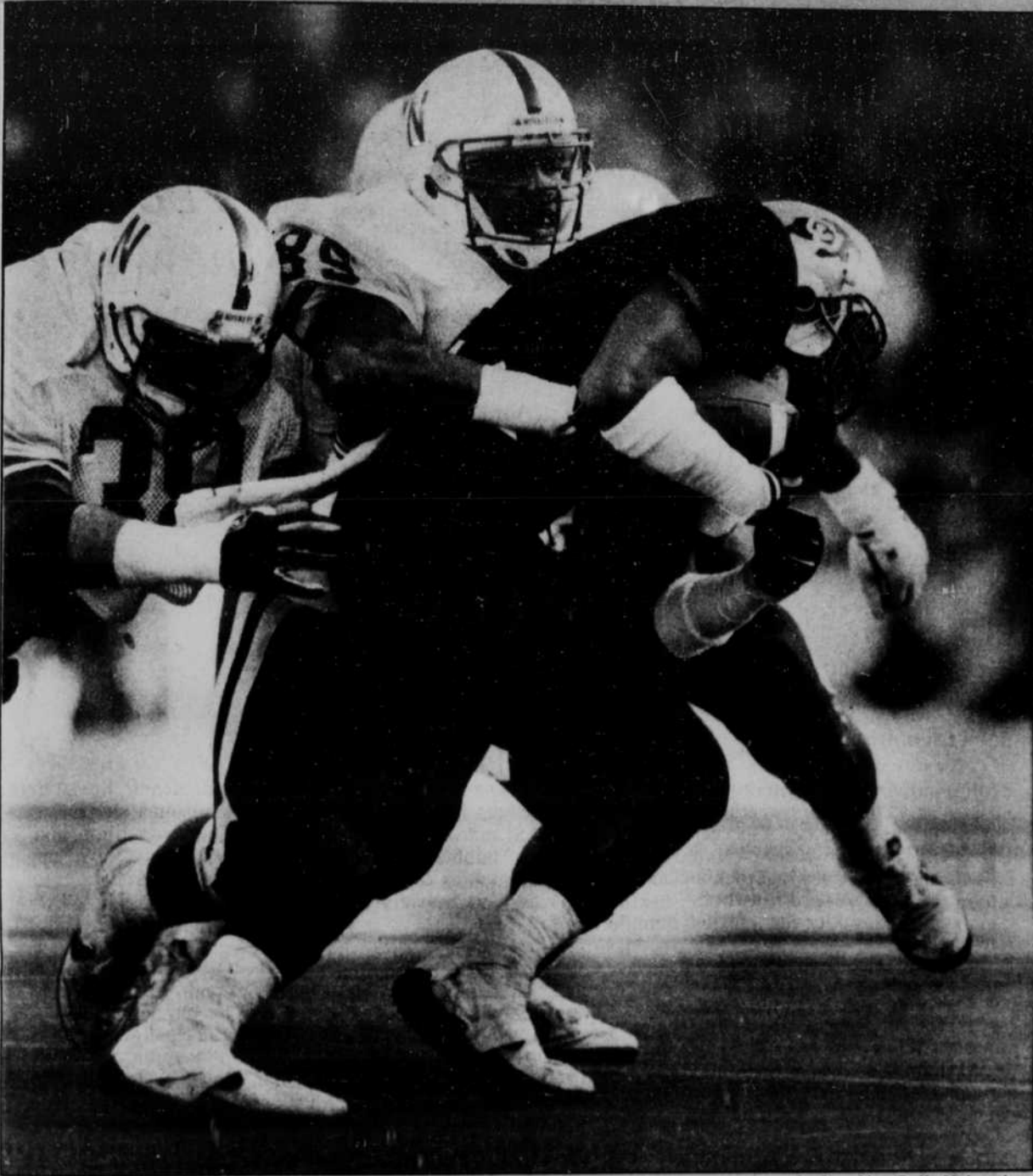


# Sports

## CU coach: Future bright for Buffaloes



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska defensive end Broderick Thomas and linebacker Steve Forch tackle Colorado halfback Eric Blienimy.

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

BOULDER, Colo. — Long after most of the temporary lights at Folsom Field were shut off, Colorado football coach Bill McCartney contemplated the future of Buffalo football.

McCartney, who in 1982 inherited a program that posted a 7-26 record during the previous three years, said Colorado's 24-7 loss to Nebraska Saturday at Folsom Field showed what the Buffaloes will have to do to compete successfully against nationally ranked teams.

McCartney said Colorado most needs to improve its physical strength before facing Nebraska and Oklahoma next season. He said the Cornhuskers manhandled the Buffaloes' offensive and defensive lines.

"We just have to get bigger and stronger in the off season," McCartney said.

McCartney said the future of Colorado's football program looks bright because the Buffaloes lose only three starting offensive players next season. He said Colorado will rely on an abundance of fresh, new talent to improve on this season's 7-4 record.

"We had great morale all year, (but) 7-4 is not satisfactory," McCartney said. "I'm disappointed in 7-4, but I'm not disappointed in Colorado football. We'll be better next year."

Colorado strong safety Mickey Pruitt, who closed out his collegiate football career against Nebraska along with 26 other Buffalo seniors, agreed. He said the Buffaloes are ensuring themselves a future success by recruiting quality athletes.

"I think (our future) holds many good things," Pruitt said.

Pruitt said the loss to Nebraska was difficult to take because Colorado declared the Huskers their official rival. He said the Buffaloes

tried to gain a psychological advantage by wearing all-black uniforms for the first time in their 97-year history and posting the Nebraska game in bright red letters on the schedule that lines the locker-room wall.

But Pruitt said the only pleasant memory he will have of Nebraska is Colorado's 20-10 victory over the Huskers in 1986. He said that game became even more meaningful after this year's loss.

"We were wanting to win this year," Pruitt said. "Now, this year is really hurting me."

Colorado linebacker Eric McCarty also said his heart ached after the loss to Nebraska.

"I'm hurting," McCarty said. "I'm heartbroken for more reasons than one."

Buffalo middle guard Kyle Rappold said the Colorado underclassmen already have been taught how to prepare for Nebraska. He said the Huskers are Colorado's natural rival because of the proximity of the two states.

"We despise Nebraska, but you have to respect them," Rappold said. "You have to respect your enemy."

Rappold denied writing a letter to Husker defensive end Broderick Thomas last week that bore his signature and appeared on the wall of the Husker locker room. The letter promised Nebraska a second straight defeat from Colorado.

"I have a little bit of class," Rappold said. "Not much, but a little."

Rappold, who answered reporters' questions while smoking a cigar he said represented his four years as a Buffalo, predicted big things for future Colorado football teams.

"I know these young guys are going to take up where we left off," Rappold said.

McCartney said he's determined to see the Colorado football program through its development.

### Letter

#### More college coaches should listen to Apel

Jeff Apel is absolutely right. Tom Osborne has only himself to thank for his abysmal coaching record. Osborne's embarrassing adherence to the "straight and narrow," and his appalling inability to "stoop to the athletes' level" are clearly the reasons Nebraska is not bereft of football talent.

Collegiate sports could be revolutionized if more coaches heeded Apel's and followed the "latest trend" in recruiting. Maybe then Joe Paterno would be able to turn around that moribund program at Penn State. (Gosh, how long has it been since they won a national title?) If Bob Knight would only loosen up at Indiana, perhaps the Hoosiers could finally put together a winning season. Imagine what John Wooden could have accomplished at UCLA if he had not been so reserved!

I agree with Apel. Nebraska will never reach, as he so eloquently put it, "the top of the peak" of the Big Eight until Osborne rehabilitates his personality so he can qualify for an appearance on Hollywood Squares.

I'm certain that Apel would agree with me that Kansas could end its football woes immediately simply by hiring Howie Mandel as its new coach, Jay Leno as athletic director and Cher as academic adviser.

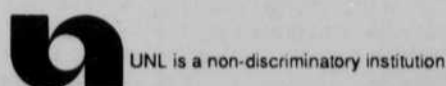
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