

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



TOP 150 SPORTS MOMENTS

The 150 significant moments in Colorado's sports history will be announced weekly leading up to the state's sesquicentennial (150th) birthday on August 1, the date Colorado was admitted to the Union as the 38th state in 1876. A committee with over 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. 21 - June 8, 2021. Nuggets center **Nikola Jokic** was named the NBA's Most Valuable Player for the 2020-21 season, the first Nugget to win the award. In his seventh season after being selected 41st in the '14 Draft, he averaged 26.4 points, 10.9 rebounds and 8.4 assists, just the third player to average 26/10/8 over a full season in league history, and recorded 16 triple-doubles. He collected 91 out of a possible 100 first-place votes in the media voting. He repeated as the MVP in 2021-22, just the 13th player to win the honor in back-to-back seasons.

No. 22 - July 28 through August 4, 2012. Missy Franklin, a 17-year-old from Regis High School, won five medals – four gold – in swimming at the Summer Olympics in London. She won the 100- and 200-meter backstroke events and was on the 4x100-meter medley and 4x200-meter relay teams that claimed gold; she won a bronze on the 4x100-meter freestyle relay.



No. 23 - November 15, 1972. A grassroots organization against bringing the '76 Olympics to Colorado at taxpayer expense was formed in July: Citizens for Colorado's Future (CCF) submitted a petition with 77,392 signatures to the Secretary of State to get an initiative on the 1972 election day ballot stating no city or state funds shall be permitted to fund the Olympic games. (It passed with 60 percent of the vote, and Denver officially withdrew its bid on November 15.)

No. 24 - February 23, 2025, in World Cup skiing at Sestriere, Italy, **Mikaela Shiffrin** won the slalom, her 100th World Cup victory, becoming the first skier, male or female, to record 100 wins in Alpine World Cup competition (it was her 278th race). It was also her 155th top-3 career finish, tying Swedish legend Ingemar Stenmark. Through the 2025-26 season, she had totaled 110 victories (73 in the slalom).



No. 25 - July 26, 1996, Englewood native and Colorado State alumna **Amy Van Dyken** won her fourth gold medal in the '96 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, the first American woman to win four golds in swimming in the same Olympiad (11 had won three prior). She claimed gold in the 50-meter freestyle, the 100-meter butterfly and teamed with others to win the 4x100 freestyle and 4x100 medley relays. The first American woman to earn four medals in a single Olympics, she was honored upon her return with a parade in downtown Denver.

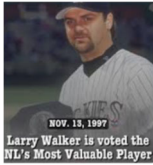
No. 26 - December 10, 1994. At one point, eight games into the season, it could be argued that the University of Colorado had three Heisman Trophy candidates - **Rashaan Salaam**, **Kordell Stewart**, and **Michael Westbrook**. They separated themselves late in the season, and the nod went to Salaam, who became the first Heisman winner in the state of Colorado. He won the voting easily with 400 first-place votes and almost doubled the point total over a pair of Penn State players, Ki-Jana Carter and Kerry Collins.



No. 27 - December 4, 1999. Less than eight months after tragedy struck Columbine High School on April 20, where 12 students and a teacher were killed in the worst school shooting in state history, the Rebels defeated Cherry Creek on the Bruins' home field, 21-14, to win the state's 5A football championship. Creek took an early 14-0 lead in the first quarter, but was shut out the rest of the way, with Columbine tying the game in the second and going ahead two plays into the fourth. The game was played with an overflow crowd of 8,000-plus, with the game televised and national media in town to witness the Rebels win and finish with a 13-1 record.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

No. 28 - May 7, 1994. No eight-seed had ever defeated a top-seeded team in the NBA playoffs until this day. That's when the Denver Nuggets, who had fallen behind two games to none in the best-of-five series, rallied to win both games in Denver to tie the series and force Game 5 back in Seattle. Close throughout, the Nuggets prevailed 98-94 in overtime, eliminating the 63-win SuperSonics. This was the game with the iconic video of **Dikembe Mutombo** lying on his back in the free-throw lane holding the ball above his head. The Nuggets then fell behind three games to none against Utah and almost pulled it off again, tying the series after winning three in a row, but their luck ran out, and the Jazz won game 7 in Salt Lake City.



No. 29 - November 13, 1997. The Colorado Rockies had their first (and to date only) player selected as the National League's Most Valuable Player. **Larry Walker** led the league in home runs with 49, batted .366 with 130 runs batted in, along with 33 stolen bases. The right fielder also won the Gold Glove Award. The Rockies scored 923 runs - 5.7 per game - the most in the league and second only to Seattle's 925 in the American, as Walker and his Blake Street Bomber buddies belted 239 home runs in all.

No. 30 - June 16, 1974. A final round 3-over par 73 propelled former CU golfer (and quarterback/cornerback) **Hale Irwin** to victory in the 83rd U.S. Open. The 29-year-old was consistent over the four rounds (73-70-71-73=287, 7-over par) on the tough Winged Foot Golf Club course in Mamaroneck, N.Y. He won by two strokes over Fuzzy Feszler, with notables Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, and Gary Player further down the line. He cashed a \$35,000 check for his efforts. The first of his three U.S. Open wins, along with in 1979 and 1990, he remains just one of six players in history to win three or more U.S. Open titles.



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.

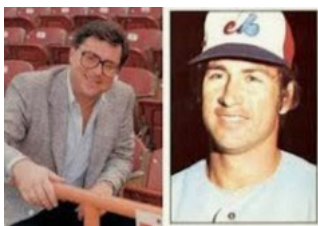


No. 33 - August 8, 2004. Finally, a career Denver Bronco was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Quarterback **John Elway** was chosen in his first year of eligibility, along with Barry Sanders, Carl Eller, and Bob Brown, for enshrinement in Canton. Elway spent his entire 16-year NFL career (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.)



Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



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.



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.

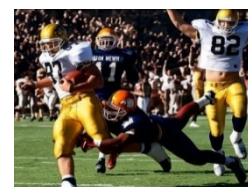
Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

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.

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.

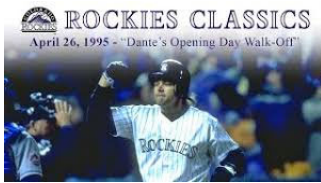


No. 47 - March 30-April 1, 1990. In one of the last cities to host a Final Four in a basketball setting at McNichols Arena, Duke beat Arkansas in the first semifinal, 97-83, with UNLV defeating Georgia Tech in the second, 90-81. In the championship game, UNLV routed Duke, 103-73. Coach Jerry Tarkanian's 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).



Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



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.



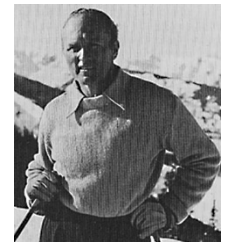
No. 51 - December 1, 1984. The Denver Bears are sold to the Dikeou brothers - John, George, and Deno - by longtime owners Gerald and Allan Phipps for an estimated \$2.5 million. The team will begin play the next season under a new name - the Denver Zephyrs. John Dikeou was an original - and influential - 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.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

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
 One night prior to the start of "The Denver Dream," Old-Time All-Star game at Mile High Stadium, The American League (which defeated the National League 17-10) before a crowd of 56,818.



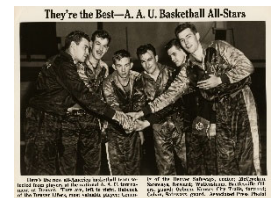
No. 57 - November 4, 1989. "Things Have Changed" remained lit on the Folsom Field scoreboard through the weekend after No. 2 Colorado defeated No. 3 Nebraska, 27-21, paving the way for CU's first Big Eight title since 1976 and the Orange Bowl berth that went with it. The Huskers scored a touchdown on 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.

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).

No. 60 - March 20, 1937. The Denver Safeways 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."



They're the Best—A. A. U. Basketball All-Stars



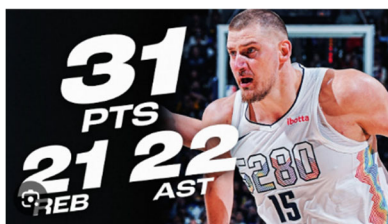
No. 61 - December 13, 1969. Though the credit for integration for Alabama and the SEC always falls to USC after it blew out the Crimson Tide, 42-21, in 1970, Bear Bryant got a taste of an integrated team in the '69 Liberty Bowl. CU walloped Alabama, 47-33, with several black players, including a team 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.



Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



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.

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.



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. 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.

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.



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).



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.

Rams get a Holiday



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

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



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

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.



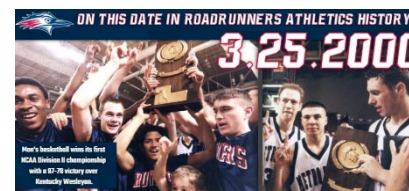
No. 81 - May 28, 1979. The first BolderBOULDER is held, starting and ending on the streets of Boulder. The co-creation of Bank of Boulder president **Steve Bosley** and Olympic medalist **Frank Shorter**, the inaugural race had 2,200 finishers. In 1981, in cooperation with the University of Colorado, 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.



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!

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

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.



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.

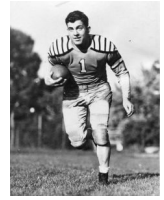


No. 109 - March 4, 1989. Heading into the final day of the regular season, Colorado State was 11-4 in Western Athletic Conference play, tied atop the standings with New Mexico and one game up on Texas-El Paso. Coach Boyd Grant, wanting to ease the tension among the team, took the Rams to a movie on Friday 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 an 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.

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.

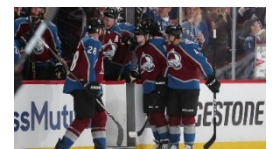


No. 113 - July 29, 1984. Boulder's **Connie Carpenter-Phinney** became the first American woman to win the gold medal in Olympic road cycling, winning the 79-kilometer race at the Los Angeles Summer Games. Neck-and-neck with fellow American **Rebecca Twigg**, the two accelerated into a frantic sprint 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.

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).

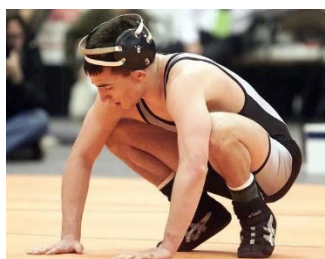


Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



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.



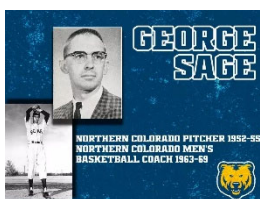
No. 120 - February 17, 2001. In what many called the biggest prep wrestling upset in state history, Wasson's Brett Roller defeated Pomona's Tom Clum, 13-12, in the Colorado 5A 125-pound state wrestling championship before over 17,000 in attendance at Pepsi Center. At the time, Clum was an undefeated, 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.



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.

Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



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).



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.

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).

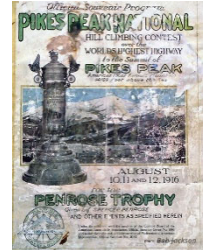


Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



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.

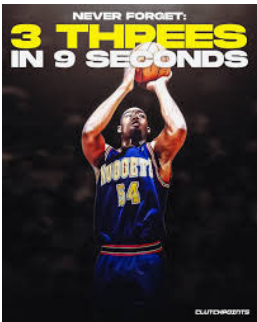


No. 135 - July 13, 1984. The second "Denver Dream" old-timers baseball game drew 38,899 to Mile High Stadium, with the highlight being Vice President George H.W. Bush not only in attendance but also playing in the game. Donning a Denver Bear uniform, he went 1-for-2 from the plate; he first faced Warren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

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.



Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments



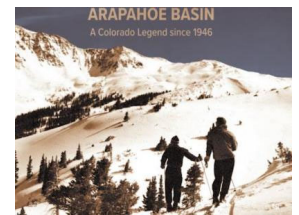
No. 137 - February 8, 1994. Though Denver lost to Utah, Nuggets forward Rodney Rogers accomplished a feat unmatched before or since. He scored nine points in as many seconds on three 3-point field goals. He made the first from the top of the key with 29.4 seconds to play; Robert Pack stole the ball and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

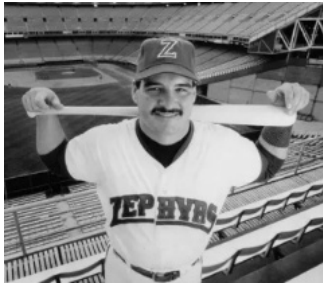
No. 142 - August 5, 1967. The Denver Broncos became the first AFL team to defeat an NFL team, downing the Detroit Lions, 13-10, at DU Stadium in what some called "The Little Super Bowl." The Lions' Alex Karras stated prior to the game that there was no way Denver would win, and if it did, he'd walk back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

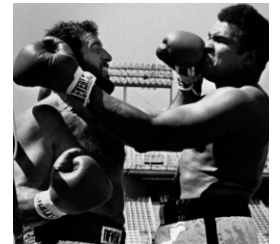
Colorado's Top 150 Sports Moments

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.

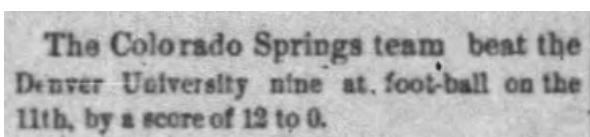


No. 147 - September 13, 2000. In high school **boys' tennis**, Wheat Ridge defeated **Cherry Creek**, 5-2, ending the Bruins' remarkable dual-match winning streak at 316, the longest in the nation. The streak ended when **Paul Tinetti** ripped a forehand winner down the line to give him and partner **Brian 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.

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.



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.