

THEODORE E. WOODS
1940-1988

A scholarship fund has been established at the University of Colorado, School of Law, in memory of Theodore E. Woods, one of the University's most distinguished alumni, who passed away unexpectedly this past September.

Ted came from the heart of Pittsburgh to the University of Colorado where he established himself in the early 60s as an outstanding halfback on the football team as well as one of the nation's leading collegiate sprinters in track. Ted, one of the first black athletes at the University of Colorado, was the starting halfback on Colorado's 1962 Orange Bowl team, and was a United States team alternate to the 1960 Olympics in Rome. At one time Ted held the world record for the 400 meters. After leaving the University, Ted elected to continue his athletic career in the Canadian Football League, where he acquired substantial notoriety as the starting halfback for the Calgary Stampeders through the mid 60s.

Although well-known for his athletic accomplishments during his earlier years, perhaps his greatest achievements were his relentless pursuit of education and personal development and his commitment to the profession and to the community. Ted's commitment to education was exemplified by his returning to the University of Colorado during the professional football off seasons where he obtained a Bachelors Degree in Business as well as a Masters Degree in Business Administration. Utilizing the monies that he had saved during his years as a professional football player, Ted then returned to the University of Colorado and obtained his law degree in 1973. He worked as a corporate attorney for U S WEST Communications for the past 15 years.

At the time of his death, Ted was active on a number of boards and committees including the Colorado Bar Association Board of Governors, the Alumni Board of Directors of the School of Law, the "C" Club Board of Directors, the Minority Advisory Committee of the University and was president elect of the Law School Alumni Board at the University of Colorado. Ted served on a number of other boards including the Girls Club/SW Youth Inc. and the Denver Alternative Youth Services.

Ted was a modest, gentle-spoken man with a tremendous sense of humor. He strove in all of his activities to encourage personal and academic achievement in others. He was a role model to the youth who knew him and a wonderful example to the community of the successes that can be achieved through hard work and a commitment to excellence.

The proceeds from the Scholarship Fund, to be awarded annually to a minority law student at the University of Colorado, School of Law, is a most appropriate tribute to a caring person who made others feel good by his very presence and a person who invested untold hours toward the betterment of the community. There are few among us who have come as far and have contributed as much as did Ted.

Former CU standout Teddy Woods dies

By NICK LARSON
Camera Sports Writer

Theodore "Teddy" Woods, a starting half back for Colorado's 1962 Orange Bowl team who later became a corporate attorney and one of the university's most distinguished alumni died Wednesday in Denver of an apparent heart attack.

Woods, 47, worked as an in-house counsel for U.S. West (formerly Mountain Bell) for the past 15 years. He was walking to a hearing Wednesday afternoon in downtown Denver when he was stricken, and he died a short time later.

Funeral services are pending.

Woods, among the first blacks involved in football at Colorado, was, at the time of his death, on the CU Alumni Board of Directors and the CU Minority Advisory Committee. He formerly served as president of the "C" Club for lettermen and formerly served on the Law School Board.

Woods found athletic success with more than the CU football team, though. A sprinter he was a U.S. team alternate for the 1960 Olympics in Rome and once held the world record for the 400 meters. He later played professional football with the Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League, where he was a starting halfback from 1964 through 1968.

At CU, Woods once returned a kickoff 96 yards for a touchdown against Nebraska, the type of play that made him one of the most dangerous weapons for the 1961 Big Eight champions. Ironically, he enjoyed more football success in the CFL than he did at Colorado.

Former teammates and associates of Woods remembered him as a kind individual with a keen sense of humor and a person who went out of his way to help others.

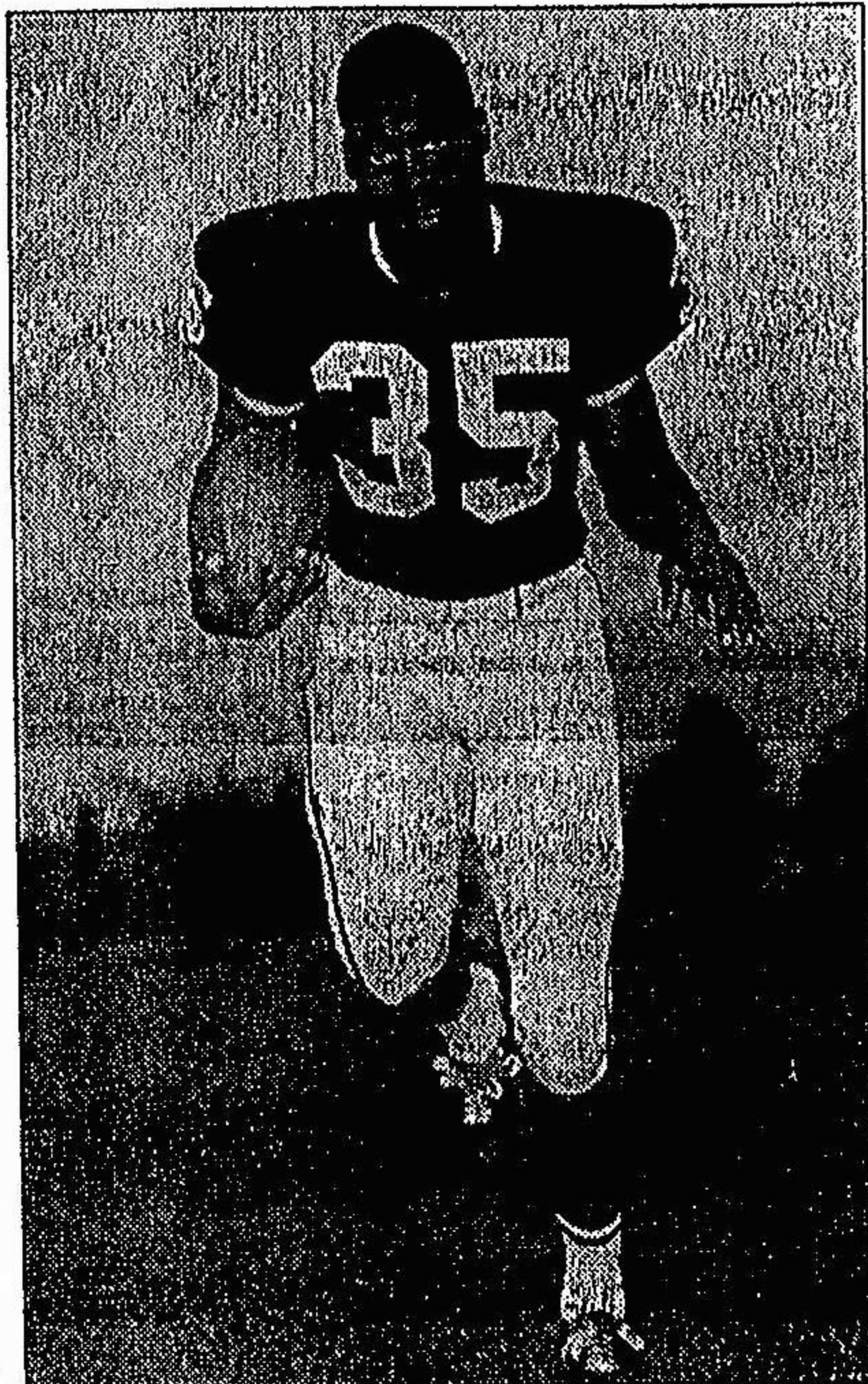
"We called him Papa," recalled former Buff running back "Buffalo" Bill Harris, now a hospital administrator in Englewood, N.J. "Teddy was just like a big papa to everyone."

"Teddy was one of the fastest persons I've ever come across," Harris said, "and a great human being. He was a junior when I came in as a freshman, and he took me under his wing."

Gale Weidner, CU's 61 quarterback and currently working in Denver with an investment business, said the thing about Woods he most remembered "was the infectious laugh. He was a fun guy to be around. Teddy was a good football player but not a great football player."

"We always used to kid Teddy because he couldn't catch passes very well," Weidner said. "After he completed his eligibility, he went back to Pittsburgh (where Woods was born and raised) and worked in the steel mills. He caught on with Calgary, where he learned to be a much better receiver. And he told us the incentive was much better there, because it was either that or back to the mills."

"I admired Teddy a great deal. He returned to Boulder in the off-season and earned his degree, then earned a business degree, a masters in business and then his law degree. Here's a guy who came from the heart of Pittsburgh and



TEDDY WOODS

As young halfback for Buffs in early '60s.

really made something of himself."

Former CU associate athletic director Fred Casotti recalled Woods "used to come to Boulder and play in the alumni game, and he wanted to carry the ball 20 times while everyone else in the pros was hiding behind their agents."

Boulder's John Meadows, now a Coors executive and a Buff player in the early 60s, said Woods "really cared about everybody on the team and made a special effort to bring everybody together. And I can still remember one scrimmage where he knocked me out. I was covering a punt when he flipped a wing at me and knocked me flat. He always reminded me of that and joked about it years later."

Jarvis Seccombe, a long-time Buff Club member and Woods law associate at U.S. West, said Woods "had more friends than anyone I've ever known. He was from the housing projects in Pittsburgh, and what he achieved was a real credit to him and the school. It's a big, big loss."

"He was an unbelievable physical specimen. He looked like he could go out tomorrow and start for the Broncos!"

Woods, married to Dr. Beverly A. Anderson-Woods, had a teenage son, Todd, by a previous marriage. His stepson Buck Anderson, played basketball at Colorado in the early 80s.