



#9 >>>

MADISON DRAKE

» FRESHMAN » OUTFIELDER » LINCOLN, NEB. » LINCOLN SOUTHWEST » BATS: RIGHT » THROWS: RIGHT

Drake's Outlook

The lone Lincoln product among the Huskers' four freshmen from Nebraska, Madison Drake will have the benefit of learning from a veteran outfield this season. The first Lincoln Southwest graduate in NU history, Drake will continue to develop her overall game while making the switch from the infield to the outfield. Her transition will be aided by a deep and talented outfield that returns every starter from the past two seasons.

Drake was a consensus first-team all-state selection regardless of class in her senior season when she helped lead the Silverhawks to a runner-up finish at the state tournament. Drake possesses a solid offensive game, as she hit .434 as Southwest's starting shortstop as a senior, while stealing 31 bases and driving in 35 runs.

Before Nebraska

Drake is the first Husker product ever from Lincoln Southwest High School, which opened in the fall of 2002 ... earned first-team Super State honors from the Lincoln Journal Star and first-team All-Nebraska honors from the Omaha World-Herald as a senior after guiding the Silverhawks to a state runner-up finish ... one of four incoming freshmen named to both the Super State and All-Nebraska first teams in 2007 ... Southwest's starting shortstop, hitting .434 as a senior, finishing 53-for-122 ... added 13 doubles, two home runs, 31 stolen bases and 35 RBIs ... as a junior, Drake batted .320 with four triples and 23 RBIs ... also saw time in the circle at Southwest, finishing with a 1.76 ERA in 2007 and a 1.80 ERA in 2006.



#7 >>>

JAMIE GAY

» FRESHMAN » INFIELDER » BEATRICE, NEB. » BEATRICE » BATS: RIGHT » THROWS: RIGHT

Gay's Outlook

The last member to join Nebraska's five-player freshman class, Jamie Gay has a bright future ahead of her as a Husker. A native of Beatrice, Neb., Gay is expected to push for playing time at third base, although Heidi Foland returns to anchor the position following a solid freshman season in 2008.

Labeled as a poised and competitive player by Head Coach Rhonda Revelle, Gay set Beatrice High School records for average, hits and doubles as a senior when she batted .495 with 16 doubles. For her efforts, she was named to the All-Nebraska first team by the Omaha World-Herald and to the Lincoln Journal Star Super State first team, after earning second-team honors as a junior.

Before Nebraska

Gay is the sixth Beatrice native to join the Husker program ... was named a first-team infielder on the Lincoln Journal Star's Super State team and on the Omaha World-

Herald's All-Nebraska team ... one of four incoming freshmen named to both the Super State and All-Nebraska first teams in 2007 ... as a senior, batted .495 with 16 doubles, two home runs and 30 RBIs ... set Beatrice High School records for average, hits and doubles ... ranked second in Class B in hits and doubles, fifth in average and sixth in RBIs ... helped lead Beatrice to a runner-up finish at the state tournament, where Gay lost to four-time state champion Elkhorn, led by fellow Husker freshmen Ashley Hagemann and Nikki Haget ... in the championship game, Gay gave the Lady Orange an early lead by hitting a first-inning home run off Hagemann ... in her junior season, was a second-team Super State selection while batting .444 ... was also a standout on the tennis court ... went 19-1 with her lone loss coming in the state finals of the Class B No. 1 doubles tournament ... was Beatrice's No. 1 singles player as a freshman, sophomore and junior ... went 24-5 and advanced to the quarterfinals of the state tournament as a junior ... was 30-7 with a fourth-place state finish as a sophomore ... advanced to the second round of the Class B state tournament as a freshman.



#8

ASHLEY HAGEMANN

» FRESHMAN » PITCHER » ELKHORN, NEB. » ELKHORN » BATS: RIGHT » THROWS: RIGHT

Hagemann's Outlook

The two-time Nebraska Gatorade Player of the Year, Ashley Hagemann (pronounced HAH-guh-munn) is expected to be the most significant immediate contributor among NU's five-player freshman class. A talented hitter and pitcher, Hagemann will see time in the circle and is also a candidate to compete for the starting designated player spot.

A native of Elkhorn, Neb., Hagemann set Nebraska Class B state records offensively and defensively during her stellar prep career, as her 1,088 career strikeouts and her 50 RBIs as a junior were both state records. A talented athlete, Hagemann saw limited action during the fall season while recovering from a thumb injury.

Before Nebraska

Hagemann was the Nebraska Gatorade Player of the Year as a junior and senior, becoming only the third repeat selection ever ... was a three-time first-team Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska selection and served as the honorary captain as a junior

and senior ... was a three-time Lincoln Journal Star Super State selection, earning second-team honors as a sophomore, before earning first-team accolades her final two seasons and getting the nod as honorary captain as a senior ... one of four incoming freshmen named to both the Super State and All-Nebraska first teams in 2007 ... set the Class B state record with 1,088 career strikeouts and also set the Class B record by striking out 20 in a seven-inning game as a senior ... also produced a state-record 50 RBIs as a junior ... was a four-time state champion at Elkhorn High School ... led the Antlers to a Class B state record 30-1 finish in her senior campaign ... in the circle, Hagemann went 25-1 with a 0.38 ERA and posted 346 strikeouts in 163.2 innings ... her ERA was the lowest in the state, while her 25 wins and 346 strikeouts both led Class B and ranked second in the state, according to the World-Herald ... at the plate, hit .536 (37-for-69), with 10 doubles, six home runs and 37 RBIs ... led Class B in homers and ranked second in RBIs ... average ranked second in Class B to teammate and fellow Husker freshman Nikki Haget, according to the World-Herald.



#55

NIKKI HAGET

» FRESHMAN » INFIELDER » ELKHORN, NEB. » ELKHORN » BATS: LEFT » THROWS: RIGHT

Haget's Outlook

Nikki Haget's speed and instincts will make her a tough player to keep off the field in 2009, despite her rookie status. Haget ran Nebraska's second-fastest 40-yard dash time to senior Meghan Mullin following the Huskers' fall season. One of two freshmen from Elkhorn, Neb., Haget will be a key pinch-runner for Nebraska this year in addition to working predominantly in the infield on defense, but also in the outfield.

Haget's adjustment to the Division I level has been aided by her natural athleticism, as well as her knowledge of the game. She boasted a 4.0 cumulative grade-point average at Elkhorn High School, while earning consensus first-team all-state honors regardless of class. In her final season for the Antlers, Haget hit .550 while leading class B with 55 hits and 43 runs while teaming with fellow Husker freshman Ashley Hagemann to lead Elkhorn to its fourth consecutive state championship.

Before Nebraska

Haget joined fellow NU freshman Ashley Hagemann as a four-time state champion at Elkhorn High School ... was named a two-time first-team All-Nebraska selection from the Omaha World-Herald and also earned first-team Super State honors in her final two seasons from the Lincoln Journal Star ... one of four incoming freshmen named to both the Super State and All-Nebraska first teams in 2007 ... as a senior in 2007, led Class B and ranked second in the state with a .550 average (55-for-100), according to the World-Herald ... her 55 hits also led Class B and ranked second in the state, while she scored a Class B-high 43 runs ... added five doubles and three triples for the Antlers ... was also known for her work in the classroom, as she carried a 4.0 grade-point average ... chose Nebraska after also considering Iowa, Iowa State, Texas A&M and Creighton.



#52

KIRBY WRIGHT

» FRESHMAN » CATCHER » CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. » HENDRICK HUDSON » BATS: RIGHT » THROWS: RIGHT

Wright's Outlook

The lone out-of-state product among Nebraska's five-player freshman class, Kirby Wright will battle for a spot in the Huskers' deep and talented rotation at catcher. Despite her freshman status, Wright worked as Nebraska's No. 2 catcher during the fall behind two-time junior college All-American Amanda Duran. A strong defensive catcher, Wright gives NU a solid backup option as each of the Huskers' returning catchers have been hampered by injuries in their careers.

In addition to her work behind the plate, Wright is continuing to develop offensively. She was a three-time third-team Class A all-state selection for Hendrick Hudson High School in New York. Wright batted .436 as a junior and hit .392 as a senior with a .500 on-base percentage.

Before Nebraska

The only out-of-state member of NU's freshman class, Wright attended Hendrick Hudson High School in Montrose, N.Y. ... is just the second Husker ever from the Empire State, and the first in the NCAA era, dating back to 1982 ... named a three-time third-team Class A all-state selection in the state's second-largest class from the New York Sportswriters Association ... in her senior season, batted .392 and posted a .500 on-base percentage ... tallied 24 RBIs in only 24 games ... produced seven multi-hit games and six multi-RBI contests ... behind the plate, Wright helped the Sailor staff post an ERA below 1.00 ... as a junior, batted .436 (41-for-94) with 12 doubles, two home runs, 38 RBIs and 23 runs scored in only 28 games ... her 38 RBIs were the third most in the area, while her play helped the Sailors win their first Class A section title and advance to the state semifinals, while finishing with a 27-2 record ... recorded 11 multi-hit games to go along with eight multi-RBI efforts ... chose Nebraska over Syracuse and Pittsburgh, as her mother is originally from Lincoln and her father is originally from Dunbar.

FUTURE HUSKERS

Last November, Nebraska signed five players who will join the Huskers for the 2010 season. The class includes players from Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon and Texas.

"We are very pleased about our 2009 signing class," Revelle said. "This group is talented, intelligent and versatile. In addition, they are all high-character individuals and will be great additions to our Nebraska softball program."

Gabby Banda, INF (Angleton, Texas/Angleton HS/Texas Sudden Impact Gold)

Gabby Banda played her high school ball for Angleton High School, where she not only excelled on the softball diamond, but also on the basketball court.

Banda, who will complete her prep career this spring, was a 2007 All-Brazoria County first-team selection. Banda also earned first-team all-county honors in 2006 and she is a two-time all-district first-team selection. Banda was named the Brazoria County newcomer of the year in both softball and basketball for the 2005-06 season.

Kylee Muir, INF (Portland, Ore./Lincoln HS/Northwest Bullets Gold)

One of the top power-hitting prospects in the country, Kylee Muir hit 12 home runs in the summer of 2007 while playing for the Northwest Bullets, an elite travel ball team coached by her father, Dennis. Muir plays her prep ball for Lincoln High School in Portland, Ore.

Entering her senior season in 2009, Muir has already earned numerous honors. She is a three-time all-state selection, earning Class 4A honorable-mention accolades as a freshman, before garnering second-team honors in 2007 and third-team honors last season in Class 6A, Oregon's largest classification. Muir is also a three-time, first-team All-Portland Interscholastic League selection, earning co-Most Valuable Player honors in 2007. As a junior, Muir led Oregon's largest class with a slugging percentage of 1.222 and an on-base percentage of .711.

Keela Scott, INF (Liberty, Mo./Liberty HS/KC Zephyrs Gold)

Keela Scott was a standout on the field and in the classroom for Liberty High School. She was a four-year letterwinner on the diamond, although an injury forced her to miss her senior season last fall. Before the injury, Scott started as a freshman, sophomore and junior. She was a first-team all-district and second-team all-conference selection in both 2006 and 2007.

In the classroom, Scott ranks first in her class of 672 students. She is a member of the National Honor Society and was awarded the Presidential Education Award.

Megan Southworth, C (Papillion, Neb./Papillion LaVista HS/Omaha Select)

Megan Southworth recently completed her senior season for Papillion LaVista High School. Southworth helped lead the Monarchs to a runner-up finish at the 2008 state tournament after winning state titles in 2006 and 2007.

Playing in the state's largest class, Southworth was a consensus Class A first-team all-state selection in both 2007 and 2008. She also earned first-team All-Nebraska and first-team Super State honors both seasons from the Omaha World-Herald and the Lincoln Journal Star, respectively. As a senior, Southworth batted .422 with 11 doubles, two home runs and 29 RBIs.

Brooke Thomason, OF (Overland Park, Kan./Blue Valley Northwest HS/KC Peppers)

Entering her senior season in 2009, Brooke Thomason has already put together a solid prep career for Blue Valley Northwest. As a junior in 2008, Thomason batted .470 to earn first-team all-metro, All-East Kansas League and All-Star Johnson County Sun honors.

As a sophomore in 2007, Thomason finished with a .527 average and 24 RBIs. As a junior, Thomason was also honored with first-team selections to the All-EKL, All-Star Johnson County Sun and all-metro squads. A three-time letterwinner, Thomason was Northwest's MVP as a junior and she has been the team's offensive player of the year in each of her first three seasons.

GETTING TO KNOW MADISON

Madison Smith Drake was born on July 12, 1990, in Norwalk, Conn. Her parents are James and Gretchen Drake and Madison has one brother, Harrison (15). Madison is a business administration major.

The most influential person in my softball career would be hands down my amazing mother! My mother has been my coach in every sport I've played growing up as a kid. My mother started a travel softball team when I was nine years old, which I played my entire club career on. I owe everything from the passion for the game to all of my skills to my mother. I have been so lucky to have her teach me many great things about softball and life.

My best moment in softball was on my 18th birthday. The first game of the day I hit a grand slam and in the following game I hit a walk-off home run. When I crossed the plate in the second game my entire team and everyone in the stands were singing "Happy Birthday".

I wear jersey No. 9, because my mother wore No. 9 when she played softball growing up and in college.

Five Things You May Not Know About Me

- 1) I was born in Norwalk, Conn.
- 2) I have two different colored eyes.
- 3) My middle name is Smith.
- 4) I have dedicated every game I have played since I was 10 to my Grandpa Smith, who I am an exact replica of. From the day I turned 15, I have added dedicating all games to both my grandpa and cousin Guy.
- 5) I can pick out someone in almost every movie who was in the movie Beethoven.





GETTING TO KNOW JAMIE

Jamie Leigh Gay was born on June 19, 1990, in Beatrice, Neb. She is the daughter of Craig and Sheryl Gay. Jamie has two sisters, Megan (23) and Michelle (22) and one brother, David (17). Jamie is a pre-nursing major.

I started playing softball because my two older sisters played and my parents also played.
It's a family thing.

My coach, Dennis Dodge, has been the most influential person in my career because he was the coach that got me started and was my high school coach as well.

My best moment in softball so far was getting a phone call from Coach Revelle, because I have always wanted to be a Husker.

Five Things You May Not Know About Me

- 1) I have scoliosis.
- 2) I was a cheerleader captain in high school.
- 3) I have never been on an airplane.
- 4) I was the state runner-up in tennis.
- 5) I don't like cats.

GETTING TO KNOW ASHLEY

Ashley Nicole Hagemann is the daughter of Al and Sandy Hagemann, and was born on March 7, 1990, in Omaha, Neb. Ashley has one sister, Megan (16), and one brother, A.J. (9). Ashley is an elementary education major.

My parents are the most influential people in my softball career because my mom was the first to teach me how to pitch and she coached me at a very young age. My dad has caught me for many years and has spent a lot of hours on that bucket.

My best moment in softball so far would be winning state four years in a row in high school, especially my sophomore year when six of us started and nobody thought we could do it.

Softball is my favorite sport because as a pitcher I have a lot of control. Basketball was more of a 'work together or the plays won't work' sport, but being a pitcher gives me that sense of power. The feelings that I can prevent this girl walking up to the plate from getting a hit or I can make her miss that ball to get an out, that feeling right there is such an adrenaline rush.

Five Things You May Not Know About Me

- 1) My mom taught me how to pitch.
- 2) I have never broken a bone in my body.
- 3) I have never had a cavity.
- 4) I like to shower before every game.
- 5) I have a fear of public speaking.





GETTING TO KNOW NIKKI

Nicole Danielle Haget is the daughter of Hector and Debbie Haget, and was born on March 9, 1990, in Houston, Texas. She has two brothers, Kyle (15) and Daniel (9).

Nikki is undecided on a major.

I used to be very into dancing and gymnastics but the day my dad introduced me to tee-ball everything changed. I played on a co-ed tee-ball team when I was five and played in the pitcher spot. Dance and gymnastics then became “girly” sports and I lost all interest. That was the beginning of my softball career.

I would definitely have to say winning state four years in a row in high school was the best moment in my softball career so far. The feeling of adrenaline running through you in those championship games is indescribable, and I can't wait to get that feeling again throughout the next few years.

I have always been No. 55 since the very first day I started playing competitive softball. When my dad played football, he was No. 55 so I decided I wanted to keep the tradition alive. I always looked up to him when I was younger so I thought it was a very appropriate choice.

Five Things You May Not Know About Me

- 1) I am 50 percent Cuban, but I don't speak Spanish very well.
- 2) Ashley Hagemann and I have been playing softball together since we were 8.
- 3) I have a great grandpa who is 102 years old.
- 4) When I was a toddler I was a magazine model.
- 5) I am currently learning how to play guitar.

GETTING TO KNOW KIRBY

Kirby Wright is the daughter of Brad and Leslie Wright and was born on Feb. 15, 1990, in Olathe, Kan. Kirby has one sister, Maggie (21). Kirby is an animal science major.

I started playing softball because there was a travel team near me called the Hudson River Bandits and my friends played there as well as my older sister. So I went to try out and I loved it ever since.

My best moment in softball was two years ago in high school when my team won the section for the first time in school history and we then went on to state.

In eighth grade I decided I wanted to play softball in college, so I quit playing volleyball and only concentrated on softball.

Five Things You May Not Know About Me

- 1) I was named after Kirby Puckett because he was my parents' favorite baseball player while they lived in Minneapolis.
- 2) I was born in Olathe, Kan.
- 3) I grew up in New York just outside of NYC.
- 4) I played the oboe for four years.
- 5) I was the bass drummer for the band in a parade when I was a freshman.



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