

Volume 16 - Preseason Update - July 23, 2026



A MESSAGE FROM COACH VIGIL



Dear ThunderWolves Family,

We are excited to kick off the 2026 season here at CSU Pueblo! Our players and coaches have spent the entire summer preparing, and with fall camp just a few days away, we're ready to get back to work.

The standard has never changed, and the tradition never graduates. ThunderWolves football is back, and we're ready to earn everything that comes our way. None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our fans, alumni, and everyone who continues to believe in our program. Thank you for being such an important part of the Pack.

We also want to remind you that the doors of the Packhouse will always be open. We look forward to bringing our alumni together through events that celebrate the proud history of CSU Pueblo Football while continuing to build an even brighter future. With your support and involvement, we'll keep building something special—together.

God Bless,

2026 RMAC MEDIA DAY



The message from Colorado State University Pueblo at the 2026 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Football Media Day on Wednesday was clear: championships are earned by the work put in long before kickoff.

After capturing back-to-back Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference championships, the Colorado State University Pueblo football team has been selected as the preseason favorite to win the 2026 RMAC title, the conference announced Wednesday during the RMAC Football Media Day event held at the CAVEA Theater on the MSU Denver campus.

The ThunderWolves, who have claimed consecutive perfect 9-0 seasons in the league and NCAA Division II Playoff appearances under head coach Philip Vigil, earned eight of a possible nine first-place votes and totaled 80 of a possible 81 points in the 2026 RMAC Preseason Coaches' Poll. The coaches weren't allowed to vote for their own teams in the poll.

Since the beginning of the 2024 season, the Pack football program has posted a 20-4 overall record and an unbeaten 18-0 mark in the RMAC and enters the 2026 season currently riding an NCAA Division II best 25-game conference win streak and an NCAA Division II best 15-game road win streak. The Pack's last loss in RMAC play came on Sept. 23, 2023 as Colorado School of Mines earned a 55-14 win over the Pack in the ThunderBowl. Since that loss to the Orediggers, the Pack finished the 2023 season winning its final seven RMAC games and has gone 9-0 in league play the past two seasons. Vigil, who is entering his fourth season with Pack, has posted a 28-7 overall record and 25-2 in RMAC games.

Vigil's fourth Pack team welcomes back 42 lettermen, including 10 starters from last season's team that finished ranked No. 11 in the final AFCA Division II Coaches' Poll and ended the regular season winning eight straight games and posting its second straight undefeated season in RMAC play. The 2026 Pack returns two starters on offense, four starters on defense and four starters on special teams.

Along with releasing the RMAC Preseason poll, the league also announced its Preseason All-RMAC Team. The Pack had three players named to the Preseason All-RMAC Team as junior receiver Marcellus Honeycutt Jr (Aurora, Colo./Eastern Washington) was named on offense, while senior safety Kahden Rullo (Denver, Colo./Grandview) was named on defense and senior kicker Jackson Smith (Centennial, Calif./Santa Barbara City College) was named on special teams.

Honeycutt, Jr., earns Preseason All-RMAC recognition after collecting Second-Team All-RMAC honors in 2025. In 2025, he caught 29 passes for 564 yards and averaged a team-best 19.4 yards per reception and 47.0 yards per game. He was third on the team with six touchdown receptions and tallied 13 plays of 20 or more yards, including catching an 88-yard pass for a touchdown at Western Colorado. That 88-yard pass reception was the Pack's longest offensive play of the season and fifth-longest in school history.

Before Wednesday's Media Day activities, all the RMAC coaches and student-athletes attended a community service event at the Children's Hospital of Colorado on Tuesday afternoon. Following the Children's Hospital visit, the coaches and players assembled at the Regency Athletic Complex on the MSU Denver campus for a professional development session with Jean Boyd of RADical Hope, and then the coaches had a preseason meeting with conference officials and RMAC Supervisor of Football Officials Randy Campbell, and then on Tuesday night there was a social outing at Dave & Busters on Colorado Blvd., where the players and coaches ate dinner and played arcade games.

ALUMNI NIGHT



Calling All Pack Alumni!

Join us for our Inaugural Alumni Night on Saturday, August 15, as we invite all former ThunderWolves football players back to the Packhouse to watch the 2026 team scrimmage.

This is a great opportunity to:

- Meet this year's team and coaching staff.
- Reconnect with former teammates and fellow alumni.
- Get a behind-the-scenes look at training camp.
- Stick around after the scrimmage to catch up with your Pack brothers and enjoy an evening together.

Scrimmage: 6:15 p.m.

Location: CSU Pueblo ThunderBowl

We can't wait to welcome you home!

2026 PACK FOOTBALL SNAP RAISE



In just a few weeks, our CSU Pueblo football student-athletes will begin our annual Snap! Raise campaign. The fundraiser officially launches on August 3, 2026, and every contribution directly impacts the experience of our players.

Your support helps provide resources for scholarships, team meals, travel, equipment, and many other essentials that allow our student-athletes to compete at the highest level.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and for continuing to invest in the future of CSU Pueblo Football. We truly couldn't do it without you.

Go Pack!

Snap! Raise is an online fundraising platform that lets schools, teams, and organizations collect donations without traditional door-to-door sales.

It offers:

- A **Snap! Mobile app** for fundraising, communication, and program updates.
- **Data privacy protections — no sale or sharing of participant or donor data SNAP! Raise.**
- **Expert guidance through setup and campaign management.**

How to Support:

1. **Visit the fundraiser page for the specific sport (Football) on Snap! Mobile's site.**
2. **Donate online or share the link/QR code with friends, family, and the CSU Pueblo community.**
3. **Spread the word via email, social media, or campus networks to maximize reach.**

If you want to contribute, the easiest way is to click the "Donate" button on the fundraiser page and follow the prompts. This supports CSU Pueblo's student-athletes and helps keep their programs running smoothly.

CSU PUEBLO 2026 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Make plans to come out to support the Pack at home games. Come early for tailgating and help continue making the Thunderbowl the most feared place to play in the RMAC.

[2026 Football Schedule](#)

PACK FOOTBALL ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Chris Ashe
2012-2016

CHRIS2743@LIVE.COM

(will provide contact info for alumni features so people can connect)

Position in college: Running Back / Kick Returner

Degree(s) in: Major: Automotive Industry Management Minor: Business Administration

Current Occupation and Residence: Automotive Aftermarket Parts Installer
Colorado Springs

Family Members: Dad: James Ashe Mom: Stella Ashe Siblings: Eureka, LeAndra, Curtis

Favorite Memory: Having the opportunity to travel to Texas to play and win at Dallas Cowboys Stadium! Its my grandma's favorite team and my family was there for support! It was an unforgettable experience being displayed on the jumbo screen representing CSUP!

Value CSU Pueblo Added to Me as a Person: Focus, Discipline, Maturity, and a willingness to take chances to develop real world skills!

Career Accomplishments/Honors: Scholarships / Awards

Scholarships / Awards

- Scholarly Athlete Honor Roll GPA 3.5
- CSU-P Football Athlete
- Ralph H Simmons Automotive: Spring 2012 / Fall and Spring 2013
- Alice A Kornafel Automotive: Fall and Spring 2014
- Certified Sales Consultant

We want to keep everyone connected; please fill out the questionnaire below to be featured in an upcoming Alumni Spotlight!

Alumni Spotlight Questionnaire



NOTE: If you know of any football alumni that is not receiving this newsletter, and would like to, please reply to this email with their best email address and we will add them to the database!

We will utilize this platform to be able to give you an inside look into our program. We are excited to be able to connect with you throughout the year. CSU Pueblo is a special place, and it is largely due to the support of the Alumni like yourself. We want to continue to bridge the gap between USC & CSU Pueblo and bring all those that love this great university together.

I want to personally invite you back into our program. I want you to know that you are more than welcome to be around our facility, our staff, at practice, and as always, at our games. I know that I do not know many of you, but I look forward to changing that in time. In the meantime, please know that I will do my very best to carry on the legacy of this historic program.

Thanks for keeping up with YOUR Thunderwolves Football team each week! Your support pushes our program forward and I want to personally thank you!

We hope the recap and preview in this newsletter each week gives you all the information you are looking for within YOUR football program! We hope to see you at a game soon! GO PACK!

Please feel free to contact me any time on my cell 936-221-6737. Would love to connect with you.

-Philip Vigil

Please consider supporting Pack Football. We need you to continue the legacy of this great program. To support Pack Football please click on the link below.

Support Pack Football