

# BROTHERHOOD THROUGH TOUGH TIMES

Football is more than a sport. It is a camaraderie that extends beyond wins and losses



## Sam Sanchez Sports Editor

The defense lines up, trying for a goal line stance. The quarterback snaps the ball and hands the ball to the running back. He runs it straight into the end zone. Touchdown. The defense fails again.

The offense lines up, the quarterback snaps the ball, passes to a player, incomplete. Turnover on downs.

It is without a doubt that the varsity football team has gone through their struggles the past few years with this year ending 1-9. The 2017-2018 season ended with a record of 5-5. The 2016-2017 season ended in 2-8. The 2015-2016 ended in a 3-7 record.

"Honestly I'm disappointed because the players and coaches have been working their butts off, and it crushes me that it's not showing on game day," said junior Stephone Smiley.

A playoff drought of now four years is getting to the fans and the players.

But even through everything, their brotherhood stands strong. This team puts in work everyday during the summer, working out together and running plays that they will use in the season. Their work ethics are unmatched because they want to be good so bad, but it just won't click for them.

"That brotherhood stands out because everyone on the team wants to play and win football games, but it doesn't happen without everyone being together," said Smiley.

During the Overland vs. Arapahoe season finale, everyone kept each other's hopes up, even if some plays didn't go their way. None of the players wanted to hear any of the negativity on the sidelines. If a player got frustrated on the field, the sideline backed them up.

After the Overland vs. Arapahoe game, a couple of seniors stepped in front of their teammates and took responsibility for not having a winning season.

"We weren't the leaders we should have been. Juniors and sophomores, be better leaders than us. We were supposed to be state

champs, but we failed you guys," senior Wendell Cole said.

This team is still our Overland team and they go through rigorous training in the off season and put in hard work season in and season out. During the homecoming game, the stands were absolutely packed. It was a record high crowd. The cheers were loud yet we lost. But that is what the Overland team needs. They need the support of their school to pack the stands at Stutler and have their backs.

The team has had it struggles these past few years, but the brotherhood is still very strong within the team. This Overland team has the right coaches and great players within the organization.

"We just gotta work harder and get stronger," said junior Tulga Baasanjav.



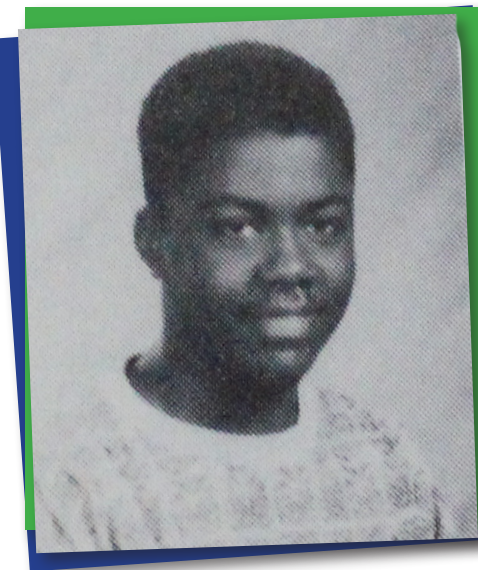
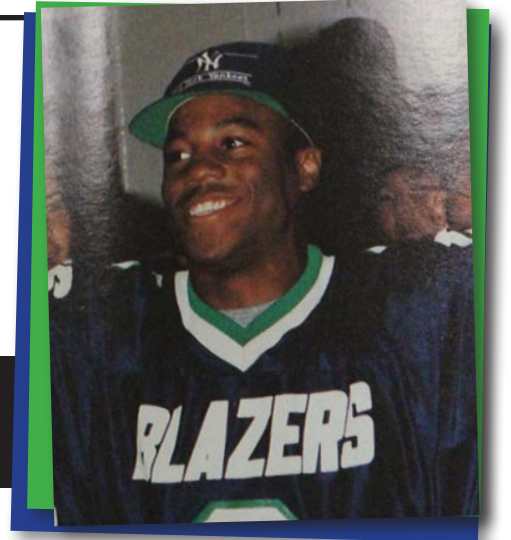
# OVERLAND GOES PRO

FORMER STUDENTS MADE IT ALL THE WAY TO THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## Havilland Wilson Reporter

*T.J. Cunningham was born on October 24, 1972 in Aurora, Colorado. He attended Overland from 1986-1990. After graduating, he went on to play for Colorado State University. During college he played as a wide receiver during 1992 and 1993, gaining the Rams 138 kickoff return yards. After college, he was drafted in the NFL in 1996 during the sixth round to play as a safety for the Seattle Seahawks.*

**T.J. CUNNINGHAM**  
(1986-1990)



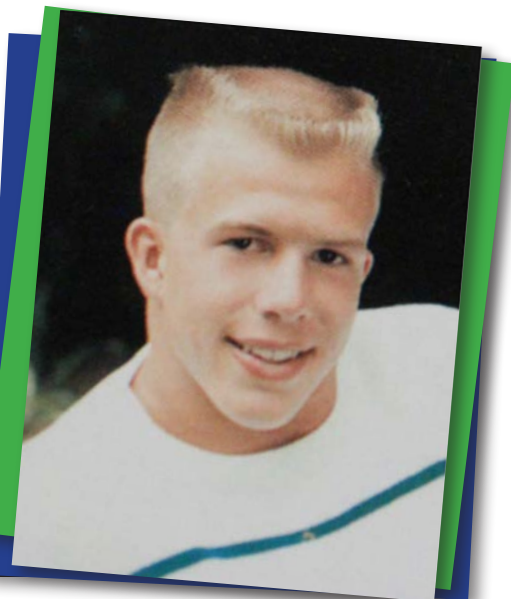
*CSU football legend, Sean Moran, was born on June 5, 1973 in Aurora, Colorado. He attended Overland from 1987-1991. After graduation, Moran went on to play college football at Colorado State University. Afterward he continued his football career by playing as a defensive lineman in the NFL when he was drafted by the Buffalo Bills in the fourth round, pick 120. He played for the Bills from 1996-1999 before being traded to the then St. Louis Rams in 2000, and then playing for the San Francisco 49ers from 2002-2003 where he retired. During his NFL career, he had a total of 11 sacks, 42 individual tackles, and 54 combined tackles.*

**SEAN MORAN**  
(1986-1990)

*Brian Kelly was born on January 14, 1976 in Las Vegas, Nevada. He attended Overland from 1989-1993. During his senior year at Overland, the football team won the 1993 6A State Championship. He then went on to attend the University of Southern California in 1997. After graduating from college, Kelly was drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during the second round of the 1998 NFL Draft. During his career with the Buccaneers, he played as a cornerback, and during his 2002 season, he had eight interceptions and was number one in the league tied with Rod Woodson on interceptions. He also succeeded at being the only Blazer to ever win a Super Bowl, helping the Buccaneers win their first Super Bowl in 2003.*

**SUPER BOWL CHAMPION**

**BRIAN KELLY**  
(1989-1993)



# ALL IN ONE GAME

Whether you're a coach, a player, a fan, a cheerleader, or a band member, you all have something in common: the game. Find out what it's like for each of these participants during the homecoming game.

**VANESSA BALLINES (11, MARCHING BAND FLUTIST):** "I was very excited to be the homecoming game and ready to perform."

**AMBER LYLE (10, CHEERLEADER):** "The games at Stutler are pretty full and there's lots of energy here. It just makes me feel excited."

**ANDREW SHAVER (Offensive Coordinator):** "What has worked so far? What hasn't worked? How do we adjust?"

**SOPHIA GUAGLIARDO (10, NUTS):** "I don't understand why the crowd is never into it, just show some school spirit. Enjoy the game, have some fun, mingle with NUTS kids, and have a good time."

**AMBER LYLE (10, CHEERLEADER):** "I'm cold as the night goes on, but it's just a nice experience to be there at the game."

**VANESSA BALLINES (11, MARCHING BAND FLUTIST):** "If the crowd doesn't hype themselves up, then it's our job to keep it going and bring them back up no matter the score."

**TULGA BAASANJAV (11, Kicker):** "The only thing that matters right now is beating the other team, playing hard, and having fun. Let's get the bread boys."

**SAMMIE SHELLMAN (12, Poms):** "Homecoming is one of our most important performances. I always gets super nervous in front of a large crowd."

**SAMMIE SHELLMAN (12, Poms):** "The performance was a lot of fun because of our collaboration with cheer. Afterwards, I always feel good because of the adrenaline."

**ANDREW SHAVER (Offensive Coordinator):** "Let's keep these guys together and fighting to the end. As long as there's time on the clock we fight. Play the next play"

**VANESSA BALLINES (11, MARCHING BAND FLUTIST):** "We've never done anything like we did before, so I was nervous and knew I had to perform well in front of students, parents, and teachers all in the bleachers."

**TULGA BAASANJAV (11, Kicker):** "Since I don't play every snap, I'm just always thinking, 'You're gonna get it. Let's get this bread.'"

**ISABELLA LIVITS (11, BLAZER FANATIC):** "I'm really into it because you just want them to win, so you feel the adrenaline and you don't even notice the time fly by."

**ANDREW SHAVER (Offensive Coordinator):** "Are we forgetting anything at school?"



PREGAME 1ST QUARTER 2ND QUARTER HALFTIME 3RD QUARTER 4TH QUARTER END OF GAME

Interviews by Lindsey Johnson, Ana Escobar, and Sam Sanchez. Championship Timeline by Dena Vu. Page design by Sam Sanchez. Photos by Sam Sanchez and Ayatt Drena.

## 40 YEARS OF OVERLAND HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS: CHECK OUT ALL THE SPORTS THAT MADE IT TO LEAGUE AND STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

<b>FOOTBALL</b> 1997-98 State Champs 2003 5A State Finalist	<b>LACROSSE</b> 1990 Girls State Runner-Up 1991, '92, '96, '97 Girls State Champs	<b>TENNIS</b> 1990 Boys State Champs 1996 Boys Third in State 1997 Boys Second in State	<b>GYMNASTICS</b> 2001, '02 League Champs, 4th In State 2008-9 League Champs, 2nd In State 2009-10 League Champs, State Champs 2011-2012 League Champs, State Champs 2014, 2015 State Champs 2017, 2018 2nd in State	<b>WRESTLING</b> 1994 3rd in State 1996 Regionals, 4th In State 1992 League Champs, 3rd In State 1995 Regionals, 5th In State 1991 Regionals, 3rd In State	<b>CHEERLEADING</b> 1990 Girls State Spirit Champs 2001-2002 State Finalists	<b>BOYS BASKETBALL</b> 1990 League Champs, 2nd Place in State 1990-91 State Quarter Finals 1991-92 League Champs, State Quarter Finals 2015, 2016 State Champs, League Champs	<b>VOLLEYBALL</b> 1999 Regional Champs, State Semi-Finalists 1991 District Champs, Regional Champs, State Final Four 1989 Sub-District Champs, State Runner-Up	<b>SOCCER</b> 1989 Boys/Girls Regionals, State Final 4 1990 Girl League and State Champs 1990 Boys State Quarter Finalist 1991, '92 Girls State Champs 1995 Boys Leagues, State Champs 1998 Girls Regionals, State Semi-Finals 2001 Girls District & Regionals
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# THERE'S MORE TO OVERLAND FOOTBALL THAN VARSITY

**Andrea Diaz**

Reporter

The crowd erupts, the band starts to play, we see and hear the cheerleaders and poms begin to cheer, the football team has scored a touchdown.

Then there's another game, another team. It's a typical Saturday morning, the stands are somewhat full, there's no music, not even a scoreboard, we see proud parents in the crowd watching their sons play outside the Overland campus.

One game is varsity and the other a regular JV or freshman game. Which team is which?

Compared to the varsity games, the school spirit for JV and freshman teams is just not as strong. The fans don't have their faces painted. They aren't completely decked out in green and blue, waving their foam fingers in the air, and the screams aren't as intense.

Both teams are playing their hardest for Overland; however, the JV and freshman team don't get nearly as much attention as varsity

We hear little info about JV and freshman games.

All of the teams had their ups and their downs this season, but now it is time to highlight our sub-varsity teams.

JV ended the season with a record of 3-6. Our freshman team finished the season with a record of 5-5.

The JV team started out strong with wins coming left and right, receiving scores that dominated the board

However, later on in the season, the winning streak stopped.

In their final games, the losses started to become more common than the wins at first were. "We got a little too cocky, and I feel like we also did go up against some better teams [compared to the first games]," said sophomore Ahmed Ashour.

The players on these teams consist of sophomores and juniors,

with the junior class having the most on their plate because of trying to juggle school, a sport, and their future all at once.

The team knows what they have to improve upon because they have already proved they have what it takes to win with their scores. It's all just a matter of taking the steps to get there.

Next season when our JV team becomes our new varsity team, they definitely have plenty of potential to make an outstanding varsity team.

The freshman team tied their wins and losses with a score of 5-5, showing the team's hard work paid off.

Whenever they got a win, they seemed to be big wins for the most part. For example, their game against Eaglecrest had a score of 36-14. The losses were plenty substantial too. Their worst loss was against Regis Jesuit High School (48-0).

The team learned from the loss quickly and won the following game, which was against Aurora Central, with a score of 27-6.

These freshman have been doing remarkably well considering there are some players who are taking AP classes along with honors classes and having to maintain good grades in order to play.

"It's pretty much school, then practice, then I go home and do homework, and then do it all over again," said freshman Scooter Thomas.

All of it is happening while they're trying to adjust to the dramatic transition from middle school to high school.

So both teams have a lot happening in their lives, on and off the fields, but still manage to keep up their game.

With the many things happening in their lives within football and how it plays into their daily life, they deserve the attention because both teams have shown that they have the potential to become outstanding teams next season. "We have everything there. We just need to put it all together," said Thomas.

“ COMPARED TO THE VARSITY GAMES, THE SCHOOL SPIRIT FOR JV AND FRESHMAN TEAMS IS JUST NOT AS STRONG.”

## VARSITY STATISTICS

**Overall Record: 1-9**  
**League Record: 0-5**  
**Total Touchdowns: 17**  
**Total Sacks: 5.0**  
**Tackles per Game: 49.8**

## JV STATISTICS

**Overall Record: 3-6**  
**League Record: 0-5**  
**Total Touchdowns: 22**  
**Total Points Scored: 133**  
**Standout Game: OHS v Regis (33-0)**