

Prince

## AMUKAMARA

21

ATHLETE • FR. • 6-1 • 180 • GLENDALE, ARIZ. (APOLLO HS)

Prince Amukamara (pronounced ah-moo-kuh-mara) is one of five players from the Phoenix metropolitan area in the Huskers' 2007 signing class. The five players from Arizona marks the largest group Nebraska has ever signed from that state. Amukamara brings an impressive set of credentials to the Husker program and has the ability to play on either side of the football. Amukamara was a dual-threat performer for Coach Zach Threadgill at Apollo High School. During his final two seasons, Amukamara scored nearly 50 touchdowns, while rushing for 3,389 yards and averaging 11.9 yards per carry. As a senior, Amukamara rushed for 2,106 yards and 24 touchdowns, an average of 191.5 yards per game, while catching 22 passes for 252 yards and six touchdowns. In the same two seasons, the 6-1, 180-pounder also had 664 receiving yards and totaled about 125 tackles, including 95 tackles and two interceptions in 2006. Amukamara was also a dangerous kickoff and punt return threat, averaging 26 yards per punt return and 20.8 yards on kickoff returns. Amukamara's play helped lead Apollo High to a 7-4 record during the 2006 season. Amukamara's best game came in the first round of the Class 4A playoffs against Scottsdale Chaparral. In a 35-28 overtime loss, Amukamara rushed for 366 yards and four touchdowns, caught four passes and had a 45-yard punt return. He was honored as the state high school player of the year by the Arizona Republic newspaper, which named him a first-team Class 4A all-state pick. He is ranked as a three-star prospect by Rivals.com, which also ranks Amukamara as the No. 12 overall prospect in the state of Arizona and the 56th-ranked athlete in the country. Scout.com lists Amukamara as the nation's No. 47 running back prospect, while SuperPrep Magazine ranked him as the No. 6 overall prospect in the state of Arizona. In addition to his football talents, Amukamara is also a starting guard for the Apollo basketball team, which captured its third straight Class 4A state title in 2007, when Amukamara averaged 11.5 points, 4.7 rebounds, 4.3 assists and 3.5 steals per game. Amukamara also starred in track at Apollo High, winning the Class 4A state titles in both the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes in 2007. His times in the 100 (10.78) and 200 (21.91) were both the fastest of any high school track athlete in Arizona. Amukamara was born on June 6, 1989, and is the son of Romanus and Christie Amukamara. He chose Nebraska over Fresno State and Arizona State.

Anthony  
BLUE

1

DEFENSIVE BACK • FR. • 5-10 • 175 •  
CEDAR HILL, TEXAS (CEDAR HILL HS)

Defensive back Anthony Blue was one of the first commitments in the Huskers' recruiting class, announcing his intention to join the Husker program in June of 2006. Blue is one of seven Texans in Nebraska's recruiting class, the Huskers' largest recruiting haul from the Lone Star State since also signing seven in 1989. The 5-10, 175-pound Blue is also a key part of an impressive class of defensive back recruits in the Husker class. Blue was a standout at Cedar Hill High for Coach Joey McGuire. Cedar Hill captured the Texas Class 5A state title with a perfect 16-0 record. Blue was a second-team all-state selection, first-team all-district pick and second-team all-area in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Blue made 60 tackles and intercepted two passes as a senior, while breaking up another 20 passes. Blue is a three-star prospect according to Rivals.com and is ranked as the nation's No. 62 safety prospect by the recruiting service. Scout.com also gave Blue a three-star rating and ranked him as the nation's 73rd-best defensive back prospect. In addition to his outstanding play on the gridiron, Blue is a track standout for Cedar Hill. Although he didn't place in the state track meet, Blue ran a personal best of 21.17 in the 200-meter dash in the district meet. Blue only visited Nebraska, but received a number of offers from other Division I schools, including Baylor, Purdue and Wisconsin. Blue was born on Feb. 6, 1989, and is the son of Shawndra Blue and Anthony Blue Sr.

Jaivorio  
BURKES

72

OFFENSIVE LINE • FR. • 6-5 • 315 • PHOENIX, ARIZ.  
(MOON VALLEY HS)

Offensive lineman Jaivorio Burkes is part of an impressive five-man class of recruits from the state of Arizona, NU's largest ever influx from that state. The 6-5, 315-pound Burkes was widely regarded as one of the nation's top offensive line prospects after starring for Coach Roger Britson at Moon Valley High School in Phoenix. Burkes is extremely athletic and has the ability to play both guard and tackle. In addition to his standout work on the offensive line,

Burkes also played on the defensive line for Moon Valley and recorded eight sacks during his senior season. Burkes was a Class 4A first-team all-state selection by the Arizona Republic. Burkes was a member of the Rivals.com Rivals 250, and earned a four-star rating by the recruiting service. Rivals also ranked Burkes as the third-best overall prospect in the state of Arizona and the No. 7 offensive guard prospect in the nation. Scout.com listed Burkes as a four-star offensive tackle prospect and ranked him as the No. 9 player at that position in the country. SuperPrep Magazine placed Burkes as the No. 11 overall offensive line prospect in the country and the No. 3 player in Arizona. Burkes was selected to play in the East Meets West All-American Game in Florida. Burkes was also a starter for his high school basketball team, and ranked among the state's top players. As a senior, he averaged 20 points and 16 rebounds per game. He averaged 15 points and 14 rebounds per game during his junior season. Burkes chose Nebraska after also taking recruiting visits to Oklahoma, Michigan and Arizona State. He is the son of Sherry Webb and was born on Dec. 20, 1988.

Quentin  
CASTILLE

19

RUNNING BACK • FR. • 6-1 • 235 • LA PORTE, TEXAS (LA PORTE HS)

Running back Quentin Castille is regarded as one of the top power backs in the country. The 6-1, 235-pounder is one of seven Nebraska signees from the state of Texas, the Huskers' largest recruiting harvest from that state since also signing seven players in 1989. Castille posted huge numbers for La Porte High School and Coach Jeff LaReau as a senior when he rushed for more than 1,800 yards and 22 touchdowns, while averaging nearly eight yards per carry. Castille also showed the ability to catch the ball out of the backfield with 12 receptions and a pair of touchdowns. His play helped La Porte High to a 7-5 record. Castille was dominant during his senior season, highlighted by three 200-yard outings. Castille was at his best late in the season, including rushing for better than 300 yards and six touchdowns against Dobie and 250 yards in a win over Port Arthur Memorial. Castille was a second-team all-state pick and first-team all-district selection for his efforts. As a junior, Castille rushed for approximately 1,200 yards and 11 touchdowns, while averaging 7.5 yards per tote. His performance as a junior earned him a unanimous all-district selection. Overall, Castille racked up more than 4,000 rushing yards during his prep career. Castille was a four-star prospect by Rivals.com, which listed him as the nation's No. 2 fullback prospect. Rivals also ranked Castille as the 36th-best prospect in the state of Texas and included him among its list of the nation's top 250 overall prospects. Castille was ranked as the No. 8 fullback prospect in the nation by Scout.com and the No. 9 fullback in the nation by ESPN.com. He was listed 13th on the Texas Super 200 Senior Playmakers by Max Emfinger. Castille chose Nebraska over Louisville. He is the son of Wanda Castille and was born on April 25, 1989.

Jared  
CRICK

94

DEFENSIVE END • FR. • 6-6 • 260 • COZAD, NEB. (COZAD HS)

Jared Crick is one of two in-state prospects in Nebraska's 2007 signing class. The Cozad native will begin his Nebraska career as a defensive end, one of six Husker signees slated to begin on the defensive front. The 6-6, 260-pound Crick earned second-team All-Nebraska honors from the Omaha World-Herald and second-team Super State honors from the Lincoln Journal Star as a senior, while earning first-team Class B honors from both papers. His performance helped Cozad and Coach Ron Bubak compile an 8-3 record and reach the second round of the Class B state playoffs in 2006. Crick made 68 tackles from his defensive end position, including six tackles for loss. On offense, Crick played tight end and caught 15 passes for 284 yards and four touchdowns. During his junior season, Crick recorded 75 tackles and five sacks en route to Class C-1 all-state honors from the Omaha World-Herald and honorable-mention all-state accolades from the Lincoln Journal Star. Crick was also a key member of the Haymaker basketball team, leading the team in scoring at 12 points per game and rebounding with eight per contest. Crick was ranked as a three-star prospect by Rivals.com, who placed him as the No. 4 overall prospect in the state of Nebraska and the No. 45 strongside defensive end nationally. SuperPrep ranked him as the No. 46 defensive line prospect in the country and the 27th-best player in its Midlands Region, while Scout.com ranks him as a three-star recruit. Crick participated in the East Meets West All-American Game in Florida in January. In addition to football, Crick threw the shot put for Cozad, and finished second in the state, to his teammate Luke Pinkleman with a throw of 60 10-1/4 in the state track and field championships. Crick committed to the Huskers last summer and only visited Nebraska, but did receive numerous other scholarship offers. Crick was born on Aug. 21, 1989, and is the son of David and Cindy Crick.

# Kevin DIXON

92

DEFENSIVE TACKLE · JR. · 6-3 · 295 · VERO BEACH, FLA.  
(SEBRING HS/GARDEN CITY CC)

Kevin Dixon is one of two defensive line standouts from Garden City (Kan.) Community College in the Huskers' 2007 signing class, joining teammate Shukree Barfield. A native of Vero Beach, Fla., Dixon is one of seven defensive line signees in this year's class and one of six players to join the Husker program from the junior college ranks. In 2006, Dixon recorded 42 tackles, eight sacks, another nine tackles for loss and forced a pair of fumbles in helping the BroncoBusters to a 6-4 record. For his efforts, Dixon earned honorable-mention All-America honors from the National Junior College Athletic Association. In his first year at Garden City, Dixon racked up 34 tackles, including 22 solo stops, five sacks and seven tackles for loss. Dixon was ranked as a four-star prospect by Rivals.com and the No. 40 overall junior college recruit by the service. Scout.com listed Dixon as a three-star recruit, while SuperPrep Magazine ranked him as the 79th-best JUCO prospect in the country. Before his career at Garden City CC, Dixon was a standout for Sebring High School in Vero Beach, Fla. In addition to his football accolades, Dixon was an all-county selection in basketball. Dixon and Barfield come to Nebraska from a school with past connections with the Huskers. Among the Garden City products to join the Husker program were Kareem Moss and Eric Alford, who both went on to professional careers. Dixon has two seasons of eligibility with the Huskers. He is the son of Tonya McCoy and was born on May 7, 1987. Dixon chose Nebraska over Louisville, South Florida and Texas A&M.

# Curenski GILLEYLEN

11

WIDE RECEIVER · FR. · 6-0 · 210 · LEANDER, TEXAS (LEANDER HS)

The final piece in NU's 2007 recruiting class was standout wide receiver Curenski Gilleylen (pronounced kur-en-ski gilley-yen). He is one of seven Texans in the Huskers' 2007 class, Nebraska's largest group of recruits from the Lone Star State since also signing seven in 1989. Gilleylen boasts an excellent combination of size and speed, and is one of two highly touted wideout prospects in the 2007 class, joining Omaha native Niles Paul. The 6-0, 210-pound Gilleylen earned honorable-mention Texas Class 5A all-state honors as a senior. He was also a first-team All-Centex selection by the Austin American Statesman, was named to the Hill Country News' Dazzling Dozen Team, and was Leander's Outstanding Offensive Player. He helped Leander High School to a 12-3 record in 2006. Playing for Coach Steve Gidden, Gilleylen totaled 30 receptions for 915 yards and nine touchdowns. He also spent some time at running back and had about 500 yards rushing with another four touchdowns on the ground. Gilleylen also posted impressive numbers as a junior, catching more than 40 passes for 850 yards and 12 touchdowns to earn all-district honors and second-team all-state accolades. Gilleylen was ranked as a three-star prospect by both Rivals.com and Scout.com. SuperPrep Magazine listed the speedster as the No. 78 overall prospect in the state of Texas. In addition to his impressive football credentials, Gilleylen was also a standout on the track for Leander, competing in the 100 meters and on his school's 4x100-meter relay team. Gilleylen broke a school record by running a 10.22 100-meter dash in 2007. Gilleylen was also an honorable-mention academic all-state pick by the Texas High School Coaches Association. Gilleylen chose Nebraska over Oklahoma State and Tennessee. He is the son of Stephanie Sullivan and Clarzell Gilleylen and was born on March 15, 1989.

# Eric HAGG

28

ATHLETE · FR. · 6-1 · 195 · PEORIA, ARIZ. (IRONWOOD HS)

One of five players in Nebraska's recruiting class from the state of Arizona, Eric Hagg is a versatile player who could impact the Huskers at multiple positions. A product of Ironwood High School in Glendale, Ariz., Hagg is part of Nebraska's largest ever influx from the state of Arizona, including his high school teammate defensive end William Yancy. Hagg starred at receiver and defensive back for Coach Larry Allen at Ironwood. On offense, Hagg caught 49 passes for 920 yards and nine touchdowns, while making 33 tackles and intercepting four passes on defense. His efforts as a senior earned him first-team Arizona 5A all-state honors from the Arizona Republic. Hagg's impressive senior season came on the heels of a strong junior campaign, when he had 37 catches, including 12 touchdowns and made better than 40 tackles on defense. He also had seven interceptions and blocked a punt. Hagg was ranked as a three-star prospect by Rivals.com, which also listed him as the No. 15 prospect in the state of Arizona. Scout.com listed Hagg as a three-star wideout, while SuperPrep Magazine ranked him as the No. 14 recruit in the Grand Canyon State. In addition to his

outstanding accomplishments on the gridiron, Hagg was also a top basketball player, starting for Ironwood and averaging 10 points per game as a senior. Hagg only visited Nebraska, but had numerous other offers including Arizona, Arizona State, Oregon and Oregon State. Hagg is the son of Eric Hagg Sr., and was born on Sept. 15, 1989.

# Roy HELU

10

RUNNING BACK · FR. · 6-0 · 220 ·  
DANVILLE, CALIF. (SAN RAMON VALLEY HS)

One of three running back prospects in the 2007 Nebraska signing class, Roy Helu committed to Nebraska last September. Helu is one of four signees from the state of California, a group that continues Nebraska's commitment to recruiting in that state. The Huskers have signed a total of 19 players from the Golden State in their past three recruiting classes. Helu possesses good size and outstanding speed and had an impressive prep career at San Ramon Valley High for Coach Dave Kravitz. Helu helped San Ramon Valley to a 10-2 record in 2006, earning first-team all-league honors at running back. He finished his senior campaign with 1,085 yards rushing and 11 touchdowns and added another 300 yards and one more score on 20 receptions. He also had one interception as a free safety. As a junior, Helu rushed for 1,526 yards and 19 scores on 186 carries during the 2005 season, good for an impressive 8.2-yards-per-carry average. He added 30 receptions for 500 yards and four touchdowns to earn All-East Bay League honors. Helu was also a dangerous return man for San Ramon Valley throughout his high school career. Helu was ranked as the No. 55 running back prospect in the country by Rivals.com, which ranked him as a three-star prospect. Scout.com also ranked Helu as a three-star performer. Helu only visited Nebraska, but also received offers from numerous schools, including BYU, California and Oregon. Helu was born on Dec. 7, 1988 and is the son of Roy Helu Sr., and Christi Helu.

# Ryan HILL

80

TIGHT END · FR. · 6-3 · 230 · ARVADA, COLO. (ARVADA WEST HS)

Tight end Ryan Hill is Nebraska's lone 2007 signee from the state of Colorado. He is the only player in the class expected to begin his Husker career as a tight end. Hill was an extremely versatile player for Coach Casey Coons at Arvada West High School. The past two seasons, Hill has produced big numbers from his tight end position, while also serving as the team's punter. An extremely athletic player, Hill was often split out wide as a senior and caught 42 passes for 924 yards with seven touchdown grabs. He posted similar numbers as a junior, hauling in 44 passes for nearly 900 yards and an impressive 15 touchdowns, helping his team to a 10-3 record and a state semifinal appearance. Hill was honored for his efforts at tight end, as he was named all-conference both his junior and senior years and was an all-state pick as a senior. In addition to excelling at the tight end position, Hill also served as Arvada West's punter the past two seasons. He averaged 42.8 yards per punt as a senior and was an All-Colorado selection as a punter. Hill was ranked as a three-star prospect by Rivals.com, which also ranked him as the No. 41 tight end prospect in the country and the 13th-best prospect in the state of Colorado. Hill was a three-star standout by Scout.com and was that service's No. 35 tight end. SuperPrep Magazine ranked Hill as the 10th-best tight end in the country and the No. 22 overall prospect in the Midlands Region. Hill's athletic accomplishments were not limited to the gridiron. He is a standout on his school's baseball team as a pitcher and third baseman. Hill was one of Nebraska's first commitments in this year's class, and did not take any additional visits. Hill is the son of Doug and Tracey Remley, and was born on Jan. 28, 1989.

# Marcel JONES

78

OFFENSIVE LINE · FR. · 6-7 · 300 ·  
PHOENIX, ARIZ. (TREVOR BROWNE HS)

Offensive line prospect Marcel Jones is the tallest member of Nebraska's 2007 recruiting class, checking in at 6-7 and 300 pounds. Jones is part of an impressive group of prep standouts joining the Nebraska program from the state of Arizona. Jones is one of five signees from the Grand Canyon State, the Huskers' largest ever group from that state. Jones is a raw talent who had an outstanding senior year on the offensive line for Coach Randy Ricedorff at Trevor Browne High School. Jones missed his junior year because of injury, but earned honorable-mention Arizona 5A all-state honors as a senior. Jones was ranked as a three-star prospect by Rivals.com, which listed him as the 13th-best overall prospect in the state of Arizona. Jones also ranked as a three-star performer by Scout.com, which listed

him as the No. 44 offensive tackle prospect in the country. Jones was ranked as the No. 7 overall recruit in the state of Arizona by SuperPrep Magazine. Jones was also a standout on the basketball court for Trevor Browne High School. He was the starting center for Browne, which went 27-3 and earned a top-five ranking in Class 5A. Jones averaged 11.6 points and nine rebounds per game as a senior. As a junior, he earned all-region honors for his performance on the hardwood. Jones is also a star in the classroom, ranking in the top 20 of his senior class of more than 500 students. Jones chose Nebraska over Arizona State. He is the son of Ulysses and Tracy Torry and was born on Sept. 4, 1988.

## Adi KUNALIC

PLACE-KICKER • FR. • 6-0 • 175 • FORT WORTH, TEXAS  
(NORTH CROWLEY HS)

Place-kicker Adi Kunalic is part of an impressive class of seven Husker recruits from the state of Texas, the Huskers' largest haul from the Lone Star State since 1989. Kunalic is the only kicker in Nebraska's class and comes to the Huskers after a standout prep career for Coach Mike Papas at North Crowley High School in Fort Worth. Kunalic attempted just six field goals as a senior for a 3-7 North Crowley team, and connected on four of those attempts. He also nailed 29-of-31 extra-point attempts. Kunalic owns a powerful leg, which allowed him to boot 22 kickoffs for touchbacks during his senior season. Kunalic also served as the team's punter and averaged nearly 40 yards on 46 punts, with a season-long punt of 72 yards. As a junior, Kunalic had more place-kicking opportunities for a 9-2 North Crowley squad. He connected on 7-of-9 field goal attempts, including a pair of field goals from better than 50 yards. Kunalic was ranked among the top 20 kickers in the country according to Rivals.com and was listed as a two-star prospect by both Rivals and Scout.com. Kunalic chose Nebraska after also taking a visit to Washington State. He also received offers from Miami, Kansas and Utah among others. He was born on June 1, 1989, and is the son of Meho and Ivana Kunalic.

## Blake LAWRENCE

LINEBACKER • FR. • 6-2 • 200 • SHAWNEE MISSION, KAN.  
(SHAWNEE MISSION WEST HS)

Linebacker Blake Lawrence comes to Nebraska after an award-winning prep career at Shawnee Mission West High School. Lawrence was named the Gatorade Kansas High School Player of the Year after an impressive senior season for Coach Tim Callaghan. Lawrence was a dominant two-way player at Shawnee Mission West, starting at quarterback as a senior, while continuing as a defensive stalwart. On defense, Lawrence played both safety and linebacker and had 60 tackles, a pair of sacks and three interceptions. On offense, Lawrence completed 68-of-131 passes for 1,329 yards and 15 touchdowns, while throwing just three interceptions. Lawrence was also a running threat, picking up 483 yards on 71 carries, while reaching the end zone 15 times on the ground. His performance led Shawnee Mission West to the state Class 6A title game. In addition to his Gatorade Player-of-the-Year honors, Lawrence earned all-state and All-Metro honors from the Kansas City Star. Lawrence ranked as a four-star prospect by Rivals.com and was listed as the top overall recruit in Kansas. Rivals also ranked him as the nation's No. 18 outside linebacker prospect, while Scout.com listed him the 17th-best prospect at weakside linebacker. SuperPrep Magazine ranked Lawrence as the No. 30 linebacker in the country and the No. 26 prospect in the Midlands Region. As a junior, Lawrence served as the backup quarterback for his older brother, Tyler, and starred on defense. Blake tallied 90 tackles, including 13 tackles for loss, while recording four sacks and forcing four fumbles. For his efforts, Lawrence received all-conference, all-county, all-metro and all-state honors. He was also one of the top scholars at his school, maintaining better than a 4.0 cumulative grade-point average. Lawrence received numerous scholarship offers and chose the Huskers after also visiting Kansas. Lawrence is the son of Lisa Heath and Mike Lawrence and was born on March 21, 1989.

## Terrence MOORE

DEFENSIVE TACKLE • FR. • 6-3 • 275 • NEW ORLEANS, LA.  
(MCDONOGH 35 HS)

Terrence Moore is part of an impressive group of signees for the Husker defensive line. Moore is one of six 2007 NU recruits who are slated to begin their Husker careers on the defensive front. Moore is Nebraska's first signee from the Louisiana prep ranks since the 2002 Husker signing class. The 6-3, 275-pound Moore was an impact performer for McDonogh 35 Senior High School in New Orleans in 2006. Moore comes to Nebraska

from the same high school as former Husker star and NFL All-Pro defensive lineman Neil Smith. Moore totaled 81 tackles, including 31 tackles for loss, 14 sacks and a pair of fumble recoveries as a senior. His performance earned him first-team New Orleans all-metro and first-team all-district honors. Moore helped Coach Wayne Reese and McDonogh 35 to a 7-3 record and a trip to the second round of the Louisiana 4A state playoffs. Moore returned to New Orleans in the summer of 2006 after being displaced to Spring, Texas, in 2005 following Hurricane Katrina. Moore was able to play in only a handful of games in 2005 after arriving in Spring, but remained on the recruiting radar of numerous schools. Moore was ranked as a three-star prospect by Rivals.com, which ranked him as the nation's No. 41 defensive tackle prospect and the No. 22 overall prospect in the state of Louisiana. Moore also received a three-star rating from Scout.com and was the No. 31 prospect in Louisiana according to SuperPrep. Moore only visited Nebraska, but received strong recruiting interest from Alabama, Missouri, Oklahoma State and Tulane among others. Moore is the son of Judy Hunter and was born on Jan. 31, 1989.

## Niles PAUL

WIDE RECEIVER • FR. • 6-1 • 210 • OMAHA, NEB. (NORTH HS)

One of two in-state recruits in Nebraska's 2007 recruiting class, Omaha North product Niles Paul is generally regarded as the top senior in the state. Paul is Nebraska's first scholarship signee from Omaha North since receiver Wilson Thomas inked with the Huskers in 1998. Paul's signing also marks the 13th consecutive year that Nebraska has signed at least one player from Omaha. He is the nephew of former Husker great and current Houston Texans running back Ahman Green. The 6-1, 210-pound Paul posted standout receiving numbers for Coach Larry Martin and the North Vikings the past two seasons. Last fall, Paul hauled in 46 passes for 814 yards and 13 touchdowns. He averaged nearly 18 yards per reception, and was also a dangerous return threat averaging better than 18 yards per punt return. Paul's performance helped Omaha North to a 9-2 record and a trip to the Class A state quarterfinals. For his efforts, Paul was named a first-team All-Nebraska and first-team All-Metro selection by the Omaha World-Herald and a first-team Super-State pick by the Lincoln Journal Star. Paul was also one of 58 players nationally who were selected as a Parade All-American. Paul excelled as a junior for Omaha North, when he averaged 19.5 yards on 32 receptions and caught 10 touchdown passes. He also averaged 25.6 yards per kickoff return as a junior and nearly 10 yards on his punt return attempts. His performance as a junior earned him second-team Super State honors from the Lincoln Journal Star and second-team All-Metro honors from the World-Herald. Paul was ranked as one of the nation's top receiving prospects by several recruiting services. Rivals.com ranked Paul as the top overall prospect in the state, the No. 10 receiver recruit in the country and the 73rd-best overall prospect nationally. Scout.com also listed Paul as a four-star recruit and ranked him as the 20th-best receiving prospect in the nation, while SuperPrep Magazine listed him as the No. 5 prospect in the Midlands Region and the eighth-best receiving prospect in the country. Paul was the only Husker signee to play in the U.S. Army All-American Game in San Antonio, and was the leading receiver for the West team. Paul is a multi-sport star for Omaha North. This past spring, Paul won his second straight 110-meter hurdles state track title, and finished second in the 300-meter hurdles and fourth in the 100-meter dash. His 4x100-meter relay team also finished second. In 2006 he led the Vikings to the Class A state track title by winning four gold medals. Individually, he captured the Class A titles in the 110- and 300-meter hurdles and was part of all-class gold medal teams in the 4x100 and 4x400-meter relays. Paul also won the Class A state title in the 300-meter hurdles as a sophomore in 2005. On the basketball court, Paul was among the Class A leaders in scoring and rebounding, averaging nearly 19 points and 12 rebounds per game as a senior. Paul was Nebraska's first commitment in the 2007 class, pledging his intention in January of 2006. He is the son of Nick DeCosta-Paul and was born on Aug. 9, 1989.

## Austin STAFFORD

LINEBACKER • FR. • 6-2 • 205 • HAYWARD, CALIF. (HAYWARD HS)

Linebacker prospect Austin Stafford is part of an impressive influx of defensive talent in Nebraska's 2007 recruiting class. The 6-2, 205-pound Stafford hails from Hayward, Calif., and is one of four signees from California in this year's class, continuing Nebraska's commitment to recruiting the Golden State. Stafford played defensive end for Coach Casey Moreno at Hayward High School, but projects to linebacker on the collegiate level. Stafford had a dominant senior season, helping Hayward to a 12-2 record by recording 14 sacks and better than 80 tackles. He was a first-team all-league selection for his performance. As a junior defensive end, Stafford posted impressive numbers, accounting for 83 tackles, 12 tackles for loss, 10 sacks and two fumble recoveries. He also earned first-team all-league honors as a junior. Scout.com ranked Stafford as a four-star recruit and the No. 10 weakside linebacker prospect in the country, while SuperPrep Magazine listed him in the top 100 prospects in the state of California. Stafford was a three-star prospect according to Rivals.com, which listed him as the No. 26 outside linebacker prospect in the country and the 45th-ranked overall player in the state of California. Stafford was also a starter

on Hayward's basketball team. Stafford took his lone visit to Nebraska, but also received strong recruiting interest from Utah and San Diego State among others. Stafford is the son of Joyce Stafford and was born on Sept. 11, 1989.

## Shawn SULLIVAN

18

DEFENSIVE BACK • FR. • 5-10 • 190 • BRENHAM, TEXAS (BREHMAN HS)

Shawn Sullivan is part of an impressive group of defensive back recruits in Nebraska's 2007 recruiting class, and part of a large influx of players from the state of Texas. Sullivan is one of seven signees from the Lone Star State, Nebraska's largest group of players from that state since also signing seven in 1989. Sullivan was one of the first players to commit to Nebraska, pledging his intention last June. The 5-10, 190-pound Sullivan was a standout two-way performer for Coach Glen West at Brenham High School. He helped the Cubs to the third round of the Class 4A state playoffs and a 12-2 record in 2006. Sullivan earned all-district honors for his defensive work, where he showed his versatility by often lining up at outside linebacker. He finished the year as one of the team's top tacklers, while registering five sacks and four interceptions. On offense, Sullivan played wideout for most of the season and scored three touchdowns, but also served as a running back in Brenham's state playoff run. Sullivan was an all-district and all-conference selection as a junior, when he recorded 43 tackles, seven tackles for loss and four interceptions. Sullivan was listed as the No. 89 player on the Dallas Morning News' Texas Top 100. SuperPrep Magazine ranked him as the No. 79 player in the Lone Star State, while Rivals.com listed him as a three-star prospect and the nation's No. 43 cornerback. Scout.com ranked Sullivan as a three-star prospect and the nation's No. 52 cornerback, while he was listed as one of the top 150 players on the Texas Super 200 Senior Playmakers list. Sullivan boasts outstanding speed, posting a personal best of 10.6 in the 100 meters last year. Sullivan only visited Nebraska, but also received offers from TCU, Wisconsin, Oklahoma State and Colorado among others. Sullivan is the son of John Sullivan and Wynn Adams, and was born on May 20, 1989.

## Joseph TOWNSEND

90

136 DEFENSIVE TACKLE • SO. • 6-3 • 285 •  
SAN JOSE, CALIF. (VALLEY CHRISTIAN HS/FOOTHILL CC)

California native Joseph Townsend is one of four players in the Huskers' 2007 signing class set to line up on the interior defensive front. The 6-3, 285-pound Townsend is also one of a group of six players to join the Huskers from the junior college ranks and one of four Californians in the 2007 class. Nebraska continues to make California one of its key recruiting priorities, as the Huskers have signed 19 players from the Golden State over the past three seasons. Townsend is coming off a standout campaign for Coach Marshall Sperbeck at Foothill (Calif.) Community College. Townsend was a first-team all-league pick in the Northern California Conference in 2006, helping Foothill to a 10-1 record and a victory in the Silicon Valley Bowl. With most teams staying away from his side of the field, Townsend registered approximately 30 tackles, eight tackles for loss, four sacks, 10 hurries and a fumble recovery. Townsend was ranked as a four-star prospect by both Scout.com and Rivals.com, which ranked him as the nation's No. 40 overall junior college recruit. SuperPrep Magazine listed him 18th nationally among junior college prospects. Townsend played both ways as a prep at Valley Christian High School in San Jose. He was mainly recruited as an offensive tackle out of high school. Townsend only visited Nebraska, but Washington State, Arizona State and Mississippi State were among other schools vying for his services. Townsend sat out the 2005 season, and will have four years to complete three seasons of eligibility at Nebraska. Townsend is the son of Larry and Alice Townsend, and was born on Dec. 16, 1987. Townsend's older brother, Larry Jr., lettered for the Huskers as a defensive tackle for Nebraska's national championship teams in 1994 and 1995.

## Latravis WASHINGTON

DEFENSIVE BACK • FR. • 6-3 • 210 • BRADENTON, FLA. (BAYSHORE HS)

Latravis Washington will bring outstanding size and speed to the Husker secondary. The 6-3, 210-pound Washington is one of three native Floridians in NU's class, but is the only Florida high school signee. Washington is the cousin of former Nebraska cornerback Fabian Washington, who was a first-round draft pick of the Oakland Raiders in 2005. Latravis Washington was a two-way standout for Bayshore High School in Bradenton, Fla., attracting recruiting interest both as a defender and a quarterback. As a senior, Washington split time on defense between the secondary and defensive end, finishing the year with five sacks, in addition to ranking as one of his team's top tacklers. Washington also started at quarterback for Coach Raymond Woodie, and accounted for six passing touchdowns and six rushing scores. Washington also had an excellent junior season, in which he threw for 600 yards and four touchdowns and ran for 800 yards and nine scores. Washington also lined up as the starting power forward for Bayshore's basketball team. In addition to his association with the Huskers through his cousin, Washington attended Nebraska's Elite Quarterback Academy in both 2005 and 2006. Washington was regarded as a three-star prospect by Rivals.com, which listed him as the nation's No. 39 safety prospect and the 65th-best player in the state of Florida. Scout.com also gave Washington a three-star ranking and placed him 62nd at the safety position. In addition to attending the same high school as Fabian Washington, Latravis also hails from the same hometown as former Husker quarterback Tommie Frazier. Washington chose Nebraska over Ohio State and West Virginia. Washington is the son of Katrina Andrew and Julius Washington Jr., and was born on April 13, 1989.

## William YANCY

47

DEFENSIVE END • FR. • 6-4 • 230 • GLENDALE, ARIZ. (IRONWOOD HS)

Defensive end William Yancy is part of an impressive recruiting haul by Nebraska in the state of Arizona. The Huskers inked five prep standouts from the Grand Canyon State, NU's largest ever recruiting influx from Arizona. Yancy is joined in the 2007 NU class by his Ironwood High School teammate Eric Hagg. Yancy is also one of seven players in the 2007 class who are slated to begin their careers on the defensive front, and is one of two defensive ends in the class. Yancy helped Ironwood and Coach Larry Allen to a 7-4 record in 2006 by registering 32 tackles and seven sacks from his strongside defensive end position. For his efforts, Yancy earned honorable-mention Class 5A all-state honors from the Arizona Republic. Yancy earned all-region honors as a junior when he racked up 66 tackles and 11 sacks while playing the weakside defensive end spot. Yancy participated in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl in Florida following his senior season. Yancy was ranked as a four-star prospect by Rivals.com, which listed him as the No. 4 overall prospect in the state of Arizona and the 19th-best strongside defensive end prospect nationally. Scout.com ranked him as a three-star prospect, while SuperPrep Magazine listed Yancy as the No. 10 overall prospect in the state of Arizona. Yancy was also a standout performer on Ironwood's basketball team, splitting time between power forward and center. Yancy chose Nebraska after also taking visits to Arizona State and Purdue, and turning down an offer from Oklahoma. He is the son of Clark and Joyce Yancy and was born on Jan. 9, 1989.

## ADDITIONAL STUDENT-ATHLETES

The following student-athletes have accepted admission to the University of Nebraska and plan to join the Husker football program as walk-ons in the fall.

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (High School)
Mike Caputo	C/LS	6-1	265	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
Austin Cassidy	DB	6-1	205	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
Taylor Escamilla	DL	6-1	275	Fremont, Neb. (Archbishop Bergan)
Ben Franzluebbers	DL	6-5	245	Dodge, Neb. (Dodge)
Thomas Grove	RB/LB	6-2	190	Arlington, Neb. (Arlington)
Mike Hays	FB/LB	6-1	210	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-LaVista)
Cory Iske	OL	6-2	260	Omaha, Neb. (Millard West)
Ben Lester	WR	5-10	160	Tecumseh, Neb. (Tecumseh)
Luke Lingenfelter	DE	6-4	240	Plainview, Neb. (Plainview)
Jay Martin	LB	6-2	210	Waverly, Neb. (Waverly)
Mike Masin	OL	6-6	320	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
Matthew May	FS/RB	6-1	195	Imperial, Neb. (Chase County)
Jeff Sayre	LB	6-3	210	Barrington, Ill. (Barrington)
Kevin Thomsen	FB/DL	6-2	245	Elkhorn, Neb. (Elkhorn)
Lance Thorell	RB/DB	6-1	180	Loomis, Neb. (Loomis)
Ethan Valburg	OL	6-2	265	Fullerton, Calif. (Troy)

**MIKE CAPUTO**

C/LS, 6-1, 265, OMAHA, NEB. (MILLARD NORTH HS)

Mike Caputo joins Nebraska as a center and long snapper, after a career as an outstanding two-way player for Millard North High School. Caputo helped Millard North reach four straight Class A state semifinals (2003-06) including winning the title in 2005. For his efforts in 2006, Caputo was named to the Class A all-state team by both the Lincoln Journal Star and the Omaha World-Herald. Caputo received offers from several Division II schools, as well as being asked to walk-on at a handful of Division I schools before deciding on Nebraska.

**AUSTIN CASSIDY**

DB, 6-1, 205, LINCOLN, NEB. (LINCOLN SOUTHWEST HS)

Austin Cassidy was a standout performer for Coach Mark King at Lincoln Southwest High School, and is projected as a defensive back for the Huskers. He was a first-team Super State pick by the Lincoln Journal Star and a second-team All-Nebraska selection by the Omaha World-Herald. Cassidy compiled a 14-1 record as the Silverhawks' starting quarterback, including a perfect regular season in 2006. The 6-1, 205-pound Cassidy rushed for 1,507 yards as a senior, averaging a Class A best 8.3 yards per carry, with eight runs of 40 or more yards. A captain on the football team, Cassidy was also a track standout. He qualified for the state meet in the pole vault, the 110- and 300-meter hurdles in his junior and senior seasons, and was the Class A gold medalist in the pole vault as a junior. Cassidy also attracted recruiting interest from Northwestern, Air Force, Buffalo, Princeton, Cornell, South Dakota, Northern Colorado and UNO. He is the son of NU Associate Athletic Director for Football Operations Tim Cassidy.

**TAYLOR ESCAMILLA**

DL, 6-1, 275, FREMONT, NEB. (ARCHBISHOP BERGAN HS)

Taylor Escamilla was a two-way star on the offensive line and defensive line for Archbishop Bergan High School in Fremont, Neb. Escamilla's play helped his team to a 9-2 record in 2006, and a trip to the Class C2 state quarterfinals. Escamilla was the honorary captain of the Lincoln Journal Star's Class C2 all-state team as an offensive lineman. His dominance on both sides of the ball was evident by him being named the honorary captain of the Omaha World-Herald's Class C2 all-state defensive unit. The World-Herald also named him a second-team All-Nebraska pick on defense after a senior year in which he had 63 tackles, five sacks and 23 tackles for loss. Escamilla turned down scholarship offers from several smaller schools to walk on at Nebraska.

**BEN FRANZLUEBBERS**

DL, 6-5, 245, DODGE, NEB. (DODGE HS)

Ben Franzluebbbers was a first-team Class D2 all-state selection by both the Omaha World-Herald and the Lincoln Journal Star. He was also the honorary captain of the Class D2 defensive unit by both papers. Franzluebbbers helped Dodge to a 12-1 record and the Class D2 state championship. In the 28-20 state title win over Stapleton, Franzluebbbers caught a touchdown pass and added a sack and two fumble recoveries on defense. For the season, Franzluebbbers caught 24 passes and scored 12 touchdowns on offense, while registering 110 tackles, five sacks and six fumble recoveries on defense. Franzluebbbers was also a member of the track team and won the 2007 Class D shot put title.

**THOMAS GROVE**

RB/LB, 6-2, 190, ARLINGTON, NEB. (ARLINGTON HS)

Thomas Grove was a two-way standout for Coach Steven Gubbels at Arlington High School. Grove helped Arlington to an 8-2 record and a trip to the second round of the Class C1 state playoffs. Grove rushed for 1,133 yards and 17 touchdowns for the Eagles as a running back. On defense, he recorded 29 tackles, two sacks and a pair of fumble recoveries from his linebacker spot. For his efforts, Grove was an honorable-mention Class C1 all-state pick by the Omaha World-Herald.

**MIKE HAYS**

FB/LB, 6-1, 210, PAPILLION, NEB. (PAPILLION LA VISTA HS)

Mike Hays is expected to play fullback or linebacker for Nebraska, although he did not play fullback in high school at Papillion La Vista. Hays has only played organized football for two years, but he stood out as a defensive end and wide receiver in high school. He received honorable-mention all-state, first-team all-district and second team all-metro honors as a senior. Hays had scholarship offers to several Division II schools before choosing the Huskers.

**CORY ISKE**

OL, 6-2, 260, OMAHA, NEB. (MILLARD WEST HS)

Cory Iske is expected to begin on the offensive line at Nebraska. The 6-2, 260-pound prospect was a key performer up front for Millard West over the past two years, including helping the Wildcats to a Class A state semifinal appearance in 2005 as a junior.

**BEN LESTER**

WR, 5-10, 160, TECUMSEH, NEB. (TECUMSEH HS)

Ben Lester joins Nebraska as a wide receiver following an outstanding senior season as a wideout/defensive back for Tecumseh High School. The 5-10, 160-pound Lester was named to the Lincoln Journal Star's Class C2 all-state team as an athlete in 2006, while he garnered honorable-mention honors from the Omaha World-Herald. Lester is the grandson of former long-time Husker offensive line coach Milt Tenopir.

**LUKE LINGENFELTER**

DE, 6-4, 240, PLAINVIEW, NEB. (PLAINVIEW HS)

Luke Lingenfelter earned first-team Class C2 all-state accolades from both the Lincoln Journal Star (offensive line) and Omaha World-Herald (defensive line) in 2006. The 6-4, 240-pound Lingenfelter helped Plainview High School earn a state playoff appearance as a senior. As a junior, Lingenfelter helped Plainview to the Class C2 state title, earning all-state honors. Lingenfelter threw the discus and shot put for Plainview, and won the silver medal in the 2007 Class C discus throw. His cousin, Newton Lingenfelter, recently finished his Husker career as an offensive lineman in 2006.

**JAY MARTIN**

LB, 6-2, 210, WAVERLY, NEB. (WAVERLY HS)

Jay Martin is a second-generation Husker who will begin his NU career as a linebacker. The son of 1975 Husker All-American Bob Martin, Jay is also the cousin of current Husker linebacker Bo Ruud. Martin was a standout multi-sport performer for Waverly High School, where he earned first-team Class B all-state honors as a defensive lineman from the Lincoln Journal Star. Martin, who was selected to play in the 2007 Shrine Bowl, also qualified for the state track meet in the hurdles. His older brother, Lee, recently completed his track career with the Huskers.

**MIKE MASIN**

OL, 6-6, 320, LINCOLN, NEB. (SOUTHEAST HS)

Mike Masin earned honorable-mention Class A all-state honors from both the Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha World-Herald while playing for Lincoln Southeast High School in 2006. The 6-7, 320-pound offensive line prospect led the way up front for the Knights as a senior, one year after a Class A playoff appearance by Southeast in 2005. Masin also received interest from Colorado State, Illinois, Iowa State, Kansas and Ohio. Masin was also a standout for the Knight basketball team, ranking among the leaders in the state in field-goal percentage and averaging nearly a double-double per contest.

**MATTHEW MAY**

FS/RB, 6-1, 195, IMPERIAL, NEB. (CHASE COUNTY HS)

Matthew May joins the Huskers following a standout senior season at linebacker in 2006 for Chase County High School. May is projected as a safety or running back prospect for the Huskers. May tallied 104 tackles and four interceptions as a senior to earn Class C1 all-state honors from both the Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha World-Herald. He was also the team's leading rusher with nearly 1,400 yards and 21 touchdowns, as the Longhorns reached the Class C1 state quarterfinals one year after an appearance in the state championship game. May ran the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes for the Chase County track team, as well as a leg on the 4x400 relay team, which finished with a silver medal in Class B at the state track meet in 2007.

**JEFF SAYRE**

LB, 6-3, 210, BARRINGTON, ILL. (BARRINGTON HS)

Jeff Sayre averaged 12 tackles per game for Barrington High School as a senior, when his team made it to the final eight in the Class 8A state championships. The 6-3, 210-pound Sayre is expected to play inside linebacker for Nebraska. Sayre received interest from Arkansas, Northern Illinois, Northern Iowa and Division II schools, but decided to spend his college career in Lincoln.

**KEVIN THOMSEN**

FB/DL, 6-2, 245, ELKHORN, NEB. (ELKHORN HS)

Kevin Thomsen, a first-team Class B all-state selection by the Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star, had a standout senior season for Elkhorn High School, helping the Antlers to a 12-1 record and Class B runner-up finish. Thomsen recorded 61 tackles, including a pair of sacks, and four interceptions from his defensive line position, while he also rushed for 223 yards and three touchdowns. Thomsen also earned first-team All-Omaha area accolades from the World-Herald. Thomsen threw the discus and shot put for the Elkhorn track team.

**LANCE THORELL**

RB/DB, 6-1, 180, LOOMIS, NEB. (LOOMIS HS)

Lance Thorell, a standout on both sides of the ball for Loomis High School, helped lead the Wolves to the Class D1 state quarterfinals in 2006. Thorell earned first-team Class D1 all-state honors at defensive back from the Lincoln Journal Star after totaling 118 tackles and four interceptions as a senior. He added more than 1,000 yards rushing and 22 touchdowns while also playing running back for Loomis. Thorell also excelled on the track as a member of Loomis' Class D state champion track team. He set the state Class D record in the 110-meter hurdles on his way to a gold medal at the state track meet, as well as taking home the gold in the 300-meter hurdles. He also placed in the long jump and 400 meter dash at the 2007 state track meet.

**ETHAN VALBURG**

OL, 6-2, 265, FULLERTON, CALIF. (TROY HS)

Ethan Valburg was an all-section selection for Troy High School in Fullerton, Calif., as an offensive lineman. The 6-2, 265-pound Valburg was also named as a participant in the Orange County North-South Prep All-Star game as a senior.