

From Walk-On to Hall of Fame: John Trahan's Inspiring Journey at CSU Pueblo

At the recent CSU Pueblo Hall of Fame induction ceremony, former teammates and athletic leaders gathered to celebrate the legacy of John Trahan, one of the most prolific wide receivers in the program's history. The evening was a powerful reflection on hard work, deep brotherhood, and the transformative impact of sports both on and off the field.

A Foundation Built on Character and Mentorship

The evening opened with introductory remarks from fellow teammates, including Dr. Rick Pereira, a psychologist and former Denver Broncos performance psychologist. Pereira shared insights on the critical importance of mental health and wellness in athletics— noting that taking care of athletes "from the neck up" is just as vital as physical preparation [\[02:31\]](#).

Highlighting Trahan's character, Pereira described him as an exceptional human being who consistently gave back to his community, mentoring high school athletes and supporting his peers long after his playing days ended [\[06:06\]](#).

Overcoming the Odds: The Journey of a Walk-On

When John Trahan took the stage to accept his induction, he expressed profound gratitude to the committee, his supporters, and especially his mother, who supported him through every challenge [\[08:49\]](#). Trahan reflected on his humble beginnings as a 160-pound walk-on in 1981 who faced incredible odds just to be part of the team [\[14:26\]](#).

Because team buses had limited space for walk-ons, Trahan shared how he and fellow teammates had to secure their own rides to the stadium, dress in the parking lot, and start at the back of the warm-up line [\[15:18\]](#). Financial hurdles also threatened his academic journey, but being surrounded by elite teammates and legendary coaches pushed him to elevate his game [\[16:12\]](#).

"We learned the work ethic to become what we became which we had no idea it was just putting in the work... I was surrounded by greatness." – John Trahan

[11:53]

A Legacy of Greatness and Gratitude

Trahan paid tribute to the foundational figures of CSU Pueblo football, recognizing the historic talent of his teammates and coaches—including Coach John Wriston, Mike Thomas, and the D'Rose brothers—whose competitive drive forced him to become great [11:34, 20:38].

Closing with a powerful reading of Edgar Guest's poetry, Trahan reminded current athletes that true greatness comes from within and that everyone starts with the same essential equipment: *"Greatness comes from the soul within, but I had to furnish the will to win."* [18:30]

John Trahan's induction stands as a testament to perseverance, humility, and the enduring power of teamwork.

Watch the full induction ceremony here: <https://youtu.be/TgoJQ1sWCFY>