

PJC, SCSC, USC & CSU Pueblo memorable sporting moments

Here is an initial list of memorable moments for student-athletes, coaches, and teams associated with the Pueblo Junior College, Southern Colorado State College, the University of Southern Colorado, and Colorado State University Pueblo.

1. **December 6, 1937.** Pueblo Junior College joined the Intermountain Junior College Association along with Fort Lewis and Trinidad.
2. **1938.** From the advent of its athletic program in 1938 until its dissolution in 1994, the Indian was the mascot at Pueblo Junior College (now Colorado State University Pueblo). Maroon and Gray were the initial school colors and eventually changed to "Red, White & Blue" to honor the first two high schools in the city of Pueblo - Centennial (red) and Central (blue) as both schools had white in their colors.
3. **September 1938.** The first football team was fielded at Pueblo Junior College and played six games.
4. **November 19, 1938.** Pueblo Junior College ended its first football season with a 7-7 tie at Adams State College in Alamosa. PJC posted a 1-4-1 record (1-3-2 in other reports) with their lone win being 19-7 at Fort Lewis on October 29.
5. **December 4, 1938.** Pueblo Junior College and schools from Durango, Garden City, Kan., Las Vegas, and Portales, N. M., and Trinidad joined the Intermountain Junior College Conference and formed the Eastern Division. The Western Division, which has been functioning for four years, was made up of schools from Grand Junction, Ogden, and Salt Lake City, Utah, and Twin Falls, Idaho.
6. **March 13-15, 1939.** Pueblo Junior College lost the basketball championship series for the Intermountain Junior College Conference title in Rexburg, Idaho. Ricks won the first (40-28) and third (44-27) games with PJC victorious 49-47 in the third contest.
7. **February 2, 1940.** Affectionally known as "**The Pit**", the largest gymnasium in Southern Colorado opened on the campus of Pueblo Junior College. PJC defeated Trinidad 43-35 in the first game.
8. **March 21-23, 1940.** In Pueblo, Snow College posted 47-28 and 41-23 wins over Pueblo Junior College to win the Intermountain Junior College Conference playoffs. PJC won the third game 32-30
9. **March 13-15, 1941.** Pueblo Junior College dropped a three-game series to Snow College in Ephraim, Utah, in the Intermountain Junior College Conference playoffs. After losing 59-37 and 58-36, PJC won the third game 53-50.
10. **April 26, 1941.** Pueblo Junior College competed in its first track and field event at the University of Colorado relays in Boulder. Coach Earl Howsam's team posted two seconds and a fourth in the junior college division.
11. **March 6-7, 1942.** After winning the Intermountain Eastern Division basketball title with a 7-1 record, Pueblo Junior College dropped 38-34 and 43-38 decisions to Mesa Junior College in Pueblo in the IJCC championship playoffs.
12. **February 12-13, 1943.** Pueblo Junior College posted three wins over Trinidad 43-27, LaJunta 59-32, and Northeastern of Sterling 51-45. to win the Eastern Division basketball title for the Intermountain Junior College Conference and to finish the season with a 12-0 record. Joe Marquez led PJC with 43 points. It was the fourth-straight Eastern Division title for PJC.
13. **January 13, 1946.** In **Harry Simmons'** first game coaching basketball at Pueblo Junior College (now CSU Pueblo), the Indians scored a 47-27 win over LaJunta Junior College. Gene Raymond and Leo Hill scored 15 and 10 points, respectively. Simmons finished his 34-season run at PJC, Southern Colorado State College, and the University of Southern Colorado with 603 wins and 10 national tournament appearances with a national title in 1961.
14. **February 27, 1947.** A day after accepting a bid to play in the Western State Invitational at Compton, Calif., Pueblo Junior College ended its Colorado Junior College Conference title run by winning 62-48 at Trinidad with Don Chambers scoring 16 points. The Indians won the CJCC with a 10-0 record.
15. **March 7, 1947.** Pueblo Junior College ended its stay in the Western State Invitational at Compton, Calif., after losing 69-57 to Cedar City (Utah) 69-57. After losing their opening game to Dixie (Utah) 44-45 on March 5, the Indians advanced in the consolation round with a 45-41 win over McNeese of Louisiana.
16. **February 27, 1948.** Pueblo Junior College won its 13th-straight game in posting a 65-48 win over visiting Trinidad to win its second straight Colorado Junior College Conference title with a 10-0 record. Don Chambers and Don Schmidli each scored 18 points for PJC.
17. **March 10, 1948.** Pueblo Junior College had to forfeit its opening game in the NJCAA region in Fort Scott to Casper, Wyo. The Indians became snowbound 300 miles from Fort Scott, Kan., in Greensburg, Kan.
18. **November 25, 1948.** **Jack Parsons** scored all the **Pueblo Junior College** points via two rushes (3 and 12 yards), one reception (30 yards), two extra points, and a field goal (30) to lead the Indians to a 23-13 win at undefeated and nationally ranked Trinidad State College. PJC finished with a 7-2-1 record in Maurice "Red" Elders' first season as football coach.

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19. **March 2, 1955.** Reserve **Phil Haines'** tip-in with three seconds left in the game earned Pueblo Junior College a 74-72 comeback win at McCook (Neb.) Junior College to secure the Indians' first trip to the national finals in Hutchinson, Kan. PJC trailed 72-67 with less than two minutes left in the game as Haines scored 14 of his points in the final half, including three field goals in the final two minutes. It was Pueblo's first Empire Conference title since 1948, as the finals were a best-of-three series with McCook winning the first game 69-66 and the Indians the second 87-84.
20. **January 21, 1956.** **Eugene Poston** scored 50 points to set a school record in leading Pueblo Junior College to a 105-57 win at Lamar. Poston made 20 field goals and 10 free throws before leaving the game with less than five minutes remaining. He had previously set the school and conference scoring record at 38 points (13 field goals, 12 free throws) on December 13, 1955, at Pratt, Kan. The previous records were 38 by George Simms on February 24, 1948, at Lamar, and Joe Griego in 1954.
21. **March 9, 1956.** Led by soon-to-be All-American **Eugene Poston**, Pueblo Junior College clinched its second-straight Empire Conference title with a 79-72 win at Trinidad. Poston, the conference's top scorer with over 26 points a game, scored 30 points in the game before fouling out with 30 seconds left in the game. The win also secured the Indians' second-straight berth in the national junior college tournament in Hutchinson, Kan.
22. **January 21, 1956.** Pueblo Centennial graduate and Pueblo Junior College sophomore center **Eugene Poston** became the first collegian in the state to score 50 points when he had that many in PJC's 105-57 win over Lamar.
23. **March 24, 1956.** Pueblo Junior College sophomore center **Eugene Poston** was named the most valuable player in the NJCAA tournament. Despite playing on the sixth-place team, he scored 119 points in four games (18, 39, 32, 30), averaging 29.5 points. He was a unanimous first-team All-Empire Conference pick and was a first-team All-American and averaged 27.3 points per game.
24. **March 9, 1957.** **Pueblo Junior College** became the first Empire Conference school to win three straight basketball titles as the Indians posted a 79-67 win over visiting Trinidad. Soon-to-be JC All-American **Ken Anderson** scored 24 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to lead PJC to its third-straight appearance in the national tournament. It was also the school's fourth post-season berth since the 1945-1946 season under Coach Harry Simmons. Since then, only three schools have won three consecutive Region IX titles or more: Casper College (1970-1972), Western Nebraska (1993-1995, 1997-1999), and Trinidad State (2022-2026).
25. **March 23, 1957.** With three starters fouled out with eight minutes left in the game, Pueblo Junior College rallied behind a 37-point performance by **Dale Allen** to score a 93-83 win over Moberly (Mo.) Junior College in the third-place game at the national tournament in Hutchinson. The previous season, Moberly defeated PJC 66-62 in the national semifinals.
26. **December 11, 1957.** **Joe Martinez** was named among the top 44 players by the National Junior College Athletic Association as he averaged more than 1,000 yards a game in 17 contests. During his two-season career at Pueblo Junior College, Martinez ran or passed for 26 of the school's 35 touchdowns. He completed 48 percent of his passes, averaging 5.1 yards per rushing attempt.
27. **May 17, 1958.** **Al Roots** (javelin, fourth, 184 feet), **Jack Alexander** (high jump, tied for fourth, 6-feet, 2-inches), and **Larry Dickinson** (low hurdles, sixth, 26.2) scored points to lead Pueblo Junior College to a 17th-place finish at the National Junior College Athletic Association outdoor track and field championships at Hutchinson, Kan.
28. **March 23, 1960.** Sophomore **Curtis Jimerson** became the fourth Pueblo Junior College player to receive All-American basketball honors from the National Junior College Athletic Association. A two-season starter from El Paso, Jimerson was a second-team pick and joined Eugene Poston (1956, first team), Ken Anderson (1957, second team), and Al Roots (1958, third team) as PJC All-Americans. Les Pollock was one of 18 players receiving honorable mention recognition. Jimerson, who finished his collegiate career at Wyoming, where he was inducted into the Cowboys' HOF in 2025, led the Indians to an eighth-place finish at the NJCAA nationals, scoring 84 points in four games to earn all-tournament recognition.
29. **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 future inductee into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame.
30. **May 13, 1961.** After placing fourth the previous four seasons at the Empire Conference outdoor track and field championships, Pueblo Junior College captured the crown by defeating McCook 75-47 1/2 at Grand Junction. The Indians won seven of the 10 running events on the final day. **John Plummer** scored 15 points for PJC by tying for first in the high jump, running a leg on the mile relay team, and placing second in the 220- and 440-yard dashes.
31. **May 20, 1961.** **Pueblo Junior College** earned an at-large berth for the national baseball tournament by posting a 6-5 win over Trinidad State. In the national playoffs at Grand Junction, the Indians upset top-seeded Northeastern Oklahoma in the opener 9-7 (May 26) before losing to Wilmington 4-3 and Wright 10-7.

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32. **May 12, 1962.** **Jim Blasing** coached Pueblo Junior College to its second-straight Empire Conference title as the Indians out-pointed Mesa 48-46 as the one-mile relay teams of **Jim Hollowell**, **Jim Bessire**, **Jerry Wagner**, and **Gary Lyons** placed second in the meet's final event while the Mavericks were blanked. The championships were held in Pueblo at the Centennial track at 13th and Santa Fe.
33. **May 11, 1963.** **Pueblo Junior College** captured its third-straight Empire Conference outdoor track and field title as the Indians outscored host Scottsbluff 59-48 ½. Freshman Richard Higgins shattered the old mile standard by almost eight seconds with a clocking of 4:30.7 to win the title. He also lowered the 880 mark, winning the race in 2:01.2.
34. **May 18, 1963.** In the final athletic event for Pueblo Junior College, **Pat McGraw** and **Richard Higgins** set school records in leading the Indians to a ninth-place finish at the National Junior College Athletic Association's outdoor track and field championships in Big Springs, Tex. McGraw placed second in the two-mile run (9:52.0), and Higgins was third in the one-mile run (4:25.6) with school-record efforts.
35. **September 14, 1963.** **Southern Colorado State College** staged its first intercollegiate athletic contest as a four-year school as the Indians dropped a 21-20 decision to visiting Emporia State at Pueblo Public School Stadium.
36. **March 2, 1965.** **Sam Moore's** two free throws with two seconds left on the clock propelled Southern Colorado State College to its first-ever national post-season tournament as a four-year school as the Indians scored a 79-78 win over St. Joseph's College of Albuquerque. Bob Graham led the Indians with 31 points, Moore added 22, and Sam Batey added 10 in his final home game at SCSC.
37. **March 8, 1965.** **Southern Colorado State College** dropped a 66-59 decision to Southwestern Louisiana in the first round of the NAIA Championships in Kansas City. It was the first of three NAIA national tournament appearances for the school, with other qualifying efforts in 1986 and 1991. Overall, the school has appeared in eight national tournaments, including NCAA berths in 1967, 1968, 1972, 1973, and 1998.
38. **October 18, 1965.** A single-engine Cessna plane crashed east of Montrose, claiming the lives of three 22-year-old coaches from Western State College, **Bob Busia**, **James Novak**, and **Garth Yorkton**, as well as the pilot. The coaches were on a scouting trip; the crash site wasn't discovered by a park ranger until over a week later, after the plane was reported missing. Busia was a standout football and baseball player at Pueblo South, Pueblo JC, and Southern Colorado State College.
39. **November 13, 1965.** Adams State spoiled **Southern Colorado State College's** bid for an undefeated season with a 22-16 win at Pueblo Public School's Stadium. Soon-to-be NFL standout Don Cockroft scored eight points on two field goals and two extra points for Adams State as SCSC played most of the game with its top two offensive threats Frank Hester and Chet Foster. SCSC finished the season with an 8-1-1 record as the Indians tied Northern Colorado 0-0 in the third game of the campaign and ended the year with a 24-13 win over Colorado Mines in Pueblo.
40. **February 1, 1966.** Then Southern Colorado State College (now CSU Pueblo) and ranked No. 2 in the nation, trailed New Mexico Highlands on the road, 112-102, with 2:47 left in the game; the Indians had already cut into an 85-60 deficit since the nine-minute mark. SCSC outscored Highlands 15-0 down the stretch to rally for a 117-112 win, with **Sam Moore** scoring 10 of those 15 points. **Joe Ross** led four SCSC players with 20 or more points with 24; Moore scored 21 to pace the 57-27 rally over the last nine minutes.
41. **June 20, 1967.** Pueblo Roncalli High pitcher **Craig Lown**, the son of major leaguer Turk Lown, was selected by the Atlanta Braves in the 39th round of the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft. After playing at Southern Colorado State College, Lown was picked in the first round (23rd overall) of the 1971 MLB June Draft-Secondary Phase (June 8) by the Chicago White Sox in the delayed phase of the MLB Draft, the first Coloradoan selected in the first round of either draft.
42. **June 10, 1967.** **John Martinez** became Southern Colorado State College (now CSU Pueblo) first national champion at a four-year event as he won the one mile run at the NCAA College Division Track Y Field Championships in Ogden, Utah with a time of 4:16.7. In securing a seventh-place finish at the championship, the Indians mile relay team of **Clayton Gall**, **Gene Morenz**, **Martinez** and **Isaac Barnes** also topped the podium with a school record of 3:15.0. Harold Williams placed fifth in the 110-yard hurdles (:14.6).
43. **March 9, 1968.** **John Smith** became the first of two Southern Colorado State College players drafted by the American Basketball Association, as he was selected in the first round by the Dallas Chaparrals. The draft was held in Louisville, Ky., and Smith was one of 11 first-round picks. Three months later in New York, Smith was picked in the eighth round (101st overall) of the National Basketball Association by the Los Angeles Lakers.
44. **May 24, 1968.** **Southern Colorado State College** made its first appearance in the NCAA College Division baseball playoffs in Mankato, Minn., as the Indians split a pair of games by losing 4-2 to host Mankato State before defeating Northern Iowa 6-2. SCSC stayed alive in the double-elimination tournament with a 6-3 elimination win over Mankato, but the regional was halted due to weather. Undefeated Arkansas State advanced after wins over Northern Iowa and Mankato State and led SCSC 3-0 in the championship game when it was called.
45. **January 6, 1970.** Southern Colorado State College defensive tackle and captain Greg Smith was named as one of 33 senior football players to receive a postgraduate scholarship from the NCAA.

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46. **June 8, 1971.** Pueblo Roncalli High and Southern Colorado State College pitcher **Craig Lown** was selected 23rd overall by the Chicago White Sox in the delayed phase of the Major League Baseball Draft, the first Coloradoan selected in the first round of either draft.
47. **January 12, 1972.** Air Force defeated **Southern Colorado State College** (now CSU Pueblo) in a men's basketball game at USAFA, 84-76. The real story was that **10 players fouled out** (seven on SCSC, including the entire starting five), with another five players being called for four fouls (four on AFA); a total of 76 in the game and a record for both teams (SCSC 39, AFA 37). The Falcons made 32-of-56 free throws and the Indians 26-of-45, for a total of 101 free throws; the Indians finished the game with just three players on the floor.
48. **February 24, 1972.** Before more than 2,000 fans at Massari Arena, **Bob Warlick** scored 47 points, highlighted by the game-winning bucket with two seconds left, to lead the Dave Keefe Volkswagen Super Beetles to a 105-103 win over the Denver Broncos All-Stars. Billy Masters and Billy Thompson combined for 56 points for the Broncos.
49. **March 11, 1972.** **Southern Colorado State College** became the first state school to advance to the Elite Eight in the college division of the NCAA men's basketball tournament when it defeated Seattle Pacific, 86-83, in Pueblo. The West Regional champion Indians lost in the quarterfinals in Evansville to Akron, 92-77.
50. **April 28, 1972.** Jim von Loh (first team) and Roger Youchem (second) were named CoSIDA College Division Basketball Academic All-Americans.
51. **May 16, 1972.** Led by freshman **Rick Pobst**, **Southern Colorado State College** won its first conference title in the nine-season history of the program. With Pobst posting his second-straight one-over-par 73 to win medalist honors by nine strokes at the Paradise Valley Country Club in Las Vegas, the Indians fought back from a seven-stroke deficit to capture team honors by 15 strokes over Western Colorado (641-656).
52. **June 17, 1972.** In their first appearance in the NCAA Championships, the **Southern Colorado State College** men's golf team placed seventh at the College Division championships in Williamstown, Mass. **Steve Linnerson** (74-74-75-78=302, +18) finished fifth in the competition, and **Rick Pobst** (75-74-80-74=303) tied for sixth. With top 10 finishes, both players qualified for the NCAA Golf Championships in Fort Myers, Fla.
53. **January 10, 1973.** SCSC posted its 100th home win in its 4-year basketball history with a 72-70 win over Division I Montana as Tom Peterson (31 points) and Cal Tatum (28) combined for 59 points in the win over the
54. **February 1, 1973.** **Collon Kennedy** was named a second-team football Academic All-American. A two-time all-Great Plains Athletic Conference selection, Kennedy led Southern Colorado State College in tackles for three seasons. He was also named on January 3 as an NCAA post-graduate scholarship winner.
55. **February 6, 1973.** **Harry Simmons** won his 600th career game as the Southern Colorado State College posted a 48-43 win over Air Force at Massari Arena before 4,600 fans. It was the Indians' first win in six games against the Falcons. All-American Cal Tatum led the Indians with 18 points, and backcourt mate Charles Cox added 10.
56. **February 10, 1973.** **Cal Tatum** became the first player in basketball to score 2,000 points as he scored 27 points in an 89-84 overtime setback to Northern Colorado at Massari Arena. In 99 career games since the start of the 1969-1970 season, Tatum scored 2,005 points for a 20.3 average. Despite the defeat, SCSC clinched a tie for the Great Plains Athletic Conference title with an 8-1 record.
57. **May 18, 1973.** In the American Basketball Association's supplemental Draft in New York, **Cal Tatum** of Southern Colorado State College was selected with the eighth pick in the first round by the Carolina Cougars. In September, he was traded to the Denver Rockets.
58. **May 22, 1973.** In hosting the Great Plains Athletic Conference men's golf championships at the Pueblo Country Club, SCSC rallied on the final day of the event to post a three-stroke win over Fort Hays State (605-608). Rick Pobst and Mike Zaremba led the Indians with 151 scores, nine-over par, to tie for fourth.
59. **June 15, 1973.** Led by future CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Famers Rick Pobst and Mike Zaremba, SCSC placed eighth in the NCAA College Division championships at Riverside, Calif. The Indians
60. **November 27, 1973.** **Harry Simmons** and **Cal Tatum** headlined the inaugural class of inductees into the Greater Pueblo Sports Hall of Fame, including Earl "Dutch" Clark, Bruno A. DeRose, Thomas E. Keach, Raymond "Red" LeMaster, Bill L. McClatchey, Tony Niccoli, Gary L. Knafelc, Edward O. Orazem, Harry H. Simmons, Edwin J. Smith and Cal Tatum.
61. **March 15, 1975.** The inaugural AIAW Small College Women's Basketball Championships were held in **Pueblo**, with Phillips (Okla.) University won the title, defeating Talladega (Ala.) College, 60-49.
62. **May 9, 1978.** Due to two feet of snow on the course in Golden, the RMAC men's golf championships were moved to Pueblo City Park, where USC won the title by 14 strokes over New Mexico Highlands (903-917). Gary Woodside led the Indians with a 221 score and one stroke off of medalist honors. With the title, USC competed at the NAIA Championships in Lakeland, Fla., at the end of May.
63. **December 3, 1979.** Southern Colorado's **Carroll Lillie**, a freshman walk-on from Mitchell High School in Colorado Springs, scored 51 points in an 82-80 overtime loss to St. Mary's of the Plains in Pueblo, to date the most points in a single game by a college women's basketball player in the state. She had 24 points at halftime, broke the school record of 28 just minutes into the second half, and set the state mark late in regulation.
64. **February 18, 1980.** **Harry Simmons** won his 700th career game as the University of Southern Colorado posted a 74-52 win over Western Colorado at Massari Arena. Herman Phillips had 20 points and 18 wins for the Indians.

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65. **March 3, 1980.** It wasn't a joyous end to a 40-year coaching career, but Southern Colorado battled Regis to the end – three times, before falling 80-72 in three overtimes in a first-round NAIA District VII playoff game, the last for coach **Harry Simmons**. "The Chief," as he was known, compiled a 603-326 record in 35 seasons at the Pueblo school (which started out as Pueblo Junior College). It was also the final games for **Tony White**, who scored 23 points and finished as the school's all-time assists leader (to this day) with 443 in 80 games, and **Herman "The Helicopter" Phillips**, who, in 102 games, averaged a double-double for his career (14.1 points, 10.3 rebounds) – one of 13 players in state history to do so.
66. **November 1, 1980.** The **University of Southern Colorado** clinched a tie for the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference football title with a 27-10 win at Western Colorado. The following week, the Indians lost a chance at the outright title, falling 49-15 at Southern Utah. USC finished the season tying Adams State for the crown with a 7-1 record as the Indians' first-ever league title as a four-year school. The Indians were 9-1 overall and ranked ninth in the final NAIA poll.
67. **February 22, 1982.** Retired University of Southern Colorado basketball coach and athletic director **Harry Simmons** was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame along with Bob Anderson, Gerald Phipps and C. L. "Poss" Parsons.
68. **February 22, 1982.** **Harry Simmons** was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame at the downtown Denver Hilton Hotel.
69. **March 1996.** University of Southern Colorado basketball coach Harry Simmons was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame.
70. **March 6, 1982.** Led by freshman Kim Villers, the University of Southern Colorado placed second at the NAIA Women's Gymnastics Nationals in Milledgeville, Ga. The Indians scored 127.4 points to place behind Georgia College's 129.05. Villers finished fourth in the all-around by tying first in the floor exercise, third in the balance beam, ninth in the vault, and 10th in the uneven parallel bars. The Indians had placed third in the 1981 championships behind Georgia College (130.20) and Gustavus Adolphus (128.30) with 122.70 points.
71. **May 20, 1982.** Yvonne Taylor won the long jump title with a leap of 19-2 ¼ at the NAIA Outdoor Track & Field Championships at Charleston, W. Va.
72. **November 6, 1982.** USC competed in the school's first collegiate event at the MSU Denver Open.
73. **November 12, 1982.** In its first dual wrestling match, the University of Southern Colorado posted a 44-6 win over MSU Denver at Massari Arena before 550 fans. In the opening match, 118-pounder David Archuleta pinned Hilbert Smith at 1:52 for the first match victory. The next night, USC defeated Air Force 30-22 with Archuleta pinning a Falcon in the first match.
74. **December 4, 1982.** In the school's collegiate post-season game, the **University of Southern Colorado** dropped a 61-20 decision to Central Oklahoma before 7,442 fans at Dutch Clark Stadium. Backup quarterback Dan McMinimee passed for two touchdowns for the Indians as regular starter John Wristen was sidelined after eight games with a knee injury. Central Oklahoma won the NAIA title two weeks later at home in a 14-11 decision over Colorado Mesa, which defeated USC 14-13 earlier in the season at Grand Junction.
75. **December 11, 1982.** Following the completion of the NCAA Division II football season, University of Southern Colorado quarterback **John Wristen** was named the passing efficiency leader with an 182.6 rating.
76. **March 11-12, 1983.** The University of Southern Colorado hosted the NAIA Gymnastics Championships at Massari Arena.
77. **May 6, 1984.** USC football and track & field standout **Dan Deroose** was named a National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame Scholar Athlete. A business management major with a 3.77 grade point average, Deroose set a school record with 417 career tackles in three seasons.
78. **March 9, 1985.** Bryan Hawkins (126 pounds) and Mike Guenther (177) captured titles at the NAIA Wrestling Championships in Jamestown, N. D., as the Indians placed second in the team scoring with 80.5 points.
79. **March 8, 1986.** USC placed ninth at the NAIA Wrestling Championships in Minot, N. D., with 42.25 points. In the 167-pound title match, 18-year-old freshman Chuck Pipher lost 6-3 to Southern Oregon's Steve Tekander in the championship match.
80. **March 3, 1987.** Chuck Pipher won his first of three 167-pound NAIA wrestling titles in leading the Indians to an eighth-place finish in West Liberty, W. Va., with 43 points.
81. **November 20, 1987.** Joe Folda started his Hall of Fame career at USC with his first game just over a month after being hired as the school's fourth head men's basketball coach. The Indians dropped to a 96-77 decision to nationally-ranked Grand Canyon at Massari Arena. Folda's first USC team finished 17-14 overall and 9-5 in the RMAC. Folda posted a 314-196 record (61.6% winning percentage) in 18 seasons at the school, the most wins by any men's coach in the 4-year history.
82. **March 3, 1988.** With Chuck Pipher winning his second of three 167-pound titles in Tacoma, Wash, USC played fifth in the NAIA Wrestling Championships with 73.25 points.

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83. **February 11, 1989.** Southern Colorado senior guard **Suzanne Gonzales** had the rare quadruple-double in a 67-54 win over Western State in Pueblo. She had 13 points, 12 rebounds, 10 assists and 11 steals; the NCAA doesn't recognize it, however, since it didn't consider steals an official statistic until the 1992-93 season.
84. **March 4, 1989.** **Chuck Pipher** captured his third-straight 167-pound title at the NAIA Wrestling Championships in Jamestown, N. D., as the University of Southern Colorado senior was named the tournament's most outstanding performer after his 10-7 win over Western Montana's Jim Putman. Pipher finished the season with a 37-2 record and his career with a 161-29-1 mark. USC placed fifth with 64.75 points.
85. **October 10, 1989.** **Earl "Dutch" Clark** headlined the inaugural class of inductees into the Colorado High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Other inductees from Pueblo in the prep hall are Sollie Raso (1992), John Rivas (1994), Bob Chavez (2002), Dan Cholas (2007), Sam Pagano (2013), Kent Smith (2017), Bart Stevens (2018), and Pete Falletta (2019). CSUP's Friends of Football were honored by the CHSAA with a Colorado Tradition Award.
86. **March 3, 1990** - Jeff Martinez captured the high jump at the NAIA Indoor Track & Field Championships with a leap of 6-10 in Kansas City, Mo.
87. **March 4, 1990.** USC placed ninth at the NAIA Wrestling Championships in Hays, Kan., with 41.5 points.
88. **May 26, 1990** - Jeff Martinez maintained the top spot among NAIA high jumpers as he won the event at the Outdoor Track & Field Championships with a leap of 7 feet, 1 1/2 inches in Stephenville, Texas. Three months earlier, Martinez won the indoor title with a 6-10 jump on March 3 in Kansas City, Mo.
89. **February 27, 1991.** With three wrestlers winning national titles, USC placed second in the NAIA Championships in Dillon, Mont., with 88 points. Mannie Garcia (118 pounds), Mark Villalobos (134) and Andy Pipher (142) topped the podium in their weights.
90. **May 25, 1991** - Jeff Martinez won the NAIA high jump title for the second straight season at the Outdoor Track & Field Championships with a leap of 6 feet, 11 3/4 inches in Stephenville, Texas. Three months earlier, Martinez was second at the indoor event with a leap of 7-2 on March 1 in Kansas City, Mo.
91. **February 27, 1991.** With three wrestlers winning national titles, USC placed second in the NAIA Championships in Dillon, Mont., with 88 points. Mannie Garcia (118 pounds), Mark Villalobos (134) and Andy Pipher (142) topped the podium in their weights.
92. **March 7, 1992.** Wrestling in its first NCAA Division II Championships, USC placed fifth with 51¼ in the Greeley, Colo., event as Dax Charles captured the 150-pound title by posting a 6-4 overtime decision over Ali Amiri-Eliasi of Nebraska Kearney. It was his second-straight overtime decision in the event after posting a 5-3 win over Mark Savoia of Ashland.
93. **March 6, 1994.** With USC hosting the NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships for the first of three times, the Indians placed sixth in the competition with 42½ points.
94. **April 4, 1995.** In a bow to political correctness, the University of Southern Colorado dumped its Indiana mascot and nickname, replacing them with Thunderwolves. On March 8, the final three nicknames were announced – Thunder, Trailblazers and ThunderWolves. As for the school colors, here is the current background for "Red, White & Blue", but it still honors Centennial and Central.
 - **Red:** Represents Colorado's rich, rocky red soil, found as distinct guard hairs flowing through the mascot's mane.
 - **White:** Represents Colorado's snow-capped mountain peaks, featured as a mane (mantelet) around the mascot's neck.
 - **Blue:** Represents the vast Colorado skies, making up the main coat of the ThunderWolf.
95. **May 8, 1994.** In its first season back on the diamond since the program was halted in 1985, the **University of Southern Colorado** captured the Mile High Intercollegiate Baseball League's post-season tournament by defeating Colorado Mesa 12-3 at the Auraria Field in Denver. With the win, Stan Sanchez's team advances to the school's second NCAA Division II Championships and first since 1968. In the NCAAs, USC lost games to Delta State (7-6, May 19) and Central Oklahoma (19-7, May 20). The team posted a 38-19 record in 1994.
96. **July 23, 1995.** Southern Colorado State College alum **Mike Zaremba** wins The Colorado Open with a 10-foot birdie putt on the final hole as the Pueblo golf pro finishes with a 2-over-par 72 for a five-under-par 275 to win the \$27,000 first-place prize at the Inverness Golf Club in Englewood.
97. **March 7, 1996.** University of Southern Colorado wrestling champion **Chuck Pipher** was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame.
98. **May 19, 1996.** Twenty-four years after the basketball team became the first Colorado school to advance to the final eight schools in the NCAA Division II playoffs, the baseball squad at the **University of Southern Colorado** duplicated the effort by winning three straight games at Riverside, Calif., to win the West Regional and advance to the College Division World Series. The ThunderWolves posted wins over Chico State (12-7, 7-6) and No. 2-ranked UC Riverside (6-3) to earn a spot in the finals, where CSU Pueblo lost to eventual champion Kennesaw State in the first game 9-3 on May 25 before defeating Shippensburg 10-2 on May 27 and losing to Adelphi 5-4 on May 29 in 10 innings.

PJC, SCSC, USC & CSU Pueblo memorable sporting moments

99. **March 14, 1998.** Hosting the NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships for the second time, USC placed fifth with 56 points at Massari Arena. Chris Currier (142 pounds) and Justin Edwards (158) placed second for USC.
100. **March 13, 1999.** With **Chris Currier** (149) and **Trent Monlux** (174) winning titles, the University of Southern Colorado placed fourth in the NCAA Division II men's wrestling championships at Omaha with 70.5 points to trail Pittsburgh-Johnstown (110), Omaha (105.5), and Central Oklahoma (72.5).
101. **March 10, 2001.** Led by runner-up finishes by Brian Luna (133 pounds) and Kevin Lochner (197 pounds), USC placed fifth at the NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships in Greeley with 71½ points.
102. **Spring 2004.** After placing second in the fall championships, CSU Pueblo captured the men's Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference title with Travis Morton winning individual honors. The team was captained by Josh Koschke, the current Pack coach.
103. **July 2004.** Four-time national finalists and three-time champion **Chuck Pipher** (1985-1989) was inducted into the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame.
104. **February 26, 2005.** In his final game as the CSU Pueblo men's basketball coach, Joe Folda saw his team drop a 67-49 decision to rival Fort Lewis in Durango. In moving full-time into the Athletics Director's position, Folda posted a 314-196 record (61.6% winning percentage) in 18 seasons at the school, the most wins by any men's coach in the 4-year history.
105. **February 6, 2007.** Colorado State Pueblo guard **Brett Cloepfil** set the school record of 41 consecutive free throws made, making 3-of-3 at Adams State; the streak had started late in the prior season. The streak ended when he missed his first try in the ThunderWolves' next game against Western State.
106. **May 9, 2007.** The CSU System Board of Governors unanimously approved the expansion of athletics at CSU Pueblo as the school will reintroduce football, wrestling, and women's track and field for the 2008-2009 season
107. **July 3, 2007.** Southern Colorado, as it was known at the time, dropped intercollegiate football after the 1984 season due to a campus reorganization. When resurrected ahead of the 2008 season, it called on one of its own, former quarterback **John Wristen**, to lead the program. The former assistant coach at CU and Northwestern revived the program and then some, guiding what was now known as CSU Pueblo to a 133-37 record (.782 winning percentage), eight Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference titles and the 2014 NCAA Division II championship (with seven other playoff appearances).
108. **July 8, 2006.** **Harry Simmons** was inducted into the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs at the Silverwood Hotel and Conference Center.
109. **September 6, 2008.** After being dormant since 1984, the Southern Colorado football program (renamed CSU Pueblo) won its first game, a 24-13 victory over Panhandle State. A crowd of 9,897 packed USC's ThunderBowl to witness history; alumnus **John Wristen** was the team's head coach, and he resurrected the program, which just six years later won the NCAA Division II title.
110. **December 5, 2008.** The basketball floor at Massari Arena was named the "Coach Harry H. Simmons Court" at a halftime ceremony of a men's basketball game with
111. **April 11, 2009.** The **CSU Pueblo** baseball team set the RMAC record for most home runs in a game with 11 in a 32-23 win over Colorado Christian. Also setting the record for the most total bases (70), it was the first game of a doubleheader.
112. **October 30, 2009.** The inaugural **Athletics Hall of Fame** banquet at CSU Pueblo was held at the Union Depot with eight student-athletes, two coaches, a contributor, and a team joining charter members **Harry Simmons** and **Jessie Banks**. The first full class featured student-athletes **Pat Bekeza** (baseball & basketball), **Nadia Fercha** (basketball & soccer), **Frank Grant** (football & track & field), **Freda Hancock** (track & field), **Daniela Ivana** (tennis), **John Martinez** (cross country & track & field), **Chuck Pipher** (wrestling), and **Cal Tatum** (basketball). Coaches inducted were **Jim "Spank" Blasing** (AD, track & field, cross country & football) and **Dale Rea** (AD, football & basketball), along with contributor **Robert H. Rawlings** and the **1961 national championship basketball team**.
113. **December 13, 2009.** In his third appearance at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, CSU Pueblo graduate Josh Peek claimed the all-around title with \$113,000 in winnings at the 10-day event at the Thomas & Mack Arena. He was runner-up in the final world standings to Trevor Brazile as Peek's winnings in steer wrestling and tie-down roping totaled \$245,067.
114. **October 29, 2010.** The second CSUP Athletics Hall of Fame banquet was held at the Occhiato Student Center Ballroom with **Jason Allen** (golf), **Connie Bond** (gymnastics), **Kerri Chase** (softball), **Bill Gower** (football), **Curtis Jimerson** (basketball), and **Andy Pipher** (wrestling). Coach **Don McIntosh** (tennis and basketball) was also inducted along with contributors **Art and Lorraine Gonzales**, and the **1996 College Division World Series baseball team**.
115. **April 19, 2011.** Led by Chad Novak's 6-under par 66 at the Wigwam Resort in Phoenix, CSU Pueblo captured the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference men's golf title. It was the first title in seven seasons for the Pack as Novak's three-round total of 204 tied Fort Lewis's Gavin Lyons for medalist honors. CSU Pueblo advanced to the NCAA tournament and placed 14th in Florence, Ala.

PJC, SCSC, USC & CSU Pueblo memorable sporting moments

116. **November 11, 2011.** The third CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame class was inducted at ceremonies at the Occhiato Student Center, with **Friends of Football** headlining the evening's honorees. Student-athletes being inducted were **Carey Brading** (tennis), Dan Derose (football and track & field), **Niki Toussaint** (softball), **Sherry Vallejos** (basketball), **Angie Wintz** (volleyball), and **Dennis Jones** (baseball). The **1982 women's gymnastics team** that placed second in the NAIA Championships was also inducted.
117. **November 26, 2011.** In its fourth season after restarting the football program, **CSU Pueblo** played its first NCAA Division II playoff game as the ThunderWolves dropped a 24-21 home decision to Minnesota Duluth before 9117 fans. Entering the playoffs with an 11-0 record after winning the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference title, the appearance was the first of nine for the Pack under Coach John Wristen.
118. **March 9-10, 2012.** CSU Pueblo hosts the NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships for the third time at Massari Arena.
119. **May 24-27, 2012.** The first NCAA Outdoor Track Championships were held in Colorado when **CSU Pueblo** hosted the Division II four-day event at its Thunder Bowl. Adams State won the men's title (77 points) and finished third with 59 points in the women's standings behind Lincoln, Mo. (90). The second-highest in elevation to host an outdoor meet (4,682 feet) behind Albuquerque in 1963 (5,312'), CSU Pueblo would also host in 2013, 2024 and 2025.
120. **July 13, 2012.** Dan DeRose was inducted into the Rocky Mountain Athletic Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs at the Marriott.
121. **November 2, 2012.** Coach Tom Muhic (baseball), faculty rep **Jack Seilheimer**, and **three national basketball tournament teams** from 1956, 1957, and 1960 were inducted into the CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame at the Occhiato Student Center. Also inducted were **Sam Batey** (basketball), **Chris Currier** (wrestling), **Jeff Martinez** (track & field), Mick McCall (football and basketball), **Yvonne Taylor** (cross country and track & field), and **Mike Zarembo** (golf).
122. **January 8, 2013.** CSU Pueblo quarterback **Ross Dausin** was named the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame's 2012 collegiate male athlete of the year. He was recognized on April 18 at the annual banquet at the Denver Marriott City Center Hotel.
123. **March 9, 2013.** **Jesse Hillhouse** of CSU Pueblo won the NCAA Division II wrestling 125-pound title in Birmingham, Ala.
124. **November 16, 2013.** Pioneering women's coach Kay Aguilar (Field Hockey, Tennis), legendary sportswriter **David Socier** and the 1985 NAIA wrestling runnerups joined student-athletes **Suzanne Gonzales** (basketball and volleyball), Herman Heard (football), **Jerry Hummitsch** (basketball and baseball) and **Bob Warlick** (basketball) as inductees into the CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame at the Occhiato Student Center.
125. **December 20, 2014.** Just six years after coach **John Wristen** and devout donors resurrected the program, the CSU-Pueblo ThunderWolves won the school's first football championship, claiming the NCAA Division II title with a 13-0 win over No. 1 Minnesota State. The T-Wolves (14-1) held the Mavericks to just 265 yards, nearly 200 under their season average. **Chris Bonner** threw for 191 yards and a touchdown, and **Cameron McDondle** ran for 113 yards to lead the offensive attack. CSU Pueblo reached the title game with three home wins in the playoffs, defeating Angelo State (52-14), Ohio Dominican (31-28), and West Georgia (10-7).
126. **January 13, 2015.** CSU-Pueblo coach **John Wristen** was named the AFCA's National Coach of the Year for Division II, as he led the ThunderWolves to their first national championship and a 14-1 record in 2014.
127. **January 23, 2015.** A Celebration of Champions was held for the NCAA Division II National Football Champion CSU Pueblo ThunderWolves in downtown Pueblo, featuring three distinct components - a parade, a pep rally/ceremony, and a Fan Zone/block party.
128. **March 6, 2015.** The Colorado Mesa women had won 52 straight home games, one shy of the state record (53 by Colorado), but lost in the RMAC semifinals to CSU Pueblo, 61-51, snapping the streak as the 10th-longest of all time.
129. **April 2, 2015.** CSU Pueblo's **NCAA Division II national football champions** were awarded the "King of the Hill" award at the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame banquet in Denver at the Marriott City Center Hotel.
130. **July 24, 2015.** **Jessie Banks** was inducted into the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference at the Marriott in Colorado Springs. She served as a coach, administrator, and educator at Southern Colorado State College and the University of Southern Colorado.
131. **October 10, 2015.** Featuring the highest-ranked men's basketball team in the school's 4-year history from the **1971-1972** season, eight individuals were inducted into the CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame at the Occhiato Student Center. Individuals inducted were coaches **Chuck Haering** (football, cross country and track & field) and **Dr. Richard Krinsky** (team handball), and student athletes **Dax Charles** (wrestling), **Richard LeDoux** (cross country and track & field), **Rick Pobst** (golf), **Glen Printers** (football), **Kim Villers Schneider** (gymnastics) and **Sue Northrup Trahern** (volleyball and basketball).

PJC, SCSC, USC & CSU Pueblo memorable sporting moments

132. **October 15, 2016.** **CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame** induction ceremonies at the Occhiato Student Center featured a pair of nationally ranked **men's golf teams** (1971-1973) along with coach **Joe Prater** (football) and student-athletes **Thomas Calhoun** (tennis), **Monica Hashiguchi** (softball), Cindy Pool (track & field), **Tommie Robinson** (basketball) and Don Schmidli (baseball, basketball, football, and track & field).
133. **October 7, 2017.** With the Occhiato Student Center not available, the morning induction ceremony for the CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame was held at the General Classroom Building. Inductees included the **1991 NAIA national runner-up wrestling team** and public address announcer **Dave Miller**, along with student-athletes **Bob Busia** (football), **Mike Duran** (cross country and track & field), **Steve Herzberg** (baseball), **Lisa Knafelc Osleson** (basketball), and **Guy Taylor** (basketball).
134. **April 18, 2018.** **Sam Pagano**, a Pueblo Central High and Pueblo Junior College graduate and athlete, was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in Denver.
135. **May 26, 2018.** **Thomas Staines** captured the 800-meter run at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Charlotte with a clocking of 1:46.56. It was the first gold medal at the NCAA outdoor event since 1967.
136. **July 13, 2018.** **Doug Moses**, who established the University of Southern Colorado as a national wrestling power (1982-2001), was inducted into the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame at the Marriott in Colorado Springs. Also being inducted was **Richard Drangmeister**, who coached men's basketball at the University of Southern Colorado (1984-1987).
137. **September 28, 2019.** Returning to the Occhiato Student Center, coach and retiring **Joe Folda** (basketball) headlined the inductees for the CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame. With four RMA women's basketball championship teams (2006, 2008, 2009, 2010) also being inducted, student-athletes entering the HOF were **Mannie Garcia** (wrestling), **Robert Kinsey** (soccer), **Pepper Mahon Whittlef** (volleyball), **Eugene Poston** (basketball) and **Danita Wyatt** (cross-country and track & field).
138. **December 1, 2018.** **Marcelo Laguera** captured Colorado State Pueblo's first cross-country title at the NCAA Division II Championships as he posted a time of 31:46.4 to win the men's 10-kilometer race by 7.2 seconds over Zach Panning of Grand Valley State in Pittsburgh, Pa.
139. **May 25, 2019.** **Thomas Staines** repeated as the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field 800-meter run champion with a time of 1:50.03 at the championships in Kingsville, Texas.
140. **October 19, 2019.** The **1991 men's basketball** NAIA qualifying team, and coach/contributor **Don Stutters**, joined six student-athletes being inducted into the CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame at the Occhiato Student Center. Student-athletes featured were **Lauren Dunsmoor Leomiti** (cross country), **Maurice Blanding** (basketball), **Kirk Brynjulson** (football), **Sam Clay** (football), **Myron Jefferson** (track & field), and **Tony Wittmus** (baseball).
141. **January 14, 2020.** CSU Pueblo men's track and field senior **Thomas Staines** was recognized as the 2019 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame Male Collegiate Athlete of the Year and will be among those honored at the 56th Induction & Awards Banquet on April 23 at the Hilton Denver City Center. Due to COVID, the banquet was canceled.
142. **October 23, 2020.** With a banquet not held due to COVID, the Class of 2020 for the CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame was recognized at the homecoming game against Adams State. The class featured student-athletes **Justine Bosio** (softball), **Ann DeBoe** (basketball), **Joe Martinez** (football), **Trent Monlux** (wrestling), and **Chase Vaughn** (football), along with Mike Roumph (basketball, coach & contributor) and the **2001 RMAC championship softball team**.
143. **October 22-23, 2021.** Due to COVID, the CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame ceremonies were staged over two days, starting with the induction of the 2014 national championship on October 22. The next morning at the Occhiato Student Center, the 2020 class was formally inducted, featuring student-athletes **Justine Bosio** (softball), **Ann DeBoe** (basketball), **Joe Martinez** (football), **Trent Monlux** (wrestling), and **Chase Vaughn** (football), along with Mike Roumph (basketball, coach & contributor) and the **2001 RMAC championship softball team**.
144. **May 28, 2022.** **Yasmine Hernandez** ended her career with the Pack with a new program record in the 1,500-meter run and a first-place finish in the event with a time of 4:15.72 at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Allendale, Mich.
145. **September 30, 2022.** After two years of COVID staging issues, the CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame returned to normal at the Occhiato Student Center as the Class of 2022 featured the **1996 and 1997 RMAC championship volleyball teams** along with **Darius Allen** (football), Jesse Hillhouse (wrestling), **Kelly Nogare** (gymnastics), **Regina Pollard** (basketball) and **Jim von Loh** (basketball).
146. **November 19, 2022.** **John Wristen's** 14-season football coaching career at CSU Pueblo came to an end as the ThunderWolves dropped a 45-24 NCAA Division II playoff decision at Colorado Mines. Wristen, who helped guide the school to the 1982 NAIA playoffs, posted a 133-37 record at CSU Pueblo. His teams won or shared eight Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference titles with a 102-19 record. The Pack qualified for eight NCAA playoffs under Wristen and were ranked among the nation's top 25 teams eight times.

PJC, SCSC, USC & CSU Pueblo memorable sporting moments

147. **December 2, 2022.** To start a remarkable run of three straight “final four” appearances in the NCAA Division II men’s soccer championships, **CSU Pueblo** dropped a 2-0 decision to Franklin Pierce at Seattle in the Pack’s first of two consecutive appearances in the national championship match. On December 9, 2023, CSU Pueblo was defeated 4-0 by Franklin Pierce in the title game in Matthews, N. C. The “final four” run ended on December 12 in Matthews with the ThunderWolves losing 3-2 to Charleston in the semifinals. During the three-season run, Oliver Twelvetees Pack posted a 54-13-8 record.
148. **January 18, 2023.** CSU Pueblo women's cross country and track & field All-American **Yasmine Hernandez** was selected as Colorado's 2022 Collegiate Women's Athlete of the Year by the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame. She was presented with an award at the 58th Induction & Awards Banquet on April 26 at the Hilton Denver City Center.
149. **October 6, 2023.** Six student-athletes were inducted into the CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame at the Occhiato Hall of Fame, including **Bobby Graham** (basketball), **Bailey Hughes** (cross country and track & field), **Deborah Hunter** (basketball and volleyball), **Ryan Jensen** (football), **Shelly Watts Pearcey** (basketball) and **Derrick Williams** (cross country and track & field). Also inducted were the **Trahern Family** (Jim, Bob, Sue, Jake, and Ty) and the **2016-17 CSU Pueblo Women's Basketball Team**.
150. **October 1 & 3, 2024.** **Beau Brieske** (CSU Pueblo '19) saved game one for the Detroit Tigers in their 3-1 win over the Houston Astros (and earned five outs in game two of the two-game sweep).
151. **October 4, 2024.** The CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame banquet at the Occhiato Student Center was disrupted by a prank fire alarm as the school recognized the Women’s Recreation Association, which sponsored athletic activities prior to Title IX, along with pioneers from 1967-69: **Francis P. Price** (basketball, volleyball and softball) and **Ruth Shelton** (basketball and volleyball). Student-athletes inducted were **Tuileisu Anderson** (basketball), **Leina Kim** (golf), **Cameron McDondle** (football), **Thomas Staines** (track & field), and **Damon Williams** (basketball). Coach **Stan Sanchez** and baseball contributor Max Salas were also inducted, along with the football NAIA playoff squad (1982) and the women’s golf teams (2011-12 and 2013-14).
152. **November 23, 2024.** The CSU Pueblo women’s cross country program concluded its historic season at Sacramento, Calif., with a third-place finish, the highest placement in program history. **Helen Braybrook** led the women with a 13th-place time of 20:54.5 in the 6k event.
153. **January 16, 2025.** CSU Pueblo women's basketball player **Alisha Little** was selected as Colorado's 2024 Collegiate Women's Athlete of the Year by the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame. Little was honored at the 60th Induction and Awards Banquet on April 9 at the Hilton Denver City Center.
154. **March 4, 2025.** In her final collegiate game, **Alisha Davis Little** scored eight points with five rebounds in CSU Pueblo’s 82-56 loss at Black Hills State. She finished as the state’s all-time rebounder with 1,382 and in blocked shots (424), as well as the second-highest single-season scoring average per game (24.9); she finished second in career scoring (2,621 points).
155. **March 20, 2025.** **Alisha Davis Little** became just the fourth RMAC women’s basketball player (the third from Colorado), the first from CSU Pueblo, to be named a first-team Division II All-American by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association. The 6-1 forward led the league in scoring (24.9 points per game), rebounds (11.4), and steals (2.9).
156. **May 24, 2025.** **Katherine Higgins** topped the podium at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships at the ThunderBowl. After Higgins won the shot put (16.38 meters, 53-9), **Reece Sharman-Newell** captured the 1,500-meter run (3:48.44). With five top-8 finishes, CSU Pueblo placed ninth for its best finish ever in the women's competition.
157. **July 10, 2025.** **CSU Pueblo's 2014 NCAA Division II national championship football team** joined Pack All-American **Ryan Jensen** as inductees into the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame at the Colorado Springs Marriott.
158. **October 10, 2025.** The CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame banquet at the Occhiato Student Center featured the induction of contributor **Jim Brooks** along with student-athletes **Reco Burt** (basketball), **Rachel Espinoza** (basketball), **Bryan Hawkins** (wrestling), **Marcelo Lagüera** (cross country and track & field), **Molly Rohrer** (basketball) and **Andrea Tuck** (cross country and track & field).
159. **November 1, 2025.** In a meeting of the top 10 teams in-season, No. 7-ranked CSU Pueblo fell behind 21-0 at No. 6 Western Colorado midway through the second quarter but would rally for a 24-21 win. **Kiahn Martinez's** two-short touchdown runs sandwiched an 88-yard TD pass from **Roman Fuller** to **Marcellus Honeycutt, Jr.**, enabling the ThunderWolves to tie the game with 1:22 left in the third quarter. **Jackson Smith** then won it with a 32-yard field goal as time expired.
160. **November 8, 2025.** CSU Pueblo had a dramatic comeback for the second time in a week, this time rallying from being down 31-13 in the third quarter to upend Colorado Mines in overtime, 41-34. **Roman Fuller** and **Marcellus Honeycutt, Jr.**, connected on a 32-yard TD pass with 56 seconds left in regulation, with **Jackson Smith's** PAT kick tying the game. Fuller hit Reggie Retzlaff with a 12-yard pass for a score to open overtime, with **Peyton Shaw** cinching the win with an interception to end Mines’ attempt to tie.

PJC, SCSC, USC & CSU Pueblo memorable sporting moments

161. **January 6, 2026.** CSU Pueblo women's track & field All-American **Katherine Higgins** was selected as Colorado's 2025 Collegiate Women's Athlete of the Year by the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame, as announced by the organization on Tuesday afternoon. She received the award at the 61st. Induction and Award banquet on April 16 at the Hilton Denver City Center.
162. **February 5, 2026.** CSU Pueblo posted a 71-53 win over 13th-ranked Black Hills State for the Pack's first men's basketball program against a nationally-ranked opponent since an 80-71 win on Jan. 17, 2015, against then fifth-ranked Colorado Mines, a span of 10 years and 19 days, or 3,672 days.
163. **March 13, 2026.** The women's distance medley relay team successfully defended its national championship, breaking the NCAA Division II record with a time of 11:08.20 at the Virginia Beach (Va.) Sports Center. The Pack quartet winning the event were Jadyn Herron (1,200), Gabrielle Dunich (400), Charlotte Young (800), and Helen Braybrook (1,600)
164. **March 14, 2026.** Febe Wessels, who entered the fifth round sitting in seventh place, delivered a throw of 16.25 meters to surge into the lead. Holding her position through the sixth and final round, Wessels secured the NCAA Division II shot put title and etched her name alongside Pack legend Katherine Higgins in CSU Pueblo history. The CSU Pueblo women delivered a remarkable performance, finishing fourth overall with 33 points to secure a Top-5 national finish and solidify themselves as the No. 4 team in the country in the final standings. The finish also marked the highest indoor national finish in program history for the ThunderWolves, surpassing the program's previous best of sixth place, which the Pack had accomplished twice before at the national meet.
165. **April 21, 2026.** CSU Pueblo Women's golf captured its fourth consecutive RMAC Championship with a three-day total of 25-over par 745. The Pack posted scores of 287 and 296 at the Boulder Creek Golf Club in Nevada. Freshman Thale Victoria Estensen led the Pack with rounds of 70 (-2), 77 (+5), and 38 (+2) in the shortened event on the final day.
166. **May 9, 2026.** Behind another dominant performance from tournament most valuable player, McKenna James, and a six-run fourth-inning explosion, the CSU Pueblo captured its first RMAC tournament championship since 2001 with an 8-2 victory over top-seeded Colorado Christian Saturday afternoon at All Star Park. With the win, the Pack advanced to the NCAA Division II playoffs in Canyon, Texas, as CSUP dropped decisions to Lone Star Conference schools West Texas A&M (9-0) and Texas A&M Kingsville (4-3) on May 15 and 16.

PJC, SCSC, USC & CSU Pueblo memorable sporting moments

- 167. May 14, 2026.** The CSU Pueblo Women's Golf team wrapped up its historic 2025-2026 campaign at the NCAA Division II National Championships at PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., as the ThunderWolves placed 16th. The Pack carded a final-round team score of 34-over-par 322 to close out the three-day event after scoring 318 and 316 in battling the demanding South Florida course conditions.
- 168. May 23, 2026. Caleb McLeod** made sure the 1,500-meter run gold medal remained in Colorado as he won the event with a time of 3:49.25 at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships at Emporia, Kan.