

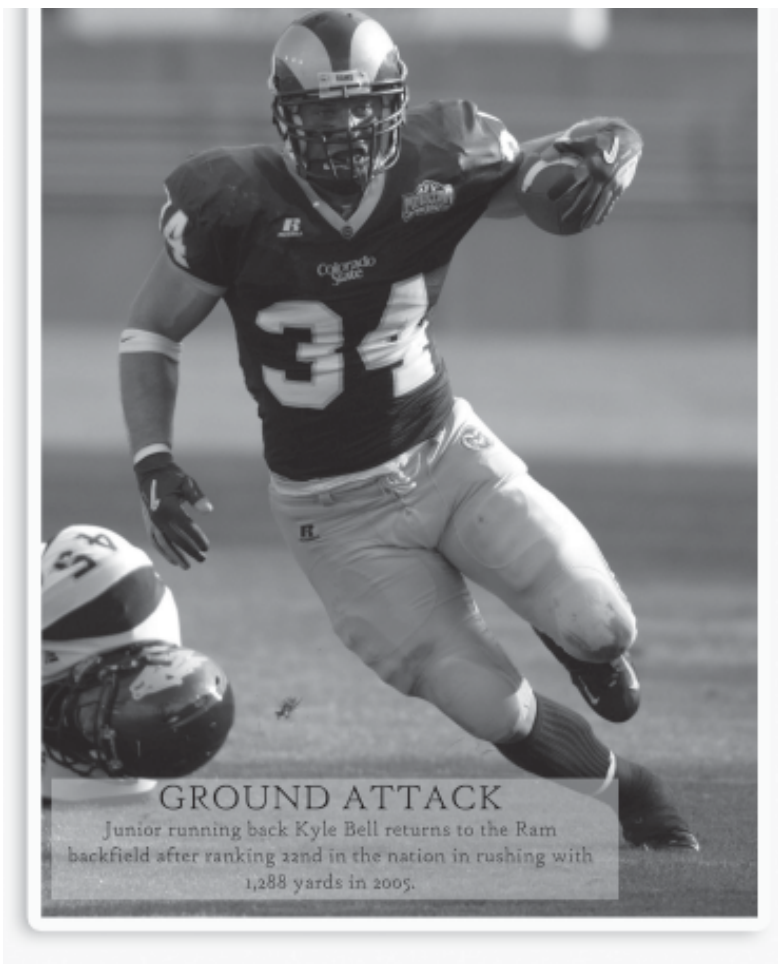
2006 SEASON PREVIEW

Fifteen returning starters including seven on offense, six on defense and a pair of kicking specialists lead Colorado State into the 2006 football season.

Headlining the list of returning starters on offense is running back **Kyle Bell**, who was second in the Mountain West Conference and 22nd nationally in 2005, when he gained 1,288 yards and scored 10 touchdowns. Bell, a junior from Keenesburg, Colo., had six 100-yard rushing games in 2005. His season total was the fourth-highest in school history earning him second-team all-league honors as a sophomore in 2005.

Sophomore **Gartrell Johnson III** will compete for the backup spot in the backfield in 2006 and at times the Rams will employ a two-back set. Senior **Tristan Walker** started five games in 2005 and provided blocking and rushing skills to the lineup.

Quarterback **Caleb Hanie**, who started five games as a true freshman in 2004 and played as a reserve last season, will come into fall camp as the Rams' starting signal caller. Hanie has thrown for 1,455 yards in 11 appearances for the Rams and brings the added threat of a runner to the Rams' attack.



Clint Oldenburg
Offensive Line



Caleb Hanie
Quarterback



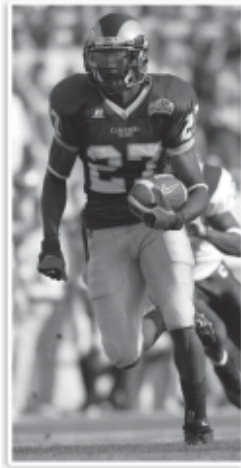
Josh Day
Offensive Line



Nick Allotta
Offensive Line



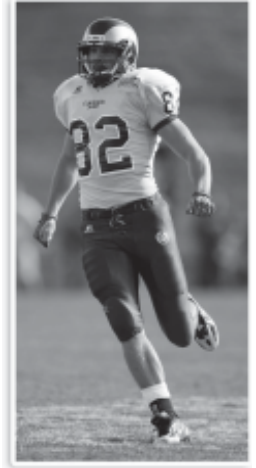
Kory Sperry
Tight End



George Hill
Wide Receiver



Johnny Walker
Wide Receiver



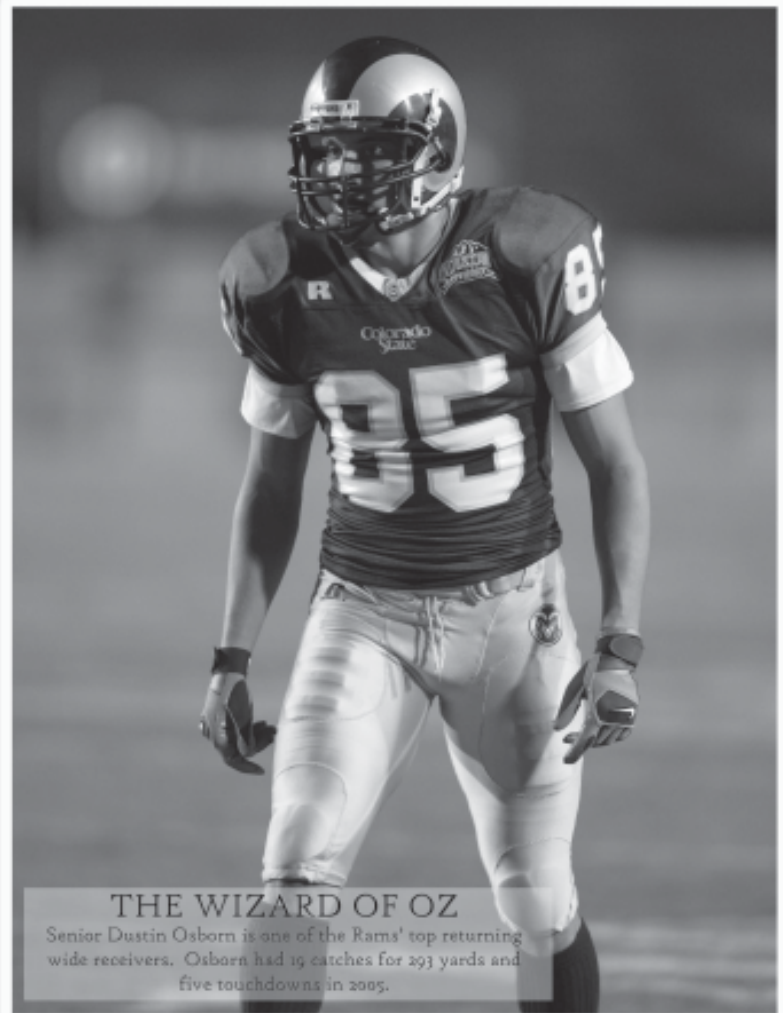
Luke Roberts
Wide Receiver

Three starters return along the offensive line, led by seniors **Clint Oldenburg** and **Josh Day**. Both have started 22 games apiece over the past two seasons. Oldenburg moves from the right tackle position to the left side. Oldenburg was honorable mention all-conference last season, as was Day, who has been a fixture at right tackle.

Center **Nick Allotta** started nine times last season. Allotta started both at guard and center due to injuries to primary players in 2005. There are a host of candidates to fill the other two spots in the line, a mixture of experienced players and youthful newcomers.

Colorado State's tight end and H-back positions have experienced players returning as well. **Kory Sperry** has started nine games at H-back en route to all-MWC honorable mention honors. Sperry was third on the team in 2005 with 42 receptions for 547 yards and four touchdowns. He had the finest game of his career in CSU's Poinsettia Bowl game by catching a career-most seven passes for a career-best 117 yards. Tight end **Chris Kawulok** started once in 2005 and played as a reserve and on special teams.

Colorado State's wide receiving corps figures to be one of the team's strengths. Though the Rams lost all-time receiving leader David Anderson to graduation, a host of experienced receivers return, led by senior **Dustin Osborn**. He caught 19 passes and was second on the team with five touchdowns in 2005. The five scoring passes came in just two games - three at Minnesota and two more in the Poinsettia Bowl.

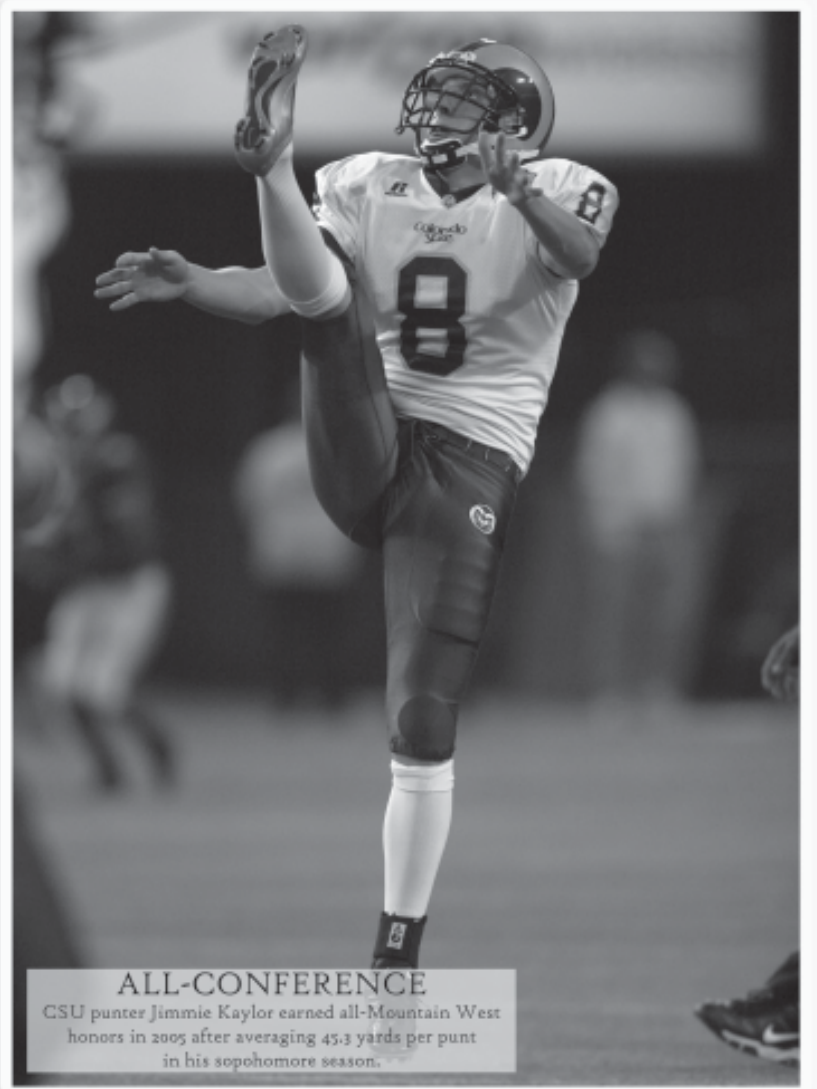


Johnny Walker, a junior, finished second on the team with 43 receptions. Three other juniors - **Luke Roberts**, **George Hill**, and **Damon Morton** - also figure to play key roles in 2006. The trio combined for 32 catches last season. Damon's twin brother, **Dion**, moved to wide receiver last spring and will be in the mix for playing time, as will **Rashaun Greer** and **Chaz Miles**.

A season ago, **Jimmie Kaylor** had one of the finest performances of any punter in school history. Kaylor, a first-team all-league performer, averaged 45.3 yards per try and finished fourth nationally while leading the MWC in that category. A junior, Kaylor again figures to be among the top punters in the nation. **Jason Smith** returns after taking over the placekicking duties midway through the season and responding by making his first seven field goal tries, and finishing the season making 9-of-10 overall.

Defensively, the Rams return a more experienced group that figures to lend itself to overall improvement.

Junior **Jesse Nading** has started the past two seasons at end, while **Blake Smith**, **Erik Sandie** and **Matt Rupp** have been in the lineup inside. Nading was honorable mention all-league in 2005. Smith has started 20 games, while Sandie and Rupp have combined for six starts. **Wade Landers**, who played last season as a true freshman, and junior **Bob Vomhof** are experienced opposite Nading.



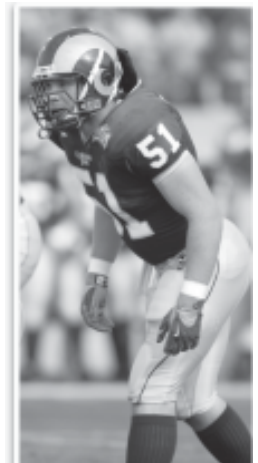
Blake Smith
Defensive Line



Erik Sandie
Defensive Line



Bob Vomhof
Defensive End



Jeff Horinek
Linebacker



Luke Adkins
Linebacker



Joey Rucks
Cornerback



Robert Herbert
Cornerback



Darryl Williams
Cornerback

Three linebackers with extensive experience return in 2006. **Jeff Horinek** started 10 of 12 games in 2005 as a redshirt freshman outside and has moved to the middle for 2006. **Jon Radford** started four games in 2005 and played both in the middle and outside. He figures to draw a starting spot outside. **Luke Adkins** was a starter in 2004 but battled season-long injuries that limited him to two games in 2005, but he returns healthy in 2006. **Nathan Pauly** and **John Nichols** both played extensively in 2005 before suffering injuries that limited their duty.

Seniors **Robert Herbert** and **Ben Stratton** lead the candidates in the secondary. Herbert, a cornerback, was honorable mention last season after leading the MWC in pass deflections. He also had three interceptions and has started 23 consecutive games. Stratton, a safety, missed the entire season with a knee injury, but returns for 2006, as does senior cornerback **Brandon Cathy**, a part-time starter the past two seasons.

Sophomores **Mike Pagnotta** and **Klint Kubiak** both saw considerable duty in the secondary and on special teams last year and are counted upon to be factors at safety. **Joey Rucks** was a special teams stalwart who played as a reserve in the secondary last season. Several other players lend depth to the Rams' secondary.

