Colorado's 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 900 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 2,000 of these moments, all listed chronologically to reflect 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. 31 - December 6, 1995. The Colorado Avalanche acquired All-Star goalie **Patrick Roy** in a trade with the Montreal Canadiens, four days after he allowed nine goals in an 11-1 loss to Detroit that got him crossways with team management. He would go 38-21-6 with the Avs (16-6 in leading the Avs to the Stanley Cup), and a 2.68 goal-against average (2.10 in the playoffs, with three shutouts). He would lead the team again to the Cup in 2001.



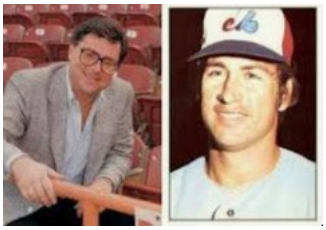
No. 32 - February 10, 1968. Colorado Springs' **Peggy Fleming** won the gold medal in figure skating at the '68 Olympics in Grenoble, France, the only gold medal won by any U.S. athlete across all events. Coming off a banner year in which she was selected as the 1967 Athlete of the Year by ABC's Wide World of Sports and was also the gold medalist at the U.S. and World Championships in 1968.



No. 33 - August 8, 2004. Finally, a career Denver Bronco was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Quarterback **John Elway** was chosen in his first year of eligibility, along with Barry Sanders, Carl Eller, and Bob Brown, for enshrinement in Canton. Elway spent his entire 16-year NFL career (1983-98) with the Broncos. (One-time Bronco **Willie Brown**, 1963-66, went on to play 12 seasons with Oakland and was inducted in 1984).



No. 34 - April 9, 1978. It was the final day of the 1977-78 NBA season: Denver had clinched the Midwest Division with a 48-33 record and traveled to Detroit; San Antonio had clinched the Central (52-29) and finished up at New Orleans. Thus, winning wasn't the top priority - but the battle for the league's scoring champ was at stake. The Spurs' **George Gervin** entered the day with 2,169 points in 81 games (26.8 per game), while the Nuggets' David Thompson had 2,099 in 79 games (26.6 per game). Gervin had one advantage: San Antonio's game tipped off five hours after Denver's 2:30 p.m. start in the Motor City. Thus, Thompson was up first and scored the third-most points ever in an NBA game - 73, a number that was still tied for fourth through the '23-24 season - finishing with 2,172 points or 27.15 per game. Gervin knew exactly what was needed for him to overtake Thompson: 58 points, but he poured in 63 to finish with 2,232, or 27.22 per outing. Thompson was 28-of-38 from the floor and 17-of-20 from the line. (Both teams lost: Detroit beat Denver, 139-137, and New Orleans routed San Antonio, 153-132.)



No. 35 - July 4, 1979. To quote the late great **Yogi Berra** ("It ain't over until it's over"), that certainly was the case when the Denver Bears trailed the Omaha Royals, 14-7, with two outs and nobody on base in the bottom of the ninth. Denver led 1-0 early and was playing catch-up after Omaha plated 10 runs in the fourth. The anxious fans wanted the game to end, as it was also the Bears' traditional Fireworks Night, with an American Association record crowd of 38,490 in attendance. Sure enough, Denver rallied as the next nine batters all reached base, capped by a three-run home run by **Jim Cox** for a 16-14 Bears' win. It remains one of the top all-time rallies in professional baseball history.

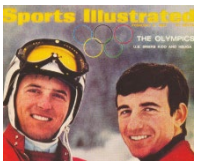


No. 36 - April 11, 2026. The Denver Pioneers won their record 11th NCAA men's hockey title (and third in the last five years), defeating the University of Wisconsin, 2-1. Held scoreless for the first 47 minutes with only nine shots on goal, the DU offense came alive, with **Rieger Lorenz** out a rebound in the net to tie the game at 1-all. Then, with 5:52 remaining, **Kyle Chyzowski** tipped one in for the winning score. DU's freshman goalie, **Johnny Hicks**, stopped 29 of 30 Badger shots and was named the Frozen Four's outstanding performer.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



No. 37 - August 8, 1936. Simla native and Colorado A&M graduate **Glenn Morris** ('34) won the gold medal in the decathlon at the '36 Berlin Summer Olympics. An assistant for A&M football coach **Harry Hughes** at the time, he set a new world record of 7,900 total points in the 10-event competition, leading an American sweep in winning the first Olympic medal by a Coloradoan in a track and field event.



No. 38 - February 7, 1964. It was referred to at the time as the "biggest upset in Olympic ski history." Two Alpine skiers from Colorado won the first Olympic medals in skiing, with **Billy Kidd** winning the silver and **Jimmie Heuga** the bronze in the slalom in Innsbruck, Austria. Called "a pair of daring 20-year old American students," they upstaged several of the world's best skiers in the 2-3 finish. Heuga was a member of CU's ski team, but Kidd chose to race professionally even though he, too, was a CU student; both trained under CU head coach **Bob Beattie**.



No. 39 - September 6, 1986. Colorado State records its first win over rival Colorado since 1958 with a 23-7 win in Boulder. The Rams took advantage of six CU turnovers with **Steve Bartalo** rushing for 145 yards and a touchdown. CSU built a 23-0 lead by the end of the third quarter and CU avoided being shut out, scoring with 29 seconds left in the game. CU was coming off its first winning season since 1978 and had high aspirations; CSU was 5-7 the previous year and the win was the impetus for the Rams' first winning season since 1980. Colorado would lose its next three by a combined 10 points before rallying to win six Big Eight games, as both finished 6-5 in the '86 regular season. Bartalo would go on to rush for 1,419 yards in 1986 and 4,813 for his career, both CSU records at the time with the career mark still first.



No. 40 - March 9, 1968. Adams State College as crowned national champions in the NAIA Wrestling Championships - the first of 69 national titles the then-Indians and now Grizzlies have won over seven different sports - the most by any Colorado university. Adams hosted the event in Alamosa and methodically pulled away from Nebraska-Omaha, winning by 31 points (108-77); the two dueled again a year later, with ASC (now ASU) winning by 14. Two weeks later, NAIA champion Nick Carollo won the 191 title at the NCAA university event, and Adams State tied for 17th at University Park, Pa. It added six more in wrestling for a total of eight, has won 25 in men's cross country (12 NAIA, 13 NCAA Division II); 24 in women's cross country (3 NAIA, 21 NCAA Division II; six in women's indoor track; three in men's outdoor track (2 NCAA, 1 NAIA) two in men's indoor track (both NAIA) and one in women's outdoor track. **Joe Vigil** coached the first 30 of those champions, with current head coach **Damon Martin** coaching the last 39; the Grizzlies' most recent titles were in 2024 (women's indoor and cross country).



No. 41 - December 31, 1985. Air Force completed their best season in history (12-1), with a 24-16 win over Texas in the Bluebonnet Bowl. The Western Athletic Conference co-champions, the Falcons, won their fourth straight bowl game. The Longhorns took a quick 7-0 lead, but Air Force zoomed ahead with two scores to take a 14-7 lead going into the second quarter and never looked back. Fullback **Pat Evans** was the game's MVP, as he had 18 carries for 129 yards and a touchdown.



No. 42 - May 13, 1976. The last game in the ABA: game six of the championship series between the Nuggets and the New York Nets. Down three games to two, Denver needed a win to force a game seven back in Colorado, and it appeared to be happening, as the Nuggets led 80-58 midway through the third quarter. But the Nets cut the lead to 92-78 entering the fourth, then outscored Denver 34-14 in the period to win the game and title, 112-106. **David Thompson** (42 points) and **Dan Issel** (who scored 30) did their part, but Julius Erving (31), John Williamson (28), and Brian Taylor (24) rallied the Nets. Denver and New York, along with Indiana and San Antonio, would join the NBA the next season as the ABA was dissolved.



No. 43 - January 9, 1999. After becoming only the fourth player in NFL history to rush for 2,000 yards in a season, Denver's **Terrell Davis** was named the Associated Press' NFL MVP. In leading Denver to a 14-2 record (and eventual Super Bowl win over Atlanta), he ran for 2,008 yards and 21 touchdowns. He nearly doubled the votes of the runner-up, Minnesota quarterback Randall Cunningham. He ran for 100-plus yards in a game 11 times, with a high of 208 at Seattle; he had three more in the playoffs, aiding Denver's back to- back Super Bowl wins. Davis also won AP's Offensive Player of the Year honors.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



No. 44 - December 14, 1996. Northern Colorado got on a roll at the right time, as after a 5-3 start, they reeled off seven wins in a row, four in the NCAA Division II playoffs. After dispatching No. 7 Pittsburg State (24-21), No. 2 Northeast Missouri State (27-26), and No. 8 Clarion (19-18), the 15th-ranked Bears upset No. 6 Carson-Newman 23-14 in Florence, Ala., for the championship. **Billy Holmes** ran for 136 yards and a touchdown; **Tom Beck** connected with **Andy Haase** on a 36-yard pass, and **Michael Schauer** kicked three field goals. UNC's defense also shone, ending all five of Carson-Newman's second-half possessions with turnovers. **Joe Glenn** was named the national coach of the year by the AFCA, and UNC would repeat in '97.



No. 45 - November 24, 1928. Colorado College junior **Earl "Dutch" Clark** set a state college record that still stands today when, in a 48-25 win over Wyoming, he rushed for 381 yards and five touchdowns. He added six extra-point kicks for 36 points overall; he had 227 of his yards by halftime. He also completed nine passes for 207 yards, giving him the state's total offense record of 588 yards, another mark that still stands. Both numbers still rank nationally in the top 20 but are separated by divisions; at the time, they were considered single-game records.



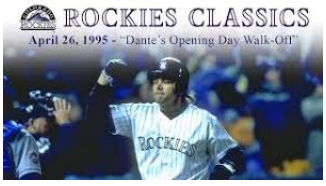
No. 46 - October 22, 1973. Declared "Orange Monday", the Broncos finally made their first appearance on Monday Night Football (the 25th out of 26 teams in the league at the time to be selected for the primo prime time slot). The opponent was the arch-nemesis, the Oakland Raiders. Billy Thompson returned a fumble 80 yards for the game's first score; Oakland countered with an 80-yard play of its own, a TD pass from Ken Stabler to Mike Siani. But field goals ruled the roost on this night, with Oakland's George Blanda making three as did Denver's Jim Turner, whose 35-yarder with three seconds remaining forged a 23-23 tie. At the time, it was the most-watched Bronco game locally and nationally.



No. 47 - March 30-April 1, 1990. In one of the last cities to host a Final Four in a basketball setting at McNichols Arena, Duke beat Arkansas in the first semifinal, 97-83, with UNLV defeating Georgia Tech in the second, 90-81. In the championship game, UNLV routed Duke, 103-73. Coach Jerry Tarkanian's Runnin' Rebels averaged 95.2 points for the six tournament games and finished with a 35-5 record.



No. 48 - December 20, 2014. Just six years after coach John Wristen and devout donors resurrected the program, the CSU Pueblo won the NCAA Division II title with a 13-0 win over No. 1 Minnesota State. The T-Wolves (14-1) held the Mavericks to just 265 yards, nearly 200 under their season average. Chris Bonner threw for 191 yards and a touchdown, and Cameron McDondle ran for 113 yards to lead the offensive attack. CSU Pueblo reached the title game with three home wins in the playoffs, defeating Angelo State (52-14), Ohio Dominican (31-28), and West Georgia (10-7).



No. 49 - April 26, 1995. In their first game at Coors Field, the Colorado Rockies had to rally from a run-down three different times. Trailing 7-6 in the ninth, Larry Walker doubled to right field, scoring Walt Weiss to tie the game. Then, behind 8-7 in the 13th, Jim Tatum lined a double to left field, scoring Mike Kingery, tying the game once again. With the Mets ahead 9-8, Dante Bichette hit the first home run by a Rockies at Coors, a three-run shot with one out, scoring Joe Girardi and Andres Galarraga for an 11-8 Colorado win in 14 innings.



No. 50 - December 14, 2024. The second Heisman Trophy winner in the state was awarded to Colorado's two-way star, Travis Hunter. He caught 96 passes for 1,258 yards and 15 touchdowns, with four interceptions and 11 pass deflections on defense. The first player in history to be named first-team on both offense and defense on the Walter Camp Foundation's All-America team, he followed Deion Sanders to Colorado from Jackson State in 2023. In the closest Heisman race since 2009, he bested Boise State's Ashton Jeanty by 217 points.

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No. 51 - December 1, 1984. The Denver Bears are sold to the Dikeou brothers - John, George, and Deno - by longtime owners Gerald and Allan Phipps for an estimated $2.5 million. The team will begin play the next season under a new name – the Denver Zephyrs. John Dikeou was an original - and influential - member of the Metro Sports Committee, and the Dikeou's purchase of the Bears began a seven-year pursuit to land major league baseball in Denver. The brothers had attended major league baseball's summer meetings in Philadelphia to plant seeds for Denver with the expansion committee. (The team would move to New Orleans after the 1992 season once the Colorado Rockies were set to begin play in 1993.)

No. 52 - July 7, 1998. Coors Field hosted Denver's first major league All-Star game, and with 51,267 in attendance, the scoring-fest transpired as predicted, with the American League outslugging the National League, 13-8. Alex Rodriguez and Roberto Alomar hit home runs for the AL, with Barry Bonds knocking one out for the NL. Trailing 2-0 after three innings, the AL scored at least one run in every remaining frame, including four in the fourth and three in the ninth to seal the win. Baltimore's Alomar was the MVP, as he was 3-for-4 with a home run, two runs scored, an RBI, and a stolen base.

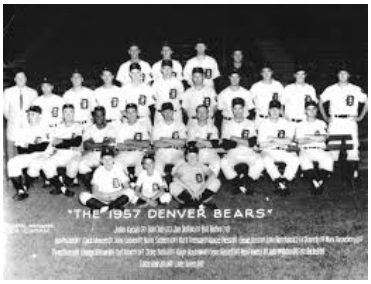




No. 53 - August 23, 2001. In one of the most impressive debuts in major league history, Colorado pitcher Jason Jennings pitched a complete game, 10-0 shutout of the New York Mets at Shea Stadium. He allowed five hits and struck out eight; at the plate, he went 3-for-5 with two runs batted in while capping the scoring with a home run hit deep to right field in the top of the 9th. Jennings would spend six seasons with the Rockies, compiling a 58-56 record before finishing his career with Houston for one season and Texas for two.

No. 54 - March 7, 1954. The University of Denver won the inaugural NCAA Ski Championship, held over three days in Reno, Nev. In the final competition of the event, DU's Billy Olson and John Cress finished one-two in the jumping, enabling the Pioneers to pull away from the pack with 384 points. Seattle University was next (349.6), followed by Colorado (348.6), Idaho (348.5), and Wyoming (347.8) in the hotly contested battle for second. Coach Willy Schaeffler's DU teams would win the first four titles (and 13 of the first 17, finishing second in the four it did not win). Overall, through 2026, DU has won the most ski titles (24), with Colorado second (20).





No. 55 - September 21, 1957. In just its third year competing in triple-A baseball, Denver won its first American Association title with a 14-3 win over St. Paul, as the Bears bested the Saints four games to two. Denver finished second in the regular season with a 90-64 record, three games back of Wichita, and then swept Minneapolis in four games to reach the championship series. In the title-clincher in Denver, Marv Throneberry led the attack with two home runs and four driven in, while Zack Monroe pitched a complete game 9-hitter. With the win, Denver advanced to the Little World Series against International League champion Buffalo. The Bears, the AAA affiliate of the New York Yankees, were managed by future N.Y. manager Ralph Houk.

No. 56 - September 30, 1983. The inaugural "Denver Dream" old-timers game was played before 56,818 fans at Mile High Stadium; the Barry Fey-produced exhibition drew over 40 prominent former major leaguers to town to play and participate in a home run-hitting contest (won by Harmon Killebrew). The American League bested the National League, 17-10, with Baltimore Orioles third-base legend Brooks Robinson leading the way, going 3-for-5 with a home run and five runs batted in. Others who appeared in the game included Hank Aaron, Ernie Banks, Bob Feller, Whitey Ford, Willie Mays, Tony Oliva, Warren Spahn, and former Denver Bear, Marv Throneberry, with Joe DiMaggio and Leo Durocher on hand to sign autographs.


Star gazing



No. 57 - November 4, 1989. "Things Have Changed" remained lit on the Folsom Field scoreboard through the weekend after No. 2 Colorado defeated No. 3 Nebraska, 27-21, paving the way for CU's first Big Eight title since 1976 and the Orange Bowl berth that went with it. The Huskers scored a touchdown on their first play, the only lead they would have had all afternoon; the Buffs tied it on one of the most memorable plays in school history, a 70-yard touchdown where Darian Hagan ran for the first 40 and then pitched it to J.J. Flannigan for the remainder.

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No. 58 - March 20, 2012. The Broncos dipped into the free agent market and landed four-time league MVP Peyton Manning. He missed the entire 2011 season with a neck injury after he started 208 straight games with Indianapolis to begin his career. Manning would lead Denver to a 13-3 record, passing for 4,659 yards and 37 touchdowns in completing a career-best 68.6 percent of his passes.



No. 59 - March 26, 2014. The Regis Jesuit girls' basketball team was ranked No. 3 in the nation in the final polls by both USA Today and MaxPreps. Coach Carl Mattei's team was the highest-ranked team in state history, topping the No. 8 ranking ThunderRidge achieved in 2005. The Rangers finished 26-2 (both losses to out-of-state teams), won their second straight 5A state title, won their games by an average score of 70-38, defeated No. 1 Riverdale Baptist 61-48, and were the first prep team in the country to have two Gatorade Players of the Year in Diani Akigbogun and Justine Hall. Unfortunately, Regis, one of four teams invited to battle for the National Championship at Madison Square Garden, was denied the opportunity by the CHSAA (which later changed its rules), but six of its players went on to play in college.



No. 60 - March 20, 1937. The Denver Safeway's defeated the top-ranked Phillips Oilers from Bartlesville, Okla., 43-38, to win their first National AAU basketball title. The 6,500-plus in attendance at the downtown Auditorium Arena witnessed Denver break a 37-all tie with seven minutes remaining and never trail again: after a free throw from Jack McCracken and a Ter Colvin tip-in of a missed shot – he was fouled, made the free throw for a 41-37 lead and the Safeways went on to win (and again in '39 and '42). The tournament had moved to Denver from Kansas City three years earlier. Later in the year, the inventor of basketball, Dr. James A. Naismith, visited Denver and saw the Safeways deal Oklahoma City a 55-34 drubbing in AAU play. Naismith, 76, said afterward, "I think that is the greatest team I've ever seen."



No. 61 - December 13, 1969. Though the credit for integration for Alabama and the SEC always falls to USC after it blew out the Crimson Tide, 42-21, in 1970, Bear Bryant got a taste of an integrated team in the '69 Liberty Bowl. CU walloped Alabama, 47-33, with several black players, including a team captain, **Bill Collins**. In a tasteless move, Alabama sent over 40 players out for the coin toss. Not to be intimidated, the two other tri-captains, **Bobby Anderson** and **Mike Pruett**, stopped a few yards short and let Collins take the last few steps to midfield. Racist 'Bama fans were yelling the "N" word at CU all game long, prompting the normally reserved **Bill Brundige** to explode at halftime, screaming in the locker room, "Did you hear what they are calling our Black brothers?" But in the end, Colorado scored 16 fourth-quarter points, Brundige had five of CU's eight quarterback sacks, Collins was in on 14 tackles, and **Eddie Crowder's** Buffs got the best of the Bryant and the Tide.

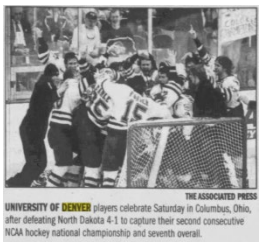


No. 62 - January 23, 2024. The second Colorado Rockies got *the* call, as **Todd Helton** learned he would join Larry Walker in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Helton played all 17 of his major league seasons in Denver, finishing with a career batting average of .316 with 369 home runs and 1,335 runs batted in; he also belted 592 doubles and owned a career fielding percentage of .996, winning three Gold Glove awards. Through 2025, only 193 players in MLB history who played 10 or more seasons spent their entire career with one team; Helton is tied for 41st on that list with his 17 years as a Rockies player.



No. 63 - March 7, 2025. In Denver's 149-141 overtime win over Phoenix at Ball Arena, **Nikola Jokic** recorded the first-ever "30-20-20" triple-double in NBA history: 31 points, 21 rebounds and 22 assists – and in fact, it was just the third-ever 20-20-20 game, previously done by Wilt Chamberlain and Russell Westbrook (and was actually the first 24-18-18 game and only the eighth-ever 20-15-15 game, Jokic's second of his career; his first was against Sacramento six weeks earlier). Also, the 22 assists were an NBA record for a center.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments


THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER players celebrate Saturday in Columbus, Ohio, after defeating North Dakota 4-1 to capture their second consecutive NCAA hockey national championship and seventh overall.

No. 64 - April 9, 2005. The University of Denver claimed its seventh NCAA hockey title with a 4-1 win over North Dakota; the Pioneers had advanced to the final after defeating rival Colorado College, 6-2, two days earlier. DU's **George Gwozdecky** was named the national coach of the year for leading DU to back-to-back titles after not claiming one since 1969. It was the third time the Pioneers were crowned back-to-back champions, having done so in 1960-1961 and 1968-1969, and just the fourth repeat titlist in the NCAA's 58-year history.


A Denver Post photo-illustration shows the path that Byron White took on his 95-yard touchdown.

No. 65 - November 6, 1937. CU All-American **Byron White** single-handedly beats Utah at Salt Lake City, 17-7, in one of his greatest games ever. He returned a punt 95 yards, scored another touchdown on a 57-yard sprint, kicked a 15-yard field goal, and kicked both extra points in accounting for all of CU's points; the previous year in Boulder, he scored 25 of CU's points in a 31-7 win over Utah. The win prevented Utah from tying CU for the league title and vaulted CU into the Associated Press Top 20 for the first time at No. 16.


Grand Opening
SATURDAY, AUGUST 14th, 8:15 P.M.
NEW DENVER BEARS STADIUM
On 17th and 20th Avenues Between Eliot and Clay
TO OUR DENVER BEAR FANS:
THE MANAGEMENT

No. 66 - August 14, 1948. A record Western League crowd of 10,884 watched Denver defeated Sioux City, 9-5, in the inaugural game in Bears Stadium, which was readied for play just days before. Willie Skeen went 3-for-5 with two doubles and a triple, driving in three runs to pace the Bears. With lights installed from the get-go, the inaugural game was played under the lights. The next day, in the second game of a doubleheader, Sioux City center fielder Billy Pavlick hit the park's first home run. On Sept. 3, in a 5-0 loss to Des Moines, a new attendance record was set - 12,752. Upgraded throughout its 62-year history, the stadium was renamed Mile High Stadium in 1968.


Colorado Bringing Back Trophy From New York; Beats Duquesne 51 to 40
Bob Doll Wins Most Valuable Player Award; Taming Of West No Cinch When America Was Young and From Basketball Standpoint It Has Grown No Easier

No. 67 - March 15, 1940. CU returned to the NIT for the second time in three years, but this time won the trophy with a 51-40 win over Duquesne. CU's Bob Doll was named the tournament's most valuable player, as he led all scorers with 31 points. The Buffaloes defeated DePaul in the semifinal two nights earlier, 52-37, to force a rematch with the Dukes, who beat CU at home, 47-45, two months earlier and advanced to the final by beating Oklahoma. Coach Frosty Cox was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.



No. 68 - February 14, 1950. Dubbed Denver's "Queen of the Fairways," Babe Zaharias was named the Greatest Female Athlete of the first half of the 20th century by the Associated Press. Living in the Denver area in the 1940s and spending time at the Zaharias farm in Pueblo, she was cited for prowess in both track & field and golf. While living in Colorado, she won 17 straight golf tournaments - including the U.S. Women's Amateur and the Ladies' British Open Amateur (on June 24 at Cherry Hills Country Club, she won what was considered a major at the time, the Women's Western Open for the fourth time).


Floyd Kerr Fakes . . . Passes Off

No. 69 - March 13, 1969. In the only postseason match-up of two Colorado Division I basketball programs, Colorado State defeated No. 18 Colorado, 64-56, in the NCAA Midwest Regional in Manhattan, Kan. The Rams, who earned an at-large entry, had four players in double figures, led by Cliff Shegogg with 20, while Cliff Meely scored 32 points for CU, the Big Eight Conference champion, but had little support otherwise. Two days later, in the Elite Eight, the Rams lost to Drake, 84-77.

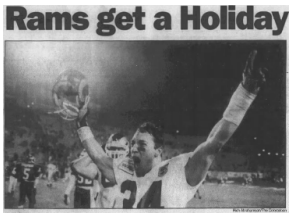


No. 70 - October 6, 1968. After Steve Tensi was injured early on and other quarterbacks were sidelined, the Broncos turned to Marlin Briscoe to start in the fourth game of the season against the expansion Cincinnati Bengals at Bears Stadium. Briscoe, a rookie from Omaha University, was selected by Denver in the 14th round of the '68 AFL-NFL Draft. He became the first African-American to start a game at quarterback in professional football, whether in the AFL or the NFL. It was a defensive battle, and Tensi wound up coming off the bench to throw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Mike Haffner late in the game to rally Denver to a 10-7 win.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



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 led 24-3 in the second quarter, 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 at 31-27, followed by an **Antoney Hill** to **Paul Turner** connection 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.



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.

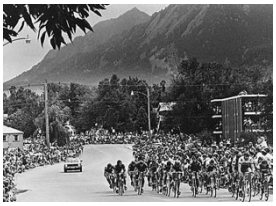


No. 76, September 9, 1960. A 59-yard pass play from 1983 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee Frank Tripucka to Al Carmichael and a 76-yard punt return by Gene Mingo gave the underdog Denver Broncos a 13-10 win over the Boston Patriots as the American Football League ushered in its initial season before 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.



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.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



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.



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).

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



No. 85 - March 26, 2026. 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 woman to serve as president of the organization since its founding in 1894; she had previously served as vice president.





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.

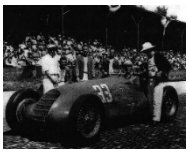
No. 92 - July 21, 1952. Denver native and East High School and University of Denver graduate Jerome Biffle won the gold medal in the broad (long) jump at the Summer Olympics in Helsinki, Finland. In claiming the gold with a jump of 7.57 meters (24-feet, 10.03 inches), the 23-year-old was the city of 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.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



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.

MAXPREPS Football

26. Ken Pearson, Hugo (Colo.)

Date: Oct. 29, 1930

Stat Line: 12 touchdowns.



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.

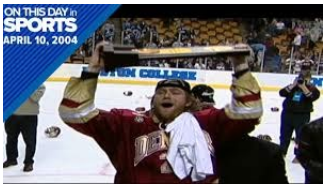


No. 101 - November 29, 1954. After weeks of speculation and negotiation, Bob Howsam purchased the defunct Kansas City franchise (for $75,000), which elevated Denver to the American Association and triple-A baseball, while the New York Yankees remained the parent club of the franchise in its move to Denver. The banner headline on the Denver Post's sports page screamed in all caps: DENVER GETS TRIPLE A!

No. 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.



Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



No. 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.



No. 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.



No. 105 - May 24, 1959. The driving force behind Grand Junction's landing the 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.



No. 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).



No. 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 had 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, including 10 or more on nine occasions. The 13 goals remain the most in a championship game, matched by CC in 1957.



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 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.



No. 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.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



No. 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.



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.

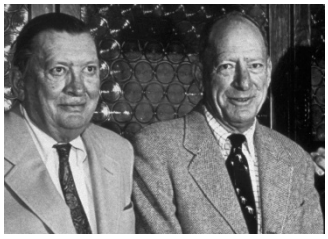


No. 115 - April 15, 2019. Three days after **Cale Makar** was named winner of the Hobey Baker Award as the top collegian and two days after his UMass Minutemen lost to Minnesota in a Frozen Four semifinal, Makar made his professional debut in game three of the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs. 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.

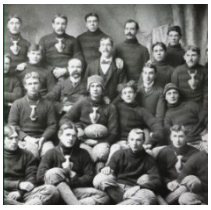


No. 116 - October 6, 1990. Not exactly the greatest moment, but certainly a memorable one since it has occurred three times in history: CU's 33-31 win at Missouri made major headlines. Trailing 31-27, the Buffs had a first-and-goal at the Mizzou 3. The chain crew failed to move the down marker from second 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.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



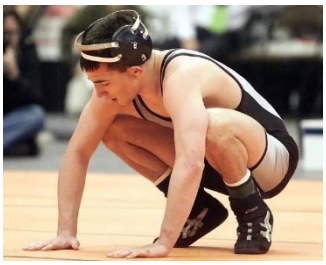
No. 117 - February 1, 1965. Until Gerald H. and Allan R. Phipps purchased undisputed control of the Denver Broncos for $1.5 million on February 14, 1965 - to increase their ownership of the team to 94 percent by gaining 52 percent with the immediate cash payment, the voting trust headed by spokesman and team president Calvin Kunz was seriously flirting with selling the team to the Atlanta-based Cox Broadcasting Company. Kunz and the trust had an offer from them of slightly over $4 million 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).



No. 118 - November 30, 1899. The first meeting in the "Border War" took place when Colorado Agricultural College (Colorado State) and the University of Wyoming met. It was the first game CSU had ever played outside the state, and it won 12-0 by forfeit after a controversial ending involving the officials, who were provided by both schools. They have played 117 times, with CSU leading 60-52-5. The two will be in different conferences for the first time in over a century beginning this fall, but meet on September 5 in Fort Collins.

No. 119 - October 8, 1911. Voted one of the top 100 minor league teams of all-time in 2001 (No. 22); the Denver Grizzlies of the Class-A Western League finished with a 111-54-3 record. Games were quicker (no radio or television, or lights); Denver won 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). President Taft witnessed a Grizzlies home game with the Sioux City on October 3 when the Packers won 13-2.





No. 120 - 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.

No. 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, by Nate Thurmond, Alvin Robertson, Hakeem Olajuwon, and David Robinson. Black's is the last quadruple-double in pro ball; Grambling's Shakyla Hill had two, one each in 2018 and 2019.





No. 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.

No. 123 - May 3, 1972. The Denver Spurs, regular-season Western Hockey League champions, won the Lester Patrick Cup by defeating the Portland Buckaroos 6-0 in five games of the championship series. Denver had swept the San Diego Gulls, four games to none in the semifinals. Frank Huck, the league MVP, scored 9 goals and added 4 assists in the playoffs; rookie defenseman Glen Patrick was the first to receive the Patrick Cup, named after his grandfather. It was the city's first professional hockey title, some 24 years before the Colorado Avalanche won the Stanley Cup.



Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



No. 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.



No. 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.



No. 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.



No. 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.



No. 128 - May 22, 1914. University of Colorado freshman pitcher Bob McGraw, who prepped at Pueblo Centennial and 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).


CLUBS READY FOR START OF POST TOURNEY AUG. 1

FASTEST FIELD IN NINETEEN YEARS OF MEET TO COMPETE

Mighty Monarchs Who Seek More Worlds to Conquer

NATIONAL LEAGUE

POST TOURNEY ENTRY LIST

No. 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.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



No. 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 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).



No. 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.



No. 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.



No. 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).



No. 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.

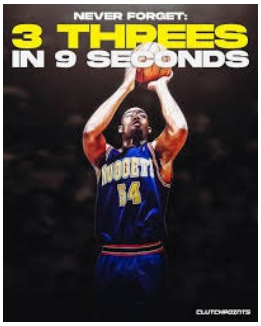


No. 135 - July 13, 1984. The second "Denver Dream" old-timers baseball game drew 38,899 to Mile High Stadium, with the highlight being Vice President George H.W. Bush not only in attendance but also playing in the game. Donning a Denver Bear uniform, he went 1-for-2 from the plate; he first faced Warren 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.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



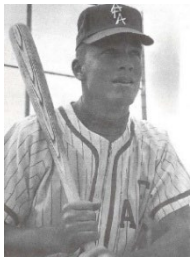
No. 136 - June 16, 1996 (Father's Day). 2013 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductee Steve Jones is the second Colorado high school alum (Yuma) and second Colorado Buffalo to win the U.S. Open, as he turned in a 2-under par performance (74-66-69-69-278) at Oakland Hills Country Club in Michigan, defeating 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.



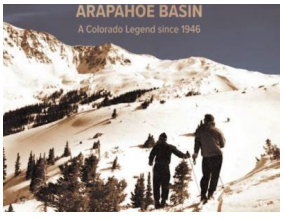
No. 137 - February 8, 1994. Though Denver lost to Utah, Nuggets forward Rodney Rogers accomplished a feat unmatched before or since. He scored nine points in as many seconds on three 3-point field goals. He made the first from the top of the key with 29.4 seconds to play; Robert Pack stole the ball and 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.



No. 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?



No. 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.



No. 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 and has a summit elevation of 13,050 feet, making it 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).



No. 141 - **July 3, 1982**. Denver entered the 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**. 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.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

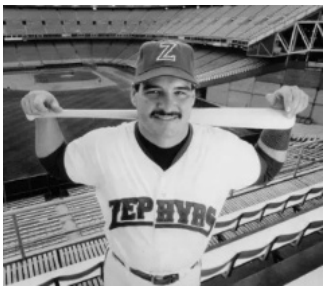


No. 142 - **August 5, 1967**. The Denver Broncos became the first AFL team to defeat an NFL team, downing the Detroit Lions, 13-10, at DU Stadium in what some called "The Little Super Bowl." The Lions' Alex Karras stated prior to the game that there was no way Denver would win, and if it did, he'd walk 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.

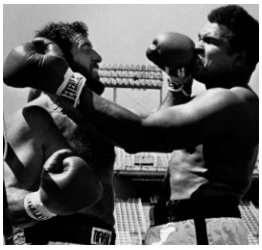


No. 143 - **January 5, 1982**. Colorado State senior guard Kathy Lightfoot scored 45 points in a 118-54 win over Southern Colorado in Fort Collins, to date the most points in a single game by a Division I player in the state. Lightfoot had 21 field goals and made 3-of-4 from the free-throw line. The 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.

No. 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 canceled the season.



No. 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.



No. 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.

No. 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.

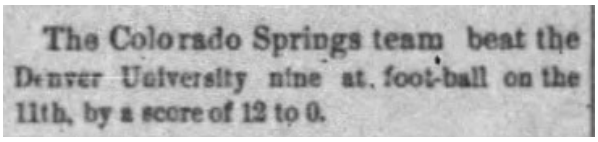
Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



No. 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).



No. 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.

No. 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

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments / Denver Gazette

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SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Denver hockey claims record 11th national title

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.

For Nos. 50 to 1, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian Dave Plati coordinated a 19-member committee to rank in order what they considered the top moments. The No. 1 moment will be revealed 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/.

No. 36 • April 11, 2026

The Denver Pioneers won their record 11th NCAA men's hockey title (and third in the last five years), defeating the University of Wisconsin, 2-1. Held scoreless for the first 47 minutes with only nine shots on goal, the DU offense came alive, with Rieger Lorenz putting a rebound in the net to tie the game at 1. Then, with 5:52 remaining, Kyle Chyzowski tipped one in for the winning score. DU's freshman goalie, Johnny Hicks, stopped 29 of 30 Badger shots and was named the Frozen Four's outstanding performer.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026

37

Glenn Morris wins gold in decathlon at Berlin Olympics

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No. 37
Aug. 8, 1936

Simla native and 1934 Colorado A&M graduate Glenn Morris won the gold medal in the decathlon at the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics. An assistant for A&M football coach Harry Hughes at the time, he set a world record of 7,900 total points in the 10-event competition, leading an American sweep in winning the first Olympic medal by a Coloradan in a track and field event.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026

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38

Billy Kidd, Jimmie Heuga win Olympic medals in slalom

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No. 38
Feb. 7, 1964

It was referred to at the time as the "biggest upset in Olympic ski history." Two Alpine skiers from Colorado won the first U.S. men's Olympic medals in skiing, with Billy Kidd winning the silver and Jimmie Heuga the bronze in the slalom in Innsbruck, Austria. Called "a pair of daring 20-year-old American students," they upstaged several of the world's best skiers in the 2-3 finish. Heuga was on CU's ski team, but Kidd chose to race professionally even though he, too, was a CU student. Both trained under CU head coach Bob Beattie.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026

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SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Colorado State football upsets Colorado 23-7 in Boulder

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No. 39 • Sept. 5, 1986

Colorado State football records its first win over rival Colorado since 1958 with a 23-7 win in Boulder. The Rams took advantage of six CU turnovers with Steve Bartalo rushing for 145 yards and a touchdown. CSU built a 23-0 lead by the end of the third quarter and CU avoided being shut out, scoring with 29 seconds left in the game. CU was coming off its first winning season since 1978 and had high aspirations; CSU was 5-7 the previous year and the win was the impetus for the Rams' first winning season since 1980. Colorado would lose its next three by a combined 10 points before rallying to win six Big Eight games. Both finished 6-5 in the 1986 regular season. Bartalo would go on to rush for 1,419 yards in 1986 and 4,813 for his career, both CSU records at the time with the career mark still first.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026

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SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Adams State wins first of record 69 national championships

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No. 40 • March 9, 1968

Adams State College was crowned national champion in the NAIA Wrestling Championships. It was the first of 69 national titles the then-Indians and now-Grizzlies have won over seven sports, the most by a Colorado university. Adams hosted the event in Alamosa and methodically pulled away from Nebraska-Omaha, winning by 31 points (108-77). The two dueled again a year later with ASC (now ASU) winning by 14. It added six more in wrestling for a total of eight. It has won 25 in men's cross country (12 NAIA, 13 NCAA Division II); 24 in women's cross country (3 NAIA, 21 NCAA Division II); six in women's indoor track; three in men's outdoor track (2 NCAA, 1 NAIA); two in men's indoor track (both NAIA); and one in women's outdoor track. Joe Vigil coached the first 30 of those championships, with current coach Damon Martin the last 39. The Grizzlies' most recent titles were 2024 titles in women's indoor and cross country.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026

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SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Air Force football completes best season in program history

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No. 41 • Dec. 31, 1985

The Air Force Falcons completed their best season in history (12-1) with a 24-16 win over Texas in the Bluebonnet Bowl, AFA's fourth straight bowl victory. The Longhorns took a quick 7-0 lead, but Air Force zoomed ahead with two scores to take a 14-7 lead going into the second quarter and never looked back. Fullback Pat Evans was the game's MVP, as he had 18 carries for 129 yards and a touchdown. The Falcons were co-champions of the Western Athletic Conference; Texas was the Southwest Conference runner-up.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026

42

Nuggets play in final American Basketball Association game

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No. 42
May 13, 1976

Game 6 of the championship series between the Nuggets and the New York Nets was the final game in the American Basketball Association. Down 3-2, Denver needed a win to force a Game 7 in Colorado, and it appeared to be happening, as the Nuggets led 80-58 midway through the third quarter. But the Nets cut the lead to 92-78 entering the fourth, then outscored Denver 34-14 in the period to win the game and title, 112-106. David Thompson (42 points) and Dan Issel (30) did their part, but Julius Erving (31), John Williamson (28) and Brian Taylor (24) rallied the Nets. Denver and New York, along with Indiana and San Antonio, would join the NBA the next season as the ABA was dissolved.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame histori

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

43
Broncos' Terrell Davis wins MVP after 2,000-yard season

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No. 43
Jan. 9, 1999

After becoming only the fourth player in NFL history rush for 2,000 yards in a season, Denver's Terrell Davis was named The Associated Press' NFL Most Valuable Player. In leading Denver to a 14-2 record (and eventual Super Bowl win over Atlanta), he ran for 2,008 yards and 21 touchdowns. He nearly doubled the votes of runner-up Minnesota quarterback Randall Cunningham. He ran for 100-plus yards in a game 11 times, with a high of 208 at Seattle; he had three more in the playoffs, aiding Denver's back-to-back Super Bowl wins. Davis also won AP's Offensive Player of the Year honor.

— *Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026

44
SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN
Northern Colorado football wins NCAA Division II national title

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No. 44 • Dec. 14, 1996

Northern Colorado football got on a roll at the right time. After a 5-3 start it reeled off seven wins in a row, four coming in the NCAA Division II playoffs. After dispatching No. 7 Pittsburg State (24-21), No. 2 Northeast Missouri State (27-26) and No. 8 Clarion (19-18), the 15th-ranked Bears faced No. 6 Carson-Newman in Florence, Ala., for the championship. Billy Holmes ran for 136 yards and a touchdown, Tom Beck connected with Andy Haase on a 36-yard pass for the other and Michael Schauer kicked three field goals to lead the Bears to a 23-14 win and the title. UNC's defense also shined, ending all five of Carson-Newman's second-half possessions with turnovers. Joe Glenn was named the national coach of the year by the AFCA and UNC would repeat in 1997.

— *Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

45
SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN
Colorado College's 'Dutch' Clark sets still-standing record of 588 yards

Happy birthday, Colorado — and Colorado sports.

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No. 45 • Nov. 24, 1928

Colorado College junior Earl "Dutch" Clark set a state college record that still stands. In a 48-25 win over Wyoming, he rushed for 381 yards and five touchdowns. He added six extra-point kicks for 36 points overall. He had 227 of his yards by halftime. He also completed nine passes for 207 yards, giving him the state's total offense record of 588 yards, another mark that still stands. Both numbers nationally still rank in the top 20 but are separated by divisions. They were at the time considered single-game records.

— *Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

46
SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN
Broncos make Monday night debut in 23-23 tie vs. Oakland Raiders

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No. 46 • Oct. 22, 1973

Declared "Orange Monday" in Denver, the Broncos finally made their debut on Monday Night Football. Denver at the time was the 25th out of 26 teams in the league to be selected for the prime-time slot. (Buffalo was the last). The opponent was the archnemesis Oakland Raiders. Billy Thompson returned a fumble 80 yards for the game's first score; Oakland countered with an 80-yard play of its own, a touchdown pass from Ken Stabler to Mike Siani. But field goals ruled the roost, with Oakland's George Blanda making three as did Denver's Jim Turner, whose 35-yarder with 3 seconds remaining forged a 23-23 tie. At the time it was the most-watched Broncos game locally and nationally.

— *Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026

47
UNLV beats Duke 103-73 in NCAA final at McNichols Sports Arena

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No. 47
March 31-April 2, 1990

Denver is one of the last cities to host an NCAA Final Four in a typical arena, as all now are hosted in football-size domes. After preparing for the event by hosting the 1985 and 1989 NCAA regionals, the games came off without a hitch. Duke beat Arkansas in the first semifinal, 97-83, with UNLV defeating Georgia Tech in the second, 90-81. In the championship game, UNLV routed Duke, 103-73. Jerry Tarkanian's Runnin' Rebels averaged 95.2 points for the six tournament games and finished with a 35-5 record.

— *Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026

48
CSU Pueblo football wins Division II national title

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No. 48
Dec. 20, 2014

Just six years after coach John Wristen and devout donors resurrected the program, the CSU Pueblo Thunder-Wolves won the school's first football championship, claiming the NCAA Division II title with a 13-0 win over No. 1 Minnesota State. The T-Wolves (14-1) held the Mavericks to just 265 yards, nearly 200 under their season average. Chris Bonner threw for 191 yards and a touchdown and Cameron McDondle ran for 113 yards to lead the offensive attack. CSU Pueblo reached the title game with three home wins in the playoffs, defeating Angelo State (52-14), Ohio Dominican (31-28) and West Georgia (10-7).

— *Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

49
SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN
Rockies rally for 11-9 win over Mets in Coors Field's first game

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No. 49 • April 26, 1995

In their first game at Coors Field, the Colorado Rockies had to rally from a run down three different times with the game on the line. Trailing 7-6 in the ninth, Larry Walker doubled to right field, scoring Walt Weiss to tie the game. Then behind 8-7 in the 13th, Jim Tatum lined a double to left field, scoring Mike Kingery, tying the game once again. The Mets went ahead 9-8 in the top of 14th, but in the bottom of the inning, Dante Bichette hit the first home run by a Rockies player at Coors, a three-run shot with one out, scoring Joe Girardi and Andres Galarraga for an 11-9 Colorado win.

— *Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026

50
SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN
Colorado Buffs football star Travis Hunter wins Heisman

Happy birthday, Colorado — and Colorado sports.

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The Hall's historian Dave Plati coordinated a 19-member committee to rank in order what they considered were the top 50 all-time; 51-150 covered most if not all sports and all areas of the state. They are released weekly 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/.

No. 50 • Dec. 14, 2024

The second Heisman Trophy in the state was awarded to Colorado's two-way star, Travis Hunter. He caught 96 passes for 1,258 yards and 15 touchdowns, with four interceptions and 11 pass deflections on defense. The first player in history to be named first team on both offense and defense on the Walter Camp Foundation's All-America team, he followed Deion Sanders to Colorado from Jackson State in 2023. In the closest Heisman race since 2009, he bested Boise State's Ashton Jeanty by 217 points.

— *Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026

51
SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN
Dikeou brothers – John, George and Deno buy the Denver Bears

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No. 51 • Dec. 1, 1984

The Denver Bears are sold to the Dikeou brothers – John, George and Deno – by longtime owners Gerald and Allan Phipps for an estimated $2.5 million. The team will begin play the next season under a new name – the Denver Zephyrs. John Dikeou was an original – and influential – member of the Metro Sports Committee, and the Dikeou's purchase of the Bears began a seven-year pursuit to land major league baseball in Denver. The brothers had attended major league baseball's summer meetings in Philadelphia to plant seeds for Denver with the expansion committee. (The team would move to New Orleans after the 1992 season once the Colorado Rockies were set to begin play in 1993.)

— *Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026

52
Coors Field hosts Denver's first MLB All-Star Game

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No. 52
July 7, 1998

Coors Field hosted Denver's first major league All-Star Game. With 51,267 in attendance, the scoring-fest transpired as predicted. The American League outslugged the National League, 13-8. Alex Rodriguez and Roberto Alomar hit home runs for the AL, with Barry Bonds knocking one out for the NL. Trailing 2-0 after three innings, the AL scored at least one run in every remaining frame, including four in the fourth and three in the ninth, to seal the win. Baltimore's Alomar was the MVP, as he was 3-for-4 with the home run, two runs scored, an RBI and a stolen base.

—*Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026

53
Rockies pitcher Jason Jennings shines in MLB debut

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No. 53
Aug. 23, 2001

In one of the most impressive debuts in major league history, Colorado pitcher Jason Jennings threw a complete game, 10-0 shutout of the New York Mets at Shea Stadium. He allowed five hits and struck out eight. At the plate, he went 3 for 5 with two runs batted in while capping the scoring with a home run hit deep to right field in the top of the ninth inning. Jennings would spend six seasons with the Rockies, compiling a 58-56 record before finishing his career with Houston for one season and Texas for two.

— *Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026

54
SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN
Denver Pioneers skiing wins inaugural NCAA Ski Championship

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No. 54 • March 7, 1954

The University of Denver won the inaugural NCAA Ski Championship, held over three days in Reno, Nev. In the final competition of the event, DU's Billy Olson and John Cress finished 1-2 in the jumping, enabling the Pioneers to pull away from the pack with 384 points. Seattle University was next (349.6), followed by Colorado (348.6), Idaho (348.5) and Wyoming (347.8) in a hotly contested battle for second. Coach Willy Schaeffler's DU teams would win the first four titles — and 13 of the first 17, finishing second in the four it did not win. Overall through 2026, DU has won the most ski titles (24), with Colorado second (20).

— *Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026

55
SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN
Denver Bears baseball club wins American Association title

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No. 55 • Sept. 21, 1957

In just its third year competing in Triple-A baseball, Denver won its first American Association title with a 14-2 win over St. Paul, as the Bears bested the Saints four games to two. Denver finished second in the regular season with a 90-64 record, three games back of Wichita, then swept Minneapolis in four games to reach the championship series. In the title clincher in Denver, Marv Throneberry led the attack with two home runs and four driven in, while Zack Monroe pitched a complete game-nine-hitter. With the win, Denver advanced to the Little World Series against International League champion Buffalo. The Bears, the AAA affiliate of the New York Yankees, were managed by future N.Y. manager Ralph Houk.

—*Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

56
SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN
MLB legends play in 'Denver Dream' old-timers game

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No. 56 • Sept. 30, 1983

The Inaugural "Denver Dream" old-timers game was played before 56,818 fans in attendance at Mile High Stadium. The Barry Fey-produced exhibition saw over 40 prominent former major leaguers come to town to play in the game and participate in a home run hitting contest won by Harmon Killebrew. The American League beat the National League, 17-10, with Baltimore Orioles third base legend Brooks Robinson leading the way, going 3-for-5 with a home run and five runs batted in. Others who appeared in the game included Hank Aaron, Ernie Banks, Bob Feller, Whitey Ford, Willie Mays, Tony Oliva, Warren Spahn and former Denver Bear Marv Throneberry, with Joe DiMaggio and Leo Durocher on hand to sign autographs.

— *Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

57

Colorado football beats Nebraska on way to Big Eight title

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No. 57
Nov. 4, 1989

"Things Have Changed" remained lit on the Folsom Field scoreboard through the weekend after No. 2 Colorado defeated No. 3 Nebraska, 27-21, paving the way for CU's first Big Eight title since 1976 and the Orange Bowl berth that went with it. The Huskers scored a touchdown on their first play, the only lead they would have all afternoon. The Buffs tied it on one of the most memorable plays in school history, a 70-yard touchdown on which Darian Hagan ran for the first 40 and then pitched it to J.J. Flannigan for the remainder.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

58

SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Hall of Fame QB Peyton Manning signs with Broncos

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No. 58 – March 20, 2012

The Broncos dipped into the free agent market and landed four-time NFL MVP Peyton Manning. He missed the entire 2011 season with a neck injury after he started 208 straight games with Indianapolis to begin his career. Manning in the 2012 season would lead Denver to a 13-3 record, passing for 4,659 yards and 37 touchdowns in completing a career-best 68.6% of his passes. Across four years, he helped the Broncos to a 45-12 regular-season record, a pair of Super Bowl appearances and a Super Bowl 50 victory.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

59

SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Regis Jesuit girls basketball earns No. 3 national ranking

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No. 59 – March 26, 2014

The Regis Jesuit girls' basketball team was ranked No. 3 in the nation in the final poll by both USA Today and Max Preps. Coach Carl Mattei's team was the highest one from Colorado that has ever been ranked, topping No. 8 Thunder-Ridge in 2005. The Rangers finished 26-2 (with both losses to out-of-state teams), won their second straight Class 5A state title, won games by an average score of 70-38, defeated No. 1 Riverdale Baptist 61-48 and was the first prep team in the country to have two Gatorade Players of the Year in Diani Akigbogun and Justine Hall. Unfortunately, Regis, one of four teams invited to battle for the national championship at Madison Square Garden, was denied the opportunity by CHSAA. (It changed its rules a year later.) It had six players go on to play in college.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

60

SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Denver Safeways claim their first National AAU basketball title

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No. 60 • March 20, 1937

The Denver Safeways beat the top-ranked Phillips Oilers from Bartlesville, Okla., 43-38, to win their first National AAU basketball title. The 6,500-plus in attendance at the downtown Auditorium Arena witnessed Denver break a 37-all tie with 7 minutes remaining and never trail again. After a free throw from Jack McCracken and a Ter Colvin three-point play built a 41-37 lead, the Safeways went on to win (and again in 1939 and 1942). The tournament had moved to Denver from Kansas City three years earlier. Later in the year, the inventor of the game of basketball, Dr. James A. Naismith, visited Denver and saw the Safeways deal Oklahoma City a 55-34 drubbing in AAU play. Naismith, 76, said afterward, "I think that is the greatest team I've ever seen."

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

61

SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Colorado routs Alabama 47-33 in Liberty Bowl

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No. 61 • Dec. 13, 1969

Though the credit for integration for Alabama and the SEC always falls to USC after it blew out the Crimson Tide 42-21 in 1970, Bear Bryant got a taste of an integrated team in the 1969 Liberty Bowl. CU walloped Alabama 47-33 with several Black players, including a team captain, Bill Collins. Alabama sent over 40 players out for the coin toss. Not to be intimidated, the two other tri-captains, Bobby Anderson and Mike Pruett, stopped a few yards short and let Collins take the last few steps to midfield. In response to racist taunts, the normally reserved Bill Brundige exploded at halftime: "Did you hear what they are calling our Black brothers?" Colorado scored 16 fourth-quarter points, Brundige had five of CU's eight sacks, Collins was in on 14 tackles and Eddie Crowder's Buffs got the best of Bryant and the Tide.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

62

Rockies' Todd Helton gets Baseball HOF call

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No. 62
Jan. 23, 2024

The second Colorado Rockies player got the call, as Todd Helton learned he would join Larry Walker in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Helton played all 17 of his major league seasons in Denver, finishing with a career batting average of .316 with 369 home runs and 1,406 runs batted in. He also belted 592 doubles and owned a career fielding percentage of .996, winning three Gold Glove awards. Through 2025, only 193 players in MLB history who played 10 or more seasons spent their entire career with one team. Helton is tied for 41st on that list with his 17 years in Colorado.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

63

Jokic records first 30-20-20 triple-double in NBA history

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No. 63
March 7, 2025

In Denver's 149-141 overtime win over Phoenix at Ball Arena, Nikola Jokic recorded the first "30-20-20" triple-double in NBA history: 31 points, 21 rebounds and 22 assists. It it was just the third 20-20-20 game, previously done by Wilt Chamberlain and Russell Westbrook. It was actually the first 24-18-18 game and only the eighth 20-15-15 game, Jokic's second of his career. His first was against Sacramento six weeks earlier. Also, the 22 assists were an NBA record for a center.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

64

Gwozdecky leads Denver to seventh NCAA hockey championship

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No. 64
April 9, 2005

The University of Denver claimed its seventh NCAA hockey title with a 4-1 win over North Dakota. The Pioneers had advanced to the final after defeating rival Colorado College, 6-2, two days earlier. DU's George Gwozdecky was named the National Coach of the Year for leading DU to back-to-back titles after not claiming once since 1969. It was the third time the Pioneers were crowned back-to-back champions, having done so in 1960-1961 and 1968-1969, and just the fourth repeat titlist in the NCAA's 58-year history.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

65 - November 6, 1937. CU All-American **Byron White** single-handedly beats Utah at Salt Lake City, 17-7, in one of his greatest games ever.

66

SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Denver Bears win first game at Bears Stadium in front of record crowd

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No. 66 • Aug. 14, 1948

A record Western League crowd of 10,884 watched the Denver Bears defeat the Sioux City Soos, 9-5, in the inaugural game in Bears Stadium, which was readied for play just days before. Willie Skeen went 3-for-5 with two doubles and a triple, driving in three runs to pace the Bears. The new ballpark had lights installed from the getgo, and the inaugural game was played under the lights. The next day, in the second game of a doubleheader, Sioux City center fielder Billy Pavlick hit the first home run in the new park. On Sept. 3, in a 5-0 loss to Des Moines, a new attendance record was set — 12,752. It had several updates throughout its 62-year history and was renamed Mile High Stadium in 1968.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

67

Colorado basketball wins NIT title over Duquesne

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No. 67
March 15, 1940

The University of Colorado returned to the NIT for the second time in three years and this time won the trophy with a 51-40 win over Duquesne. CU's Bob Doll was named the tournament's most valuable player, as he led all scorers in the tournament with 31 points. The Buffaloes defeated DePaul in the semifinal two nights earlier, 52-37, to force a rematch with the Dukes, who beat CU at home, 47-45, two months earlier and advanced to the final by beating Oklahoma A&M.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

68

Babe Zaharias named AP Greatest Female Athlete

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No. 68
Feb. 14, 1950

Dubbed Denver's "Queen of the Fairways," Babe Zaharias was named by The Associated Press as the Greatest Female Athlete of the first half of the 20th century. She lived in the Denver area for much of the 1940s (and also spent considerable time at the Zaharias family farm in Pueblo) and was cited for her prowess in both track and field and golf. During her time living in Colorado, she won 17 straight golf tournaments, including the U.S. Women's Amateur and the Ladies' British Open Amateur. At Cherry Hills Country Club, she won for the fourth time what then was considered a major, the Women's Western Open.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

69

SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

CSU beats CU in state's only NCAA Tournament matchup

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No. 69 • March 13, 1969

In the only postseason matchup of two Colorado Division 1 basketball programs, Colorado State defeated No. 18 Colorado, 64-56, in the NCAA Midwest Regional in Manhattan, Kan. The Rams, who earned an at-large entry, had four players in double figures, led by Cliff Shegogg with 20 points. Cliff Meely had 32 points for CU, the Big Eight Conference champion, but had little support otherwise. Two days later, in the Elite Eight, the Rams lost to Drake, 84-77.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

70

SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Broncos' Marlin Briscoe becomes first Black starting QB in AFL or NFL

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No. 70 • Oct. 6, 1968

After Steve Tensi was injured early on, and other quarterbacks were sidelined, in the fourth game of the season, the Broncos turned to Marlin Briscoe to start against the expansion Cincinnati Bengals at Bears Stadium. Briscoe, a rookie from Omaha University, was selected by Denver in the 14th round of the 1968 AFL-NFL Draft. He became the first African American to start a game at quarterback in professional football, be it the AFL or NFL. It was a defensive battle, and Tensi came off the bench to throw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Mike Haffner late in the game to rally Denver to a 10-7 win.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

71

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Broncos beat Packers in Monday Night Football blizzard game

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No. 71 • Oct. 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 barefooted Rich Karlis was the difference for the 62,546 that braved the elements. Foley (2026) and Wright (1992) are Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductees as well as in the Broncos Ring of Fame.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

72

SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Sonny Lubick leads Colorado State to its first WAC title

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No. 72 – Nov. 19, 1994

Less than two years after hiring Sonny Lubick as the head football coach on Dec. 21, 1992, Colorado State earned its first Western Athletic Conference title since joining the league in 1968 with a 44-42 win at Fresno State. The Bulldogs jumped 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. The No. 10 Rams improved to 10-1 with the win and were 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.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

73

Northern Colorado shocks, earns trip to College World Series

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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.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

74

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

CU icon Ceal Barry inducted into Women's Basketball Hall of Fame

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No. 74 • June 9, 2018

University of Colorado 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 and 12 NCAA Tournament berths, with six NCAA Sweet 16 and three Elite Eight appearances. Hired on April 12, 1983, to replace Sox Walseth, Barry coached her final game at CU on March 2, 2005. She was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.

—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. 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. Before 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 40s) prevented a new record.

Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

76

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Broncos beat Boston Patriots in American Football League's debut

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No. 76 • Sept. 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 43-0 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

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

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 staged for the first time.

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., 51-47. Playing 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. Oklahoma A&M also hosted the 1952 event when CU tied for sixth.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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 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.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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 2,200 finishers. In 1981, in cooperation with the University of Colorado, the race's finish was moved to Folsom Field, with Shorter the winner, and in the years since, has annually drawn anywhere from 40,00 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

82

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 Macoumba 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. They defeated Columbus and San Jose to reach the final.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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 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 the Golden Bear was close friends with Vickers.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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, avenging a loss to them in the 1999 finals. All-American and tournament MVP DeMarcos Azunres 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 college player to earn first-team All-American honors.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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 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 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

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

86

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Colorado's Bill McCartney gets first win over Nebraska

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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 highest-ranked opponent the Buffaloes had defeated in 14 years. The Buffs defense shined, holding Nebraska to 123 yards rushing. The Huskers later 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.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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 Washington Spirit with 63,004 in attendance at Empower Field at Mile High. It topped the league best of 40,061 set by Bay FC — also versus Washington in August 2025. 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.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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 Colorado graduate, who didn't make the U.S. Olympic Cycling team, completed the 616-mile, 18-stage course in 29 hours, 39 minutes, 2 seconds, besting Helen Hage of the Netherlands by 3 minutes, 17 seconds. Crowned champion in Paris, over 2 million people lined the course for the final stage.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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

89

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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 sellout streak that has reached 464 games at the end of the 2025 season — 440 regular-season games and 24 postseason games. The streak was not paused during the 2020 season when government restrictions around COVID-19 limited attendance. The maximum people allowed in continued the streak.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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

90

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Colorado Springs' Judy Bell named president of USGA

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No. 90 • Jan. 27, 1996

Colorado Springs resident Judy Bell was named president of the United States Golf Association (USGA) and 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 it was founded in 1894. She had been its vice president.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

D2 | THE DENVER GAZETTE | TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026

91

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Colorado grad Bill Toomey wins gold medal in decathlon

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No. 91 • Oct. 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 1967 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.

— Dave Plati, 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 wins 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.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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

93

Pueblo Central, Pueblo Centennial football rivalry begins

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No. 93
Nov. 24, 1892

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). 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 nine ties.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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

94

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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 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.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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

95

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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

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No. 95 • May 1898

Town and Gown Golf Club opened in Colorado Springs. To this day, the course is one of the oldest continuously operated 18-hole public golf courses west of the Mississippi and 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.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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

96

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Dave Logan wins 13th state football championship

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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 to win titles at four 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 Colorado, as earlier in the decade, he passed Limon's Lloyd 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.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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

97

NWSL awards Denver expansion franchise

Happy birthday, Colorado — and Colorado sports.

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No. 97
Jan. 30, 2025

The National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) awards an expansion franchise to Denver, the league's 16th franchise, which began play earlier this month. The expansion fee was $110 million and the team was officially named Denver Summit FC. The team made its debut last Saturday, dropping a 2-1 decision to Bay FC at PayPal Park in San Jose. Melissa Kossler scored the first goal in franchise history in the 20th minute.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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

98

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 176-6 win over Vona at home. The 12 touchdowns remain a state record and are tied for the second-most in the history of high school football nationally. The 182 combined points were the most in a Colorado prep game at the time and, almost a century later is 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.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

99

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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 with a 66-yard touchdown reception on a screen pass from Steve Ramsey. Little 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.

—*Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

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 Haas 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 steak. (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*

101

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Bob Howsam brings minor league baseball to Denver

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No. 101 • Nov. 29, 1954

After weeks of speculation and negotiation, Bob Howsam purchased 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*

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

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 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. DU goalie 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.

—*Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

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 Wilf Paiement, 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*

105

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Thanks to Suplizio, 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 1 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 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*

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. AFA, in its first season under coach Ben Martin, finished 9-0-2 and was undefeated against state schools (CU, CSU and DU).

—*Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

107

SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Colorado College erupts for 13 goals in NCAA championship

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No. 107
March 18, 1950

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 explosion with four goals and two assists, with Tony Frasca scoring twice and assisting on two others. CC poured it on in the third period, scoring 10 goals. Coach Cheddy Thompson's team beat Boston College, 10-3 in the semifinals. Colorado Sports Hall of Famer Andy Gambucci was a member of that team. CC (18-5-1) 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

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 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.

—*Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

109

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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

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No. 109 • March 4, 1989

Heading into the final day of the regular season, Colorado State men's basketball 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, seeking to ease the tension among the 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 (71-70). CSU won its first conference title since the Mountain States in 1954.

—*Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

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 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.

—*Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian bronze medal in*

111

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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

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No. 111 • July 29, 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*

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

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

113
SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Nuggets play in the highest-scoring game in NBA history

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No. 113
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 74 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 adding 47 and Dan Issel 28. Detroit was led by Isaiah Thomas with 47 points and John Long's 41.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

114
SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

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, scoring 86 total 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.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

115
SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Avalanches' Cale Makar makes history in his NHL debut

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

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 3 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.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

116
SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

CU Buffs win 'Fifth Down Game' against Missouri

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

No. 116 • Oct. 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; quarterback Charles Johnson spiked the ball, and then Eric Bieniemy rushed up the middle to the 1; he was stopped short on his next try, and Johnson spiked the ball to stop the clock with two seconds left. 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. Mizzou's Omni-Turf was also in terrible condition, and the correct shoe was needed to avoid slipping. The Tigers 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 College GameDay the next Saturday.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

No. 117 • Feb. 14, 1965

Until Gerald H. and Allan R. Phipps purchased undisputed control of the Denver Broncos for $1.5 million on Feb. 14, 1965, to increase their ownership of the team to 94% by gaining 52% with the immediate cash payment, the voting trust headed by spokesman and team president Calvin Kunz was 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).

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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CSU, Wyoming football meet in first 'Border War'

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

No. 118
Nov. 30, 1899

On Nov. 30, 1899, the first meeting in the series that would eventually be known as the "Border War" took place as 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 Sept. 5 in Fort Collins.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

119
SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

No. 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. The team finished with a 111-54-3 record. Games were much quicker (no radio or television, or lights) as Denver won a game 6-0 at Topeka that was played in 1 hour and 15 minutes; it had a 13-inning 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 1989's "Field of Dreams" (Kevin Costner played Ray Kinsella, who had a dysfunctional relationship with his major-league father, John).

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

120
SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

No. 120 • Feb. 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 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 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 mark.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

121
SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

No. 121 • Dec. 8, 1996

The Colorado Xplosion's Debbie Black became the first woman and only the fifth professional 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. It has occurred only four times officially in the NBA, all before Black's — by Nate Thurmond, Alvin Robertson, Hakeem Olajuwon and David Robinson. However, it's likely Wilt Chamberlain did it before blocked shots were tracked. Black's is the last quadruple-double in pro ball. Collegiately, Grambling's Shakyla Hill had two, one each in 2018 and 2019.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

122
SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Lakewood upsets Cherry Creek in 4A football title game

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

No. 122
Nov. 30, 1985

In what many consider to be one of the greatest upsets in Colorado high school football, Lakewood, with all of 27 players on its roster, manhandled heavily favored Cherry Creek, 47-8, in the Class 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.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

123
SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

Denver Spurs win Western Hockey League championship

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

No. 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, to clinch the championship series in five games. Denver had swept the San Diego Gulls in the semifinals. Frank Huck, the league MVP, scored nine goals with four assists in the playoffs. Rookie defensemen Glen Patrick was the first to be presented with the Patrick Cup, as it was named after his famous grandfather. It was the city's first professional hockey title, some 24 years before the Colorado Avalanche won the Stanley Cup.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

124
SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Northern Colorado records state's first College World Series win

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No. 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 then would 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 into the Series, the last time in 1974. The Bears are 3-20 in CWS games.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

125
SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

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

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

No. 125
Aug. 25, 1920

Denver native and Longmont High graduate Eddie Eagan, the state's first Olympian, won the gold medal in the 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, 1932, he was on the U.S. team that won the gold in the four-man bobsled at Lake Placid, New York.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

126

Colorado Mines, Colorado College meet for first time in football

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

No. 126
Nov. 28, 1889

The first game in one of the longest rivalries in college football was played in Colorado Springs, with Colorado Mines defeating Colorado College on Thanksgiving Day, 14-6. The two would meet 89 times through 1990, with Mines winning the last 11 to lead the series 46-38-5 before it was discontinued.

— *Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

127

Sports broadcasting debuts on Denver airwaves

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

No. 127
Feb. 10, 1922

KDKA-Radio in Pittsburgh was the first to broadcast sporting events on radio in 1921, beginning with a prize fight before 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 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 at DU. On April 15, 1926, the first full game involving a team from the state is broadcast, as 5,000-watt KOA-Radio, which began broadcasting in 1924, 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 Nov. 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.

— *Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

128

SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

CU Buffs pitcher Bob McGraw sets college strikeout record

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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 Colorado 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 13 times for 33 total whiffs in the game.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

129

SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

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

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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, 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.

—*Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

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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 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 early precursors to the National Western was on June 30, 1874, 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*

131

Tebow, Thomas lift Broncos to OT playoff win over Steelers

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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-all 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 Steeler defenders to the end zone for an 80-yard score and a 29-23 Bronco win that culminated in the quickest ending to an overtime in NFL history. The previous quickest involved a former Colorado Buffalo: on Thanksgiving Day 1980, David Williams returned the overtime kickoff 95 yards to give Chicago a 23-17 win at Detroit — 16 seconds into the extra session.

—*Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

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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
Aug. 10-12, 1916

The Pikes Peak International Hill Climb was run for the first time. Originally intended to stimulate tourism in the Colorado Springs and Pikes Peak region, the race 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 the 12.42 miles in 20:55.6, with Floyd Clymer winning the motorcycle class with a time of 21:58.41. Through the years, the legendary Unser family (Louis, Bobby, Al, Robby and Al Jr.) won a combined 25 titles racing the course, which covers a 4,725-foot elevation gain — starting at 9,390 feet to a summit of 14,115 feet — with 156 turns in between.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

133

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

Playing 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-17 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 by a woman's collegian (2,740 points).

—*Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

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 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 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 8) against the Dallas Chaparrals in a 152-113 home win. Denver would top the 152 points three times in future ABA play, 156 and 153 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*

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SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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

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No. 135 • July 13, 1984

The second "Denver Dream" old-timers baseball game took place before 38,899 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, popping up to second baseman Milt Pappas (who intentionally dropped the ball) before singling to center his next time up. He also played a couple of innings at first base, where he robbed Tony Oliva of a single — guarded by members of the Secret Service. 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 included Joe DiMaggio and Billy Martin.

—*Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

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SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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

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No. 136 • June 16, 1996

Steve Jones becomes the second Colorado high school alum (Yuma) and the second Colorado Buffalo to win the U.S. Open, turning in a 2-under-par performance (74-66-69-69—278) at Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., 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 bogeyed. Jones hit his approach to 12 feet and two-putted for the win. The win wasn't a fluke; only 51 under-par 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.

—*Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian*

137

Denver Nuggets' Rodney Rogers scores nine points in 9 seconds

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No. 137
Feb. 8, 1994

Though Denver lost the game to Utah, Nuggets forward Rodney Rogers accomplished a feat unmatched prior to 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 go. 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 inbound pass himself and strutted to the 3-point line on the right baseline and sank his third 3-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 died in November at the age of 54.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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Hot Sulphur Springs hosts first Winter Sports Carnival

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No. 138, Feb. 14-15, 1912

The Winter Sports Club of Hot Sulphur Springs hosted the state's first Winter Sports Carnival that drew 8,000 spectators, with competitors included. 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 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*

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SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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

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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 set what still stands as NCAA records as he batted 1.000 — 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*

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

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SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Arapahoe Basin ski area begins operations after World War II

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

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 $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).

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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Denver Bears set minor-league attendance record

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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 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.

–DAVE PLATI, COLORADO SPORTS HALL OF FAME HISTORIAN

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SESQUICENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

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

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No. 142: Aug. 5, 1967

The 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 there was no 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 preseason ahead of the 1970 AFL-NFL merger. Of the 15 preseason games that first year, the AFL won three, two by the Broncos.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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

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Jan. 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 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 Lillie of Southern Colorado (now CSU Pueblo) in an 82-80 overtime loss to St. Mary's of the Plains on Dec. 3, 1979.

-DAVE PLATI, COLORADO SPORTS HALL OF FAME HISTORIAN

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TOP 150 COLORADO SPORTS MOMENTS

Altitude Sports Network launches – with NHL in lockout



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles Rams owner Stanley Kroenke arrives for NFL owners meetings in New York on Oct. 22.

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Sept. 4, 2004

At 12:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, the Altitude Sports & Entertainment Network went on the air, 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 reportedly were 850,000 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.

Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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TOP 150 COLORADO SPORTS MOMENTS

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

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June 2, 1987

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.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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

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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 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

Wheat Ridge boys tennis snaps Cherry Creek's record streak

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Sept. 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. 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 459 consecutive dual meets from 1973 into 2008.

— Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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.

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

No. 148

Aug. 26, 1974

The first championship by a Denver professional team, excluding minor league baseball, was claimed by the Denver Racquets, who won the inaugural World Team Tennis league title. The Racquets defeated the top-seeded Philadelphia Freedoms, 2-0, in the best-of-three finals. Denver had won the Pacific Section with a 30-14 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.

- Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

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SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL

Bob Martin hosts the state's first sports talk show

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

No. 149

April 12, 1965

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 BC Lions (1955) before coaching the Houston Oilers (1960-61) and Broncos (1964-66).

- Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

150

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

BY PAUL KLEE
The Denver Gazette

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Today's top moment in Colorado sports history:

No. 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. 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 stoutest. 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 (Rutgers 6, Princeton 4). The game methodically spread west.

—Dave Plati, Colorado Sports Hall of Fame historian

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

30 - To be announced
29 - To be announced
28 - To be announced
27 - To be announced
26 - To be announced

25 - To be announced
24 - To be announced
23 - To be announced
22 - To be announced
21 - To be announced

20 - To be announced
19 - To be announced
18 - To be announced
17 - To be announced
16 - To be announced

15 - To be announced
14 - To be announced
13 - To be announced
12 - To be announced
11 - To be announced

10 - To be announced
9 - To be announced
8 - To be announced
7 - To be announced
6 - To be announced

5 - To be announced
4 - To be announced
3 - To be announced
2 - To be announced
1 - To be announced