

# COLORADO STATE RAMS

Mountain West



## COLORADO STATE BIO

National Championships - 0



Mountain West Championships: 3  
(Last: 2002)

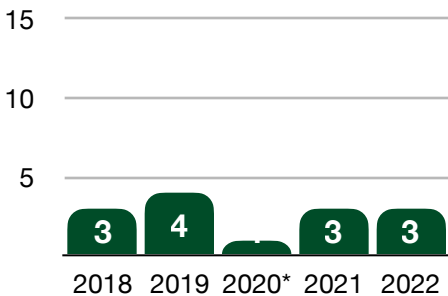
Location: Fort Collins, CO

All-Time Record: 527-584-31

2022 Results: 3-9

Head Coach: Jay Norvell  
2nd Year (3-9)

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Canvas Stadium (41,000)

## O-Line Key to Rams' Improvement

Colorado State suffered through their sixth-straight losing season after making five straight bowl appearances from 2013 to 2017. Nobody was expecting Jay Norvell to have an immediate fix for a program on their third head coach in five seasons but I'm not sure anyone was expecting Colorado State to have one of the worst offenses in college football. At risk of being overly blunt, the Rams' offensive line play was simply dreadful and allowed an FBS-high 59 sacks including nine against both Middle Tennessee and San Jose State. The run game was never able to get started and the Rams scored just 13.2 points per game. Norvell brought in a handful of transfers from Nevada last season where he coached from 2017 to 2021 but also saw an exodus of transfers including some who departed the team mid-season. Despite the very low lows of last season, including an embarrassing 41-10 loss against Sacramento State, there were some bright spots and Colorado State should be improved this season.

The top priority for Norvell and offensive Matt Mumme is to patch last year's porous offensive line. **Bobby Lawrence** joins the team after spending the last four seasons at Missouri. **Drew Moss** was a two year starter at Lamar and **Oliver Jarvis** brings in 24 career starts from Monmouth. **Jacob Gardner** is the lone returning starter from last year's line and played ten games at tackle but figures to play center this season. It's imperative that this unit is able to gel and better protect **Clay Millen**.

Despite facing a barrage of pressure, Millen actually had a remarkable season and completed 72.2% of his passes, which, according to Phil Steele is the highest percentage from a freshman in FBS history. Mumme wants to run an air-raid-like system and the skill position players around Millen are talented. Wide receiver **Tory Horton** is one of the best wideouts in the country and had 71 catches for 1,131 yards and 8 touchdowns. He accounted for nearly half of the overall production in the passing game. **Justus Ross-Simmons** caught 26 passes for 424 yards as a freshman and is joined by SMU transfer **Dylan Goffney** and BYU tight end transfer **Dallin Holker** who will give Millen more options to choose from in the passing game.

Even though the Rams as a team rushed for only 2.8 yards per carry, **Avery Morrow** found a way to gain 834 yards on the ground with a respectable 4.8 yards per carry. He had only 22 carries in the month of September but made the most of his opportunities against Nevada and ran for 24 carries and 168 yards in Colorado State's first victory of the season. He followed that game with four more 100-yard games in the next five weeks including a dominant 26-carry, 147-yard performance against Hawaii and he scored both touchdowns in the Rams' 17-13 victory. Millen added 332 yards rushing if you remove the sack yardage that put him at a net negative statistically.

Despite being on the field for the majority of almost every game, the defense actually performed relatively well and had their best season from a point allowed perspective (26.9) in nearly a decade (since the 2014 10-win season). **Jack Howell** led the way with 108 tackles at safety and he hauled in three picks as well. Howell is joined by fellow returner **Henry Blackburn** and the corners are two former PAC-12 transfers in **Chigozie Anusiem** (9 pass breakups with Colorado State last season) and Oregon State transfer **Ron Hardge**. The linebacker group loses talent like Dequan Jackson and Cam'Ron Carter and is arguably the least proven unit on the defense. **Ayden Hector** was productive in his first season in Fort Collins after transferring in from Washington State and will face his former team in week one. **Mohamed Kamara** was a menace at defensive end and recorded 8.5 sacks in a second-team All-Mountain-West campaign. He needs help in the pass rush though as the Rams had only 15 sacks in conference play.

**The Bottom Line:** I'm only predicting Colorado State to win one more game than they did last season but, at the same time, I'm also expecting significant improvement. It would be almost impossible for the offensive line to play worse which should give Millen the chance to unleash more throws at quarterback. The defense got better as last season went along and could be a strength. A bowl appearance would be a major success for Norvell's team but I suspect they are still a year away.











## Projection: 4-8 (10th in Mountain West)

### 2022 Statistics

Points Scored	Rush Yards	Pass Yards	Turnover Margin
13.2	89.0	196.8	-5
129th in FBS	127th in FBS	106th in FBS	T-105th in FBS
Points Allowed	Rush YDS Allowed	Pass YDS Allowed	
26.9	163.6	191.4	
71st in FBS	84th in FBS	19th in FBS	



## 2023 Colorado State Schedule

Week	Date	Team
1	Sat, Sept 2	 vs. Washington St
2		Bye Week
3	Sat, Sept 16	 @ Colorado
4	Sat, Sept 23	 @ Mid Tennessee
5	Sat, Sept 30	 vs. Utah Tech
6	Sat, Oct 7	 @ Utah State
7	Sat, Oct 14	 vs. Boise State
8	Sat, Oct 21	 @ UNLV
9	Sat, Oct 28	 vs. Air Force
10	Fri, Nov 3	 @ Wyoming
11	Sat, Nov 11	 vs. San Diego St.
12	Sat, Nov 18	 vs. Nevada
13	Sat, Nov 25	 @ Hawaii

Conference Games in Bold

### KEY GAMES

**Sat, Sept 16: @ Colorado** - Boulder is getting all of the attention as Deion Sanders enters as head coach. There's massive hype behind Colorado but there is also massive roster turnover, could the Rams snap CU's five game win streak and catch the Buffaloes before the roster has a chance to gel?

**Sat, Nov 4: @ Wyoming** - The "Border War" has gone Wyoming's way in the last two meetings as the Cowboys have narrowed the series deficit to 59-50-5. Norvell could earn some points with a victory in this heated rivalry.

**Sat, Nov 18: vs. Nevada** - Norvell faces his former school for the second time. The Rams defense actually supplied 14 of the 17 points in the 2022 win.

### KEY PLAYERS

#### Tory Horton - WR

Even though defenses knew Colorado State would get the ball to Horton as often as possible, they couldn't stop him. Horton had more 100+ games (5) than he did games of under 50 yards (3). He torched San Jose State for 9 catches and 196 yards and a touchdown and followed that performance with an 8 catch, 168 yard game in the Border War. If Millen can stay on his feet he'll have more throws to send Horton's way which means he'll be one of the most productive wide receivers in the country for the second straight season.



#### Jack Howell - S

The Fort Collins native was the star of the Colorado State defense in 2022. He led the Rams in tackles (108) and was tied for the lead in interceptions (3). He actually those interceptions in back-to-back-to-back games against Middle Tennessee, Washington State, and Sacramento State. Colorado State will again be reliant on Howell's talents.



### 2022 RESULTS (3-9)

@ Michigan (L 7-51)  
 Middle Tennessee (L 19-34)  
 @ Washington State (L 7-38)  
 Sacramento State (L 10-41)  
**@ Nevada (W 17-14)**  
 Utah State (L 13-17)  
**Hawaii (W 17-13)**  
 @ Boise State (L 10-49)  
 @ San Jose State (L 16-28)  
 Wyoming (L 13-14)  
 @ Air Force (L 12-24)  
**New Mexico (W 17-0)**

# CSU

### RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

# 70th

(Via 24/7 Sports)