



**10-0** — The Colorado Eagles record during their first month under new head coach **Keven McClelland**

**★ EDITOR'S TAKE BY CLINTON DOAKS**

**EVERYTHING'S FOR SALE**

“Slickest pole in town” an ingenious marketing invention

SILVER LININGS ALWAYS EMERGE FROM THE DARKEST TIMES. They say that when the going gets tough, the tough get going; that's exactly what Aaron “DoubleA” Montell did when he invented the newest craze in marketing. Knowing that bars and strip clubs typically do well in a down economy, Montell created an advertising “tool” that would surely attract attention. The medium is simple: An advertiser's logo placed on poles in gentlemen's clubs. Obviously with this placement, the advertiser becomes the center of attention. Thus, when America's economy returns to form, Montell and his crafty polycarbonate tubing will be largely responsible. (For more information log onto [www.poleadvert.com](http://www.poleadvert.com))



MHS NOTEBOOK

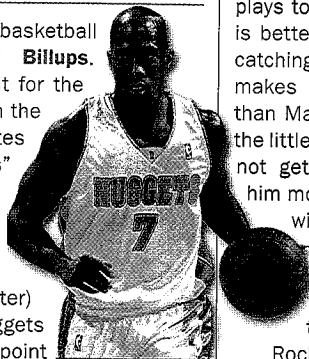
JIMMY C'S | PICKS AND PANS >

**DECEMBER DELIBERATIONS**

Calling it like I see it

Nobody wants to say it, because **Joe Sakic** is such a classy guy. But as the season goes on, it becomes more and more of a possibility that the captain of the Avalanche is doing more harm than good this year in a burgundy sweater. I know that sounds sacrilegious, but hear me out. At some point, the Avs need to turn the page, putting their glorious past behind them and looking ahead to the future. That means turning the team over to its brightest young star, Paul Stastny, and letting the cast of up-and-coming players who have bounced back and forth between Colorado and Lake Erie show what they can do on a consistent basis with the big club. On both fronts, Sakic's presence becomes a hindrance, as he impedes the development of younger players.

Allen Iverson is a better basketball player than **Chauncey Billups**. But Billups is a better fit for the Nuggets. His presence in the starting lineup eliminates the “match-up problems” that have hampered Denver the past two years. Instead of having a pair of small guards (Iverson and Anthony Carter) in the first five, the Nuggets now can go with a bigger point guard (Billups) and either Dahntay Jones or J.R. Smith at the two. On the defensive end of the court, this will pay huge dividends. And that's where the Nuggets needed the most help.



A year ago at this time, there was reason to believe that the Buffs were heading in the right direction. In their second season under **Dan Hawkins**, CU had finished 6-6 and was bowl bound, signs of progress in Boulder. But this year, Colorado has regressed. This is a team that struggled at home to beat Eastern Washington (a Division II team), Kansas State

(a school that will have a new head coach in 2009) and Iowa State (a program that had lost 15 straight road games at the time). That's not the way a premier team plays on their home field, evidence that the Buffaloes are still nowhere near being a Big 12 power. Three full years into Hawkins' stint on campus, that's troubling.

Brandon Marshall may be the most-talented wide receiver on the Broncos roster, just in terms of size, speed and physical talents. But **Eddie Royal** is the best wide out in Denver. He runs better routes than Marshall, doesn't drop passes and is willing to stick his nose in on running plays to block downfield. Royal is better at getting open and catching the football, which makes him more effective than Marshall, and he does the little things even when he's not getting the ball, which makes him more valuable than the Broncos diva-like wide receiver.

Fourteen months removed from an appearance in the World Series, is there any reason to be excited about the Rockies? Since the answer is a resounding no, it has once again become clear that the boys in purple pinstripes are the worst pro sports team in Denver. And it's not even close. What's the reason for finding themselves in the Mile High City's cellar? It's not Clint Hurdle. It's not Dan O'Dowd. It's the penny-pinching owners who restrict those two guys from doing their jobs. Hurdle and O'Dowd are fighting uphill battles because the **Monforts** won't loosen the purse strings on Blake Street.

Read Jimmy C's "Picks and Pans" every Monday morning on [MileHighSports.com](http://MileHighSports.com)



**REPORT CARD**

Monthly review of Colorado sports

**A**



**NUGGETS FRONT OFFICE**  
Who says committees can't make good decisions. Bringing Billups back to Denver was the perfect move for the Nugs

**D**



**AVS DEFENSEMEN**  
Too many times this season, bad goaltending performances have been blamed on poor efforts in front of Budaj or Raycroft

**C**



**TONY SCHEFFLER**  
It's become readily apparent that he's the key to the Broncos offense, making his inability to stay healthy even more aggravating

**A+**



**COLORADO EAGLES**  
A coaching change can't slow the Centennial State's best pro franchise, as Kevin McClelland got the Eagles off to a 10-0 start

**A+**



**CODY HAWKINS**  
Criticize the kid's play on the field if you like, but his attitude in the face of adversity is something everyone should admire

**A**



**AIR FORCE FOOTBALL**  
The Falcons aren't the most-talented college football team on the Front Range, but for the second straight year, they're the best

**A**



**GEORGE AND JOE**  
Deciding to give David Carle and Nigel Peter-Denman scholarships prove that DU's hockey and hoops coaches are classy guys