

ROSS WATSON

GRADUATE ASSISTANT
(DEFENSE)



Ross Watson is in his second season as a graduate assistant coach with the Nebraska defensive staff. In his first year in Lincoln, Watson assisted in a dramatic Cornhusker defensive resurgence. Nebraska ranked second in the Big 12 in total defense in 2008, and improved its per game average by more than 125 yards.

Watson joined the Huskers after spending two seasons as the cornerbacks coach at his alma mater, Division III powerhouse Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio. During Watson's two years on the Purple Raider staff, Mount Union posted a 29-1 record and won the 2006 national championship, before finishing as the Division III runner-up in 2007.

In 2007, Watson assisted with a defense that posted seven shutouts, including six straight at one point in the season. Mount Union held opponents to just 173.7 total yards per game and intercepted 17 passes during the season. In 2006, the Raider defense was just as strong, allowing just 186.0 yards per game and earning four shutouts during a 15-0 season. Mount Union also intercepted 22 passes during their 2006 championship run.

The 25-year-old Watson was a four-year letterwinner (2002-05) for Mount Union before joining the coaching staff. He started for each of his final three years at cornerback and earned first-team All-Ohio Athletic Conference and first-team AFCA All-America honors as a senior in 2005. Watson led the team with nine interceptions as a senior, just one shy of the school record. In his career, Watson totaled 146 tackles, 14 interceptions and 29 pass breakups.

A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Watson graduated from Mount Union in 2006 with a degree in business administration. He is pursuing a master's degree in education administration at Nebraska.

CURT BALDUS

GRADUATE ASSISTANT
(OFFENSE)



Curt Baldus rejoined the Husker coaching staff in January 2008 and is in his second season as an offensive graduate assistant coach. Baldus previously worked in the Cornhusker program as an offensive intern from February 2006 to January 2007.

The Husker offense was one of the nation's best in 2008. Nebraska finished 12th nationally in total offense and also ranked in the top 20 in passing offense and scoring offense. Quarterback Joe Ganz set Nebraska season records for passing yards and total offensive yards.

Baldus rejoined the Huskers after one season at the University of Buffalo where he served as a graduate assistant under head coach Turner Gill. He assisted with the coaching of the offensive line, kickers and punters. In 2007, Buffalo was MAC East Co-Champions and Baldus coached Ben Woods, who finished in the top 10 nationally in Ray Guy Award voting. Baldus was also in charge of opponent scouting reports, film breakdown and on-campus recruiting.

In his previous time with the Huskers as an intern, Baldus worked on film break-down, drawing offensive plays for weekly game plans and development of opponent scouting reports.

While at St. Cloud State University from July 2002 to December 2004 as a graduate assistant, Baldus helped with aspects of the offense and worked with kickers, punters and strength and conditioning. He helped St. Cloud State to a North Central Conference Co-Championship in 2002.

Baldus is well-traveled in the college ranks, working in athletic departments at Oklahoma State and Gustavus Adolphus College.

Baldus' playing career started at Chaska High School in Minnesota where he excelled in football as a three-year starter while earning honorable-mention All-Metro honors in 1996 and all-conference accolades in 1997 as a quarterback. Baldus then moved onto Gustavus Adolphus where he played defensive back, outside linebacker and kicker. He earned all-conference honors as a kicker and was a District Five Verizon All-Academic Team member in 2001.

Baldus earned his master's in both physical science and sport management from St. Cloud State University.

WINCE MORRIS

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
FOOTBALL OPERATIONS



Wince Morris is in his fourth year with the Nebraska football program and serves as the assistant director of football operations. Morris plays a large role in organizing team travel, and is part of the Huskers' advance travel group. He assists Assistant Athletic Director Jeff Jamrog with all aspects of football operations, including playing a key role in Nebraska's summer camps. He also assists with on-campus recruiting, among other assigned duties.

Morris came to the Huskers after working nine months in private business in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area. Morris worked in the commercial capital division at National City Bank in Cincinnati before joining the Huskers, after spending four years as a litigation paralegal at Manley, Burke in Cincinnati. A 1997 graduate of Miami (Ohio), Morris played football for the RedHawks before earning a degree in sociology; thematic sequence - political science public law in 1997.

Morris was married to the former Kristina Teague in July.

MEGAN ROGERS

COORDINATOR OF
ON-CAMPUS RECRUITING



Megan Rogers is in her second year as coordinator of on-campus recruiting for the Nebraska football program. She is responsible for organizing and managing all aspects of the day-to-day operations of the recruiting department, including organizing all official and unofficial visits. She has played a key role in the facilities improvements projects for recruiting in the football offices.

Rogers came to Nebraska after spending the 2007 season as the director of football administration at Colorado. Rogers, who was just the second woman to hold that title at Colorado, was in charge of organizing all aspects of team travel, serving as the liaison with the players' parents and support groups, aiding in the coordination of CU's football camps, coordinating travel for Head Coach Dan Hawkins and both coordinators and serving on various athletic committees. Overall, Rogers spent four seasons in the CU athletic department.

Rogers earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Colorado in 2002. She spent five years as a student equipment manager for the Buffaloes' football team.

AARYN KEARNEY

FOOTBALL RECRUITING
STAFF ASSISTANT



Aaryn Kearney joined the Nebraska football office on a full-time basis in February of 2009 as a recruiting staff assistant. Kearney assists in coordinating the recruiting process for the coaching staff including correspondence to prospects and coaches and organizing NCAA compliance records pertaining to recruiting activities and campus visits. Kearney had worked in the recruiting office as a student worker for the previous year before his full-time appointment.

A native of Auburn, Neb., Kearney has been associated with the Husker football program since 2003, serving as a football student manager for five seasons. Kearney served as the head student manager during the 2007 season and was awarded the Tom and Terri Burnell Student Manager Scholarship that year. In addition to assisting the coaching staff in his role as a manager, Kearney was also actively involved with the Big Red Football School and coaching clinics.

Kearney graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in December of 2008 with a bachelor's degree in communication studies.

MIKE NOBLER

VIDEO COORDINATOR



Mike Nobler is in his first year on the Nebraska staff where he serves as football video director. Nobler's primary responsibility lies in overseeing Nebraska's 36-client XOS coaching video network that is utilized by the whole football coaching staff on a near-daily basis. Along with a video staff of seven, Nobler implements the video system for the day-to-day use by coaches, including the taping and editing of practice and games along with opponent video breakdowns.

Nobler previously spent two years as a field representative for the maker of the Huskers' current video system, XOSTechnologies. He provided on-site support, installations of all software and hardware as well as staff training on the video system in college football and basketball and NFL video departments. Nobler also provided maintenance and troubleshooting for technical issues in the Windows-based programs along with various other XOS software applications.

Nobler is making a return to a college football video department after spending four years as assistant video director at Oklahoma. He handled video of practice and games while working alongside the OU coaching staff as a video editor, and was a co-network administrator supporting the OU video setup. Nobler also spent one year in a similar video position at Illinois. A year earlier, he served a 12-month video internship with the St. Louis Rams.

A native of Lake Villa, Ill., Nobler graduated from Western Illinois University in 2001 with a degree in communications. He is married to the former Heather Saluri.

MATT SCHILLING

ASSISTANT VIDEO COORDINATOR



Matt Schilling is in his fourth season on the football staff as an assistant video coordinator. Schilling assists in providing all video needs for the Husker coaching staff, including film exchange and breakdown of practice and game footage.

Schilling came to Nebraska after spending more than a year as the video coordinator at Ball State. He previously served as a student video coordinator at Southern Illinois for four years, where he also worked with the men's and women's basketball teams for three seasons.

A native of Downers Grove, Ill., Schilling earned his bachelor's degree in radio/television production from Southern Illinois in 2004. Schilling is married to the former Alison Klingensmith, and the couple is expecting their first child in October.

LINDA LEUPOLD

ASSISTANT TO COACH PELINI



Linda Leupold moved into the football office in 2004 and serves as Coach Bo Pelini's assistant. Leupold's current responsibilities include handling correspondence, scheduling and autograph requests for Coach Pelini, in addition to maintaining student-athlete eligibility and participation forms for the football program. She also assists with camps and coaches clinics.

Leupold began working at Nebraska in 1982 as a receptionist at the city campus union. In 1984, she became involved with the NU Athletic Department as the track and field secretary before handling the same duties with the golf, tennis and wrestling teams beginning in 1996.

Leupold's husband, Mike, also works for the University as the assistant director for operations at the city campus union.

JONI DUFF

ASSISTANT TO THE DEFENSE



Joni Duff began her association with the Nebraska football office in 1980. Duff serves as a secretary to the defensive assistant coaches and handles multiple office functions.

She is married to Craig Duff, and they have two sons, Alex and Nathan.

TERI RIGGINS

ASSISTANT TO THE OFFENSE



Teri Riggins has served as a secretary in the football office since 1998 and began her association with the athletic department in 1996. Riggins is in her fifth year as the secretary to the offensive assistant coaches. Previously she served as the recruiting staff assistant for six years and two seasons as the track and field office secretary.

Before joining the athletic department, she worked at Nebraska-Kearney for the Dean of the College of Education, in the Student Services office at Iowa Western CC and at Duncan Aviation.

An alumnus of the American Institute of Business in Des Moines, Iowa, Riggins and her husband, Jim, are the parents of Brenda Riggins and the late Jamie Riggins-Bayer. Teri and Jim are guardians for grandchildren Joshua, Victoria and Sampson; and have a fourth grandson, Marc.

FOOTBALL INTERNS



Doug Colman



Brett Diersen



Jon Garrison



Scott Johnston



Chris Kiffin



Jake Wesch

DR. LONNIE ALBERS

ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
FOR ATHLETIC MEDICINE



Dr. Lonnie Albers has served as director of athletic medicine at Nebraska since 1995 and has been working with the athletic department since 1985. He oversees the operations of the athletic medicine and athletic training facilities and staff.

Albers practiced clinical medicine in Lincoln for more than 10 years and has 20 years of experience in urgent care. He previously served as a team physician from 1985 through 1995. Albers is responsible for the medical care of the student-athletes and maintains a pharmacy permit in order to dispense medicine to student-athletes as needed. A Hildreth, Neb., native, Albers is a certified medical review officer and administers Nebraska's drug testing programs.

Albers earned his bachelor's degree in biology and English from Nebraska in 1977 and his M.D. from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1980. He also is board certified in Family Practice. Albers is married to the former Jodelle Glushenko, and they have three children, Scott, Michelle and Angela.

MARK MAYER

HEAD FOOTBALL
ATHLETIC TRAINER



Mark Mayer (pronounced Meyer) is in his third season as Nebraska's head football athletic trainer. Mayer came to the Nebraska program with more than a dozen years of experience in athletic medicine, including serving the previous nine years as the assistant athletic trainer for the Oakland Raiders.

Mayer heads up Nebraska's athletic medicine efforts for the football team. His responsibilities include year-round preventive care, immediate care for injured athletes at practices and games, and the reconditioning of injured athletes.

Prior to joining the Raiders, he served first as an athletic trainer intern in 1995 and gained full-time status in 1998 as a strength and conditioning assistant. Mayer also served as a student athletic trainer for UC Davis from 1992 to 1994. He was named a full-time assistant athletic trainer for Oakland in 1999 and served in that capacity for Super Bowl XXXVII in 2003 when the AFC Champion Raiders faced the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

In his 11 years with the Raiders, Mayer worked with former Husker players Adam Treu, John Parrella, Eric Johnson, Aaron Graham and Fabian Washington.

Originally from San Leandro, Calif., Mayer graduated from the University of California at Davis in 1994, and served as a student athletic trainer for UC Davis from 1992 to 1994. He earned his bachelor's of science degree in physical education and is certified by the National Athletic Trainers Association.

Married to the former Kira Schoeneman, Mayer and his wife have two children, 6-year old daughter Savannah Audren and 3-year old son Boston Zachary.

JERRY WEBER

HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER



Jerry Weber began his association with the Nebraska athletic medicine staff in 1977 and has been head athletic trainer and associate director of athletic medicine since 1996.

In his duties as head athletic trainer and physical therapist, he oversees the operation of all athletic medicine facilities and supervises the Husker staff of athletic trainers, graduate and undergraduate student assistants. Along with his duties as head athletic trainer, Weber directs the orthopaedic rehabilitation and coordinates the return to sport programs with orthopaedic specialists and athletic training staff. During the spring he also works with the men's gymnastics and baseball teams.

A Sidney, Neb., native, Weber earned a bachelor's degree in zoology from Nebraska in 1974. He earned his physical therapy degree from UNMC in 1976 and his master's degree from Western Illinois in 1977.

Weber has enjoyed a distinguished career at Nebraska. He was honored in June of 2004 by the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) as one of 18 members to receive the Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer award. In the spring of 2003, Weber was inducted into the District V NATA Hall of Fame for his many years of service to that organization. Weber was also honored by the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame when he received the 2001 Lyell Bremser Special Merit Award.

PATRICK SPIELDENNER

ASSISTANT FOOTBALL
ATHLETIC TRAINER



Patrick Spieldenner joined the Nebraska Athletic Department as an assistant football athletic trainer in July of 2007. Spieldenner assists with all aspects of the athletic medicine efforts for the football team, including year-round preventive care, immediate care for injured athletes at practice and games and the reconditioning of injured athletes.

Spieldenner came to Nebraska from the University of New Mexico, where he was the head athletic trainer for men's soccer and an assistant athletic trainer for football. He graduated from the University of New Mexico with his master's degree in physical education with an emphasis in sports administration in December of 2006. He earned his bachelor's degree in kinesiology with an emphasis in athletic training from San Diego State in 2004, where he spent more than three years as a student athletic trainer.

Outside of collegiate sports, Spieldenner spent season-long appointments with the NBA-D League's Albuquerque Thunderbirds and the NFL Europe's Rhein Fire, as well as season and summer internships with the NFL's San Diego Chargers.

Spieldenner, who is married to the former Lianna Shupe, is originally from Northern California.

ADDITIONAL FOOTBALL ASSISTANTS AND STUDENT STAFF

Football Strength and Conditioning Staff: Brian Kmita, Brandon Rigoni, Willie Jones

Student Managers: Jordan Kavan, Steve Swett, Jered Matzke, Paul Belz, Sam Stanley, Brad Vonnahme, Kyle Herchenbach, Bobby Maffei, Kendall Chalmers, Jerilyn Sykes, Tanner Dunbar, Braxton Staack, Ethan Smith, Tyler Recker, Bryce Havlovic, Derrick Blomstedt

Graduate Assistant Athletic Trainer: Brandon Deromedi

Student Athletic Trainers: Melissa Bowers, Head Student Athletic Trainer; Megan Jensen; Brent Albrecht; Alex Wheatley; Chad Stahlecker; Jonathon Block

Student Video Assistants: Matt Haron, Matt Peters, Patrick Webb, Evin Hale, Andrew Karmann

Football Office Student Assistants: Kiara Letcher, Kaila Lewallen, Megan Cunningham, Marlo Mauer, Elizabeth Venrick, Hanna Reinhardt

CHAD WADE

ASSISTANT STRENGTH COACH



Chad Wade is an assistant strength coach for football who began his association with the athletic performance team in 1996. Previously, Wade was the Bob Devaney Sports Center strength coach for three years, working primarily with the men's and women's basketball teams, and served three years as the assistant strength coach at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. With the football team, Wade helps head football strength coach James Dobson coordinate workouts.

Wade, who is Strength and Conditioning Coach Certified (S.C.C.C.), received a bachelor's degree in sports management with a minor in psychology from Nebraska Wesleyan in 1996. Wade also played football for the Plainsmen from 1992 to 1994.

Wade is married to the former Amber Burgess, who lettered for the Husker softball team from 2000 to 2003. The couple has a son, Burgess, who will celebrate his first birthday in September.

TYLER CLARKE

ASSISTANT STRENGTH COACH



Tyler Clarke is in his second season as an assistant strength coach for the football program. Like Head Football Strength Coach James Dobson, Clarke came to Nebraska from the University of Iowa where he spent three seasons as an assistant strength and conditioning coach.

With the Huskers, Clarke will assist Dobson with all aspects of the Nebraska strength and conditioning program for football, which includes winter conditioning, summer workouts and in-season training.

Previously, Clarke served as a student assistant with the Hawkeye strength and conditioning staff while working toward his degree. He earned his bachelor's degree in Health and Sports Studies from Iowa in 2005 and his master's degree in administration from Central Michigan in 2008. He is a certified strength and conditioning specialist and is a member of the National Strength and Conditioning Association. A native of Ames, Iowa, Clarke is also American Red Cross CPR Certified.

JOSH HINGST

SPORTS NUTRITIONIST



Josh Hingst joined the Nebraska Athletic Department as sports nutritionist in April of 2009. The sports nutrition department integrates healthy choices in the daily activities for all of the Huskers' 23 varsity sports. In this role, Hingst directs body composition analysis, nutrition education, performance fueling strategies, eating disorder prevention and counseling, sports supplements and hydration. He also plays a vital role in coordinating meals on the road for all Nebraska teams.

Hingst's professional licenses and certifications include: Registered Dietician, Strength and Conditioning Coach Certified, and Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist.

Hingst previously served as team nutritionist for the Atlanta Falcons during the 2008 season, after spending five years in strength and conditioning and sports nutrition capacities at Florida State. During his time at FSU, Hingst earned his master's degree in clinical nutrition with an

emphasis in sports nutrition. Hingst received his bachelor's degrees in nutritional sciences and dietetics and exercise science from Nebraska in 2001, and was an assistant strength and conditioning coach for the Huskers as a student at Nebraska.

Hingst is a native of Hooper, Neb., and married his wife, Rebecca Thieneman, in 2006.

JAY TERRY

HEAD EQUIPMENT MANAGER



Jay Terry has been equipment manager at Nebraska since 2002 and has served on the Nebraska athletic department equipment staff since 1998. Terry also spent two years as a student equipment manager before serving as an assistant equipment manager for four years.

Terry maintains the Husker football locker room and is in charge of the football team's equipment needs. He coordinates the transportation of all football and support equipment to road games, and oversees Nebraska's equipment staff of three full-time assistants and several student workers who handle all 23 of Nebraska's sports. Terry is also in charge of overseeing the Husker football student managers.

A native of Cozad, Neb., Terry has been a member of the Athletic Equipment Managers Association for 11 years. He earned a degree in communication studies from the University of Nebraska in May 2004.

Terry is married to the former Heather Bridger and they have an infant son, Connor, who was born in April.

CHRIS MCQUILLAN

ASSISTANT EQUIPMENT MANAGER



Chris McQuillan is in his fourth year as assistant equipment manager and eighth year with the University of Nebraska athletic department.

A 2006 graduate of Nebraska with a bachelor's degree in business administration, McQuillan was hired full-time in the summer of 2006 after serving the previous four years as a student equipment manager. McQuillan, who lettered for the Husker track team as an undergraduate in 2002, is responsible for the care of football and baseball equipment and maintenance of the locker rooms at Haymarket Park.

DENNIS LEBLANC

SENIOR ASSOCIATE A.D./
ACADEMICS, COMPLIANCE,
PLANNING



Dennis Leblanc has been with the Nebraska athletic department since 1983 and has been a member of the academic support program for student-athletes since 1987. He has been the director of the academic program since 1993, was named an associate athletic director in 1998 and was promoted to Senior Associate Athletic Director in August of 2007.

Leblanc is the day-to-day academic advisor for the Husker football team. Under Leblanc, Nebraska is the national leader in CoSIDA Academic All-Americans for football and all sports, NCAA Today's Top Eight Award honorees and recipients of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame Postgraduate Scholarship.

Leblanc is an active member of the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A). In 2002, he received the prestigious Lan Hewlett Award, presented to an athletic administrator in recognition of distinguished performance in providing personal, academic and professional guidance to student-athletes.

Leblanc earned his undergraduate degree from Bethany College, and a master's degree from Wichita State. He and his wife, Coreen, have four children, including daughters Olivia and twins Madeleine and Mackenzie, and a son, Christian.

KEITH ZIMMER

ASSOCIATE A.D./LIFE SKILLS



Keith Zimmer utilizes his 20 years of life skills and student services experience to support all current Nebraska student-athletes in addition to providing life skills guidance to former student-athletes and staff. Zimmer is also responsible for overseeing sports psychology services available to Nebraska student-athletes.

Zimmer has worked at NU since 1988, including overseeing the Nebraska's marketing department from August 2007 through March 2008. His passion is in life skills, where he is regarded as a national leader in the field. In September of 2006, he earned the Dr. Gene Hooks Award as the Life Skills Administrator of the Year. Zimmer has served as a Life Skills trainer for the NCAA and is active with the National Consortium for Academics and Sport.

Zimmer continues to serve as the advisor of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and remains very active in the Ventures In Partnership program where student-athletes are integrated into various outreach initiatives with Lincoln Public Schools.

Zimmer earned his bachelor's degree at Wayne State College and his master's in education from Springfield (Mass.) College. Zimmer and his wife, Michelle, have two sons, Logan and Caden.

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