

# O'Shea Relishes Role on Team



Mark O'Shea, LB

**By Marcus Dawson, Nebraska Media Relations**

Mark O'Shea did not take the usual path to Lincoln that most players follow when joining the Husker football team.

Many players come to Nebraska after high school and spend five years in the program, as his older brother Matt did. Not Mark.

After a solid prep career when he earned two letters as a track athlete and a middle linebacker at Jesuit College Prep in Dallas, Texas, the younger O'Shea chose to go far from home and begin his college career at Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y.

After two years playing middle linebacker and spending time on special teams, O'Shea joined his brother after transferring to Nebraska. They became the second brother combination on the squad that season.

"I wanted to play football with Matt," O'Shea said. "After I came here to visit in 2001 when Nebraska and Eric Crouch crushed Oklahoma, I knew I wanted to come here. So I just waited for an opportunity. It's part of a dream."

O'Shea is used to playing all over the field throughout his athletic career. In high school, he was named the school's top athlete, and then went on to play at Iona. After coming to the Cornhusker state, O'Shea has seen his time on the field change drastically.

Although a lack of playing time would be frustrating to most people, O'Shea looks for other ways to contribute to the team, such as playing on the scout team.

"Not playing was tough at first, but I knew it would be tough coming in here," O'Shea said. "Everyone has a role on the team and if I can give our team a better look in practice by playing on the scout team, then that's my role for the team."

As a senior, he has taken on more of a leadership role. He has only been a Husker for two years, but O'Shea finds himself helping the younger players with their assignments.

"I have to make sure guys are pumped up every day in practice to make sure we give the offense a better look," O'Shea said.

Most of O'Shea's time is devoted to football, but he has also managed to excel in the classroom by being named to the Big 12 Spring Academic Honor Roll each year he has been in Lincoln. He carries a 3.026 grade-point average. A finance major, O'Shea knows he will not play football forever and would eventually like to begin a career in coaching.

"I have to go on in life, and hopefully football is going to be a part of my life," O'Shea said of his future endeavors. "I want to coach on the collegiate level. I want to start like my coaches started, and I want to work hard and eventually get to a great program with great tradition and win a national championship."

The senior has also taken time out of his busy schedule to volunteer for the Lincoln Action Program and the "School is Cool" week. As a football player in a state where children revere the scarlet and cream, O'Shea realizes he can be a positive force in children's lives.

"It's good to be a role model for kids and show them football is not everything," O'Shea said. "I tell kids that education is important to succeed in life."

O'Shea is thankful for the opportunity to don the scarlet and cream. He is living his dream of playing for a prestigious program and had a chance to suit up with his older brother, if only for one year. When he looks back at his Husker career, one moment stood out over the others.

"Walking out onto the field for the first time for the spring game my first year here was awesome," O'Shea said. "It was great to be able run out with my brother and be suited up. It's the best program in the nation and I'm thankful for the opportunity to play here."

# NEBRASKA

## 2006-07 BASKETBALL

**Men's Home Schedule**

11/6	Nebraska-Kearney (exh.)	7 p.m.
11/11	Southern Illinois-Edwardsville (exh.)	7 p.m.
11/14	Nebraska-Omaha	7 p.m.
11/18	Creighton	7 p.m.
11/21	Lubbock Christian	7 p.m.
11/27	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	7 p.m.
11/29	North Texas	7 p.m.
12/17	Alabama A&M	1 p.m.
1/3	Savannah State	7 p.m.
1/6	Western Kentucky	7 p.m.
1/13	Oklahoma State	12:30 p.m.
1/20	Colorado	5 p.m.
1/24	Texas	7 p.m.
1/29	Kansas	8 p.m.
2/10	Texas A&M	7 p.m.
2/13	Kansas State	7 p.m.
2/24	Missouri	12:30 p.m.
2/28	Iowa State	7 p.m.

**Women's Home Schedule**

11/1	Nebraska-Kearney (exh.)	7:05 p.m.
11/4	Nebraska-Omaha (exh.)	4:05 p.m.
11/17	Cal State Fullerton	7:05 p.m.
11/28	Texas-Pan American	7:05 p.m.
12/5	Minnesota	7:05 p.m.
12/9	Michigan	7:05 p.m.
12/16	Northwestern	4:05 p.m.
12/21	Nicholls State	7:05 p.m.
1/6	Oklahoma	2:05 p.m.
1/17	Kansas State	7:05 p.m.
1/27	Kansas	7:05 p.m.
1/31	Iowa State	7:05 p.m.
2/3	Baylor	2:30 p.m.
2/14	Texas Tech	7:05 p.m.
2/17	Missouri	7:05 p.m.
2/27	Colorado	7:05 p.m.

\*All game times subject to change. Nebraska men's and women's games played at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.  
For tickets, visit Huskers.com or call the NU Ticket Office at (402) 472-3111 or (800) 8-BIGRED