles in 20:55.6, with Floyd Clymer winning the next year's race in 20:42.5 from a 21:38.41. Through the years, the legendary User family (Louis, Bobby, Al, Bobby) won the race 23 times, including the 1916 race. The race covers a 4,725-foot elevation gain — starting at 9,300 feet to a summit of 14,115 feet — with 156 turns in between.
—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

133 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

CSU Rams' Becky Hammon scores 30 in final home game



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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:
No. 133
March 15, 1999
Becky Hammon in her final home (a second-round NCAA Tournament game), Colorado State senior Becky Hammon scored 30 points to lead the Rams to an

86-70 win over Southwest Missouri State to advance to the Sweet 16. Hammon was 6-of-12 from the field and 16-of-21 from the line and had eight assists. CSU finished 33-3 that season after dropping the next game to UCLA. She scored 21 points in the 77-68 loss to the Bruins, finishing as the state's all-time leading scorer with a 2,940 points.
—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

134 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Denver Rockets' Haywood sets ABA scoring record with 59 points



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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:
No. 134
April 15, 1970
Spencer Haywood scored an ABA-record 60 points in the regular-season finale, leading the Denver Rockets to a 152-116 win over the Los Angeles Stars in Denver. He also grabbed 25 rebounds (and added three assists). The

record would stand for two years. The 152 points matched Denver's most in an ABA game at that point, first done just a week before (April 9) against the Dallas Chaparrals in a 152-113 home win. Denver would top the 152-point mark three times in future ABA play, 166 and 151 in overtime games and in a 155-128 regulation win over Virginia when all 10 players scored in double figures.
—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

135 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

VP George H.W. Bush surprises in 'Denver Dream' game at Mile High



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No. 135 | June 13, 1984
The second "Denver Dream" old-timers baseball game took place before 38,809 at Mile High Stadium. The highlight was Vice President George H.W. Bush not only in attendance, but playing in the game. Donning a Denver Bears uniform, he went 1-for-2 from the plate. He first faced Warren Spahn, who would be the last pitcher in Major League Baseball to pitch in the 19th century.
—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026

136 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Former Colorado Buffalo Steve Jones wins 1996 U.S. Open



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will unveil the list weekly on a Colorado Sports Hall of Fame podcast at coloradosports.org/podcast/.
No. 136 | June 16, 1996
Steve Jones became the second Colorado high school annual (Vizum) and the second Colorado Buffalo to win the U.S. Open, turning in a 2-under-par performance (74-66-69-69-78) at Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., defeating Tom Lehman and Davis Love III by one stroke. The three battles it out over the back nine, and all were

recorded at 2-under down the stretch. Love on the 18th green and Jones and Lehman on the 19th tee. Love three-putted, Lehman bogeyed. Jones hit his approach to 12 feet and two-putted for the win. The win wasn't a fluke; only 31 under-par rounds were recorded over the four days, and Jones was the only player with three. In the process, he became the first and only Colorado Sports Hall of U.S. Open in 20 years.
—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026

137 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Denver Nuggets' Rodney Rogers scores nine points in 9 seconds



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will unveil the list weekly on a Colorado Sports Hall of Fame podcast at coloradosports.org/podcast/.
No. 137
Feb. 8, 1994
Though Denver lost the game to Utah, Nuggets forward Rodney Rogers accomplished a feat unmatched prior to him. He scored nine points in as many seconds on three 3-point field goals. He made the first from the top of the key with 29.4 seconds to play. Robert Pack stole the ball and fed it to him, and Rogers drilled the

second from the same spot with 29.9 seconds on the clock. He then stole the inbound pass himself and strutted to the 3-point line on the right baseline and sank his third 3-pointer with 28 seconds to go. The crowd at McNichols Sports Arena went bananas. But Jeff Malone made the game-winning shot for the Jazz with 12 seconds left for a 96-65 win. Rogers suffered a paralyzing accident in 2008 and died in November at the age of 54.
—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026

138 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Hot Sulphur Springs hosts first Winter Sports Carnival



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No. 138, Feb. 14-15, 1912
The Hot Sulphur Springs hosted the state's first Winter Sports Carnival that drew 8,000 spectators, with competitors including: The competitions included sledding,

skating, cross-country skiing and jumping. Norwegian transplant Carl Hovelsen, who moved to the state a year earlier, was the star, winning the jump event with a 79-foot leap. Hot Sulphur Springs is halfway between Kremmling and Granby. So, it does beg the question: In 1912, how did 8,000 people get there, and where did they stay?
—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

139 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Air Force's John McBroom goes 9-for-9 with 12 RBIs in 38-7 win



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will unveil the list weekly on a Colorado Sports Hall of Fame podcast at coloradosports.org/podcast/.
No. 139, May 10, 1967
In perhaps the greatest single game in state college baseball history, Air Force senior outfielder John McBroom had a career day in the Falcons' 38-7 win over Colorado College. He hit what still stands as NCAA records as he batted 1-0-0 — going 9-for-9, the most hits in a

single game and highest 1,000 average when a player did not make an out. He scored six runs, had 12 runs batted in and 19 total bases. (The latter two are still Air Force records.) He almost hit for the cycle twice — two home runs, one triple, three doubles and four singles. He would go on to become a flight instructor, among several accomplishments, in retiring as a major general.
—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

140 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Arapahoe Basin ski area begins operations after World War II



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No. 140, Nov. 1, 1946
Arapahoe Basin is the first ski area after World War II to begin operations in the state. It bordered the Continental Divide with a summit elevation of 13,050 feet, one of highest ski resorts in the world. The original cost was estimated at \$100,000, which included two lifts, a rope tow and trails. Lift tickets for the '46 47 ski season were just \$1.25. A year later, it added its first chair lift and attendance soared to over 12,000 (70,000 by the '61-'62 season).
—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

record 65,666 fans, as announced at the time. The Denver fire marshal told team officials the crowd had to be capped at that number. In actuality, the true attendance was 73,155, as confirmed years later by business manager Bobby Burris. (Not to mention by looking at an aerial photo of the Mile High Stadium from that night. In no way were there 10,000 empty seats.) Omaha spoiled things with a 7-4 win in a strange game, out-hitting the Bears 17-5, with a scoreless contest through five innings and each team hitting in their remaining four frames. In fact, Omaha's Bill Kelly had a no-hitter entering the sixth and had it broken up with a triple by Denver native and Abraham Lincoln High School grad Nick Cipra.
—DAVE PLATI, COLORADO SPORTS HALL OF FAME HISTORIAN

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

141 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Denver Bears set minor-league attendance record



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will unveil the list weekly on a Colorado Sports Hall of Fame podcast at coloradosports.org/podcast/.
July 3, 1982
Denver entered the national record books again, as the Bears' annual fireworks night drew a minor-league

record 65,666 fans, as announced at the time. The Denver fire marshal told team officials the crowd had to be capped at that number. In actuality, the true attendance was 73,155, as confirmed years later by business manager Bobby Burris. (Not to mention by looking at an aerial photo of the Mile High Stadium from that night. In no way were there 10,000 empty seats.) Omaha spoiled things with a 7-4 win in a strange game, out-hitting the Bears 17-5, with a scoreless contest through five innings and each team hitting in their remaining four frames. In fact, Omaha's Bill Kelly had a no-hitter entering the sixth and had it broken up with a triple by Denver native and Abraham Lincoln High School grad Nick Cipra.
—DAVE PLATI, COLORADO SPORTS HALL OF FAME HISTORIAN

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

142 SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Denver Broncos become the first AFL team to beat an NFL team



Happy birthday, Colorado — and Colorado sports. Leading into the state's 150th birthday Aug. 1, The Denver Gazette has partnered with the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame to publicize the definitive list of Colorado's top 150 sports moments.

Plati and Broncos icon Jim Saccomano will unveil the list weekly on a Colorado Sports Hall of Fame podcast at coloradosports.org/podcast.

way Denver would win, and if it did, he'd walk back to Detroit. Did he? Of course not. And two weeks later, the Broncos beat Minnesota, 14-3, also at DU Stadium. It was the first year the two leagues began playing in the pre-season ahead of the 1970 AFL-NFL merger. Of the 15 preseason games that first year, the AFL won three, two by the Broncos.

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

143 CSU's Lightfoot scores most points by a Colorado Division I player



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game by a Division I player in the state. Lightfoot made 21 field goals and was 3 of 4 from the free-throw line. The state's college best for women encompassing all divisions is a 51-point effort by the late Carroll Lille of Southern Colorado (now CSU Pueblo) in an 82-80 overtime loss to St. Mary's of the Plains on Dec. 3, 1979.

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026

144 ALTITUDE SPORTS NETWORK LAUNCHES — WITH NHL IN LOCKOUT



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At 12:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, the Altitude Sports & Entertainment Network went on the air, property of Kresnek Sports Enterprises (KSE). Over \$10 million was spent on building a studio, installing production equipment, hiring personnel and marketing the channel. The first program? A 30-minute special on the making of the network. There reportedly were 600,000 to 1,000,000 subscribers at its launch. The first game was supposed to be the Colorado Avalanche's season opener at home (on Oct. 1), against the San Jose Sharks, but the NHL lockout on Sept. 16 canceled the season.

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026

145 Zephyrs' Meyer blasts 582-foot home run at Mile High Stadium



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The Denver Zephyrs' Joey Meyer hit what many have documented as the second-longest home run in baseball history — 582 feet — in the Zephyrs' 14-7 win over the Buffalo Bisons. Meyer's shot landed in the upper deck in left field of Mile High Stadium's massive east stands. Meyer hit three homers that night, driving in seven runs. The longest blast came on a 2-2 pitch from Mike Murphy in the bottom of the seventh inning. On Sept. 10, 1960, in Detroit, Mickey Mantle hit a homer estimated at 643 feet. Mantle's shot in the Yankees' 5-1 win over the Tigers is universally considered the longest home run.

June 2, 1987

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

146 Muhammad Ali, Lyle Alzado battle in boxing exhibition at Mile High



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attended the event at Mile High Stadium, which wasn't officially scored but went all eight rounds, most, if not all, thought Ali won easily. About 600 miles to the east that same night, Jamie Eastery of the Denver Bears pitched a perfect game in the Bears' 10-0 win over the Iowa Oaks in Des Moines. That was the last of seven no-hitters in Denver's minor league history that spanned over 100 years.

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026

147 Wheat Ridge boys tennis snaps Cherry Creek's record streak



Happy birthday, Colorado — and Colorado sports. Leading into the state's 150th birthday Aug. 1, The Denver Gazette has partnered with the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame to publicize the definitive list of Colorado's top 150 sports moments.

In high school boys tennis, Wheat Ridge defeated Cherry Creek, 5-2, ending the Bruins' remarkable dual-match winning streak at 316, the longest in the nation. In 1991, it was Wheat Ridge that ended Cherry Creek's run of 19 straight state championships, a national record. The streak, which began in 1972, remains the second-longest of any sport in the country, behind only the Brandon, Fla., wrestling team that won 439 consecutive dual meets from 1973 into 2008.

Sept. 13, 2000

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026

148 Denver Racquets win state's first pro championship



Happy birthday, Colorado — and Colorado sports. Leading into the state's 150th birthday Aug. 1, The Denver Gazette has partnered with the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame to publicize the definitive list of Colorado's top 150 sports moments.

Today's top moment in Colorado sports history: Denver Racquets defeated Philadelphia Freedoms, 2-0, in the best-of-three finals. Denver had won the Pacific Section with a 30-4 record and defeated the San Francisco Golden Gators and the Minnesota Buckskins to reach the finals. The teams were coed. Philadelphia was led by Billie Jean King, the league MVP. Australian Tony Roche was Denver's player-coach. The team also had the playoffs MVP in Andrew Pattison.

Aug. 26, 1974

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

149 SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL Bob Martin hosts the state's first sports talk show



Happy birthday, Colorado — and Colorado sports. Leading into the state's 150th birthday Aug. 1, The Denver Gazette has partnered with the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame to publicize the definitive list of Colorado's top 150 sports moments.

Bob Martin hosted the first sports talk show in the state — and possibly the nation — when he hosted "Sports Line" and interviewed Broncos head coach Mac Speedie and took calls from the public. It aired for one hour

(6-7 p.m.) on KTLN-Radio (1280 AM). Speedie had been named interim head coach the previous October when Jack Faulkner was fired, with the interim tag removed with an announcement Dec. 12, 1965. Speedie played pro ball for the Cleveland Browns (1946-52), Saskatchewan Roughriders (1953-54) and KC Lions (1955) before coaching the Houston Oilers (1960-61) and Broncos (1964-66).

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026

150 Colorado College football defeats University of Denver Ministers, 12-0



Happy birthday, Colorado — and Colorado sports. Leading into the state's sesquicentennial (150th) birthday on Aug. 1, The Denver Gazette has partnered with the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame to publicize the definitive list of Colorado's top 150 sports moments.

Today's top moment in Colorado sports history: Colorado College defeated the University of Denver Ministers, 12-0. Newspaper accounts early on never listed any stats or even most of the scoring plays, opting to mostly write about who played in the game and who was the star. Both institutions had been around for a while — DU since 1864 and CC since 1874, with the first intercollegiate football game taking place in 1869 (Itagers 6, Princeton 4). The game methodically spread west.

April 11, 1885

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

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