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**HUSKER FOOTBALL COACHING STAFF**

**Head Coach** ..... Bo Pelini (Ohio State, 1990)  
**Record**..... 10-4, second season  
**Assistant Coaches**  
 Barney Cotton..... Associate Head Coach/Offensive Line  
 Ted Gilmore ..... Assistant Head Coach  
 ..... Wide Receivers, Recruiting Coordinator  
 Carl Pelini..... Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Line  
 Shawn Watson..... Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks  
 Tim Beck .....Running Backs  
 Ron Brown..... Tight Ends  
 Mike Ekeler ..... Linebackers  
 John Papuchis..... Defensive Ends  
 Marvin Sanders ..... Secondary  
 Jeff Jamrog .....Assistant A.D./Football Operations  
 Curt Baldus .....Offensive Graduate Assistant  
 Ross Watson .....Defensive Graduate Assistant  
 James Dobson.....Head Football Strength Coach

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Location:** Lincoln, Neb., 68588-0123  
**Population:** 248,744  
**Founded:** 1869  
**Enrollment:** 23,573  
**Football Stadium/Field:** Memorial Stadium (1923)/  
 Tom Osborne Field (1998)  
**Capacity:** 81,067  
**Surface:** FieldTurf  
**Nickname:** Cornhuskers or Huskers  
**Colors:** Scarlet and Cream  
**Conference:** Big 12  
**Chancellor:** Harvey S. Perlman, J.D.  
**Institutional Rep.:** Josephine Potuto, J.D.  
**Athletic Director:** Tom Osborne  
**Media Relations Director/Football Contact:** Keith Mann  
**Media Relations Director of Operations:** Jeff Griesch  
**Assistant MRD:** Shamus McKnight, Jerry Trickle, Matt Smith  
**Media Relations Admin. Assistant:** Vicki Cartwright  
**Athletic Department Photographer:** Scott Bruhn  
**Design Specialist:** Annie Wood  
**Interns:** Amil Anderson, Jeremy Foote  
**Student Assistants:** Tyler DeBoer, Nate Pohlen, Karl Jones  
 Scott Pulverenti, Nate Rohr, Jess Schwager, Hilary Winter

**ADMINISTRATION**

**President:** J.B. Milliken  
**Board of Regents**  
 Timothy Clare, District 1  
 Howard Hawks, District 2  
 Chuck Hassebrook, District 3  
 Bob Whitehouse, District 4  
 Jim McClurg, Ph.D., District 5  
 Kent Schroeder, J.D., District 6  
 Bob Phares, District 7  
 Randolph Ferlic, M.D., District 8  
**Student Regents**  
 Brad Bohn, UN-Medical Center  
 Neal Bonacci, UN-Omaha  
 Tim Hruza, UN-Kearney  
 Emily Zimmer, UN-Lincoln

**2009 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

| Date     | Opponent            | Site             | Stadium             | Series        |
|----------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Sept. 5  | Florida Atlantic    | Lincoln, Neb.    | Memorial Stadium    | first meeting |
| Sept. 12 | Arkansas State      | Lincoln, Neb.    | Memorial Stadium    | first meeting |
| Sept. 19 | at Virginia Tech    | Blacksburg, Va.  | Lane Stadium        | tied, 1-1     |
| Sept. 26 | Louisiana-Lafayette | Lincoln, Neb.    | Memorial Stadium    | first meeting |
| Oct. 8   | at Missouri (ESPN)  | Columbia, Mo.    | Faurot Field        | NU, 63-36-3   |
| Oct. 17  | Texas Tech          | Lincoln, Neb.    | Memorial Stadium    | NU, 7-3       |
| Oct. 24  | Iowa State          | Lincoln, Neb.    | Memorial Stadium    | NU, 85-16-2   |
| Oct. 31  | at Baylor           | Waco, Texas      | Floyd Casey Stadium | NU, 10-1      |
| Nov. 7   | Oklahoma            | Lincoln, Neb.    | Memorial Stadium    | OU, 44-37-3   |
| Nov. 14  | at Kansas           | Lawrence, Kan.   | Memorial Stadium    | NU, 89-23-3   |
| Nov. 21  | Kansas State        | Lincoln, Neb.    | Memorial Stadium    | NU, 76-15-3   |
| Nov. 27  | at Colorado (ABC)   | Boulder, Colo.   | Folsom Field        | NU, 47-18-2   |
| Dec. 5   | Big 12 Championship | Arlington, Texas | Cowboys Stadium     |               |

For more information on Nebraska's series history against 2009 opponents, see pages 68-71.

**2008 NEBRASKA SCHEDULE AND RESULTS (9-4, 5-3 in BIG 12)**

| Date     | Opponent (Rank)   | Television | Result        | Attendance |
|----------|-------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Aug. 30  | Western Michigan  | FSN PPV    | W, 47-24      | 84,485     |
| Sept. 6  | San Jose State    | FSN PPV    | W, 35-12      | 85,146     |
| Sept. 13 | New Mexico State  | FSN PPV    | W, 38-7       | 84,821     |
| Sept. 27 | Virginia Tech     | ABC        | L, 35-30      | 85,831     |
| Oct. 4   | Missouri (4)      | ESPN       | L, 52-17      | 85,372     |
| Oct. 11  | at Texas Tech (7) | FSN        | L, 37-31 (OT) | 53,449     |
| Oct. 18  | at Iowa State     | Versus     | W, 35-7       | 48,794     |
| Oct. 25  | Baylor            | Versus     | W, 32-20      | 85,104     |
| Nov. 1   | at Oklahoma (4)   | ESPN       | L, 62-28      | 85,212     |
| Nov. 8   | Kansas            | FSN PPV    | W, 45-35      | 85,486     |
| Nov. 15  | at Kansas State   | FSN PPV    | W, 56-28      | 48,444     |
| Nov. 28  | Colorado          | ABC        | W, 40-31      | 85,319     |
| Jan. 1   | Clemson           | CBS        | W, 26-21      | 67,282     |

**HUSKERS BRIEFLY IN 2008**

**General**  
**Overall Record:** 9-4  
**Big 12 Record:** 5-3  
**Home:** 6-2; **Away:** 2-2; **Neutral:** 1-0  
**Total Attendance:** 983,745  
**Average Attendance:** 75,673  
**Home Attendance:** 680,564  
**Average Home Attendance:** 85,070

**Offense (National Rank)**  
**Yards Rushing/Game:** 169.8 (37)  
**Yards Rushing/Att.:** 4.5  
**Passing Yards/Game:** 281.0 (15)  
**Passing Yards/Att./Comp.:** 3,653/433/295  
**Total Net Yards/Game:** 450.8 (12)  
**Total Net Yards/Att.:** 6.4  
**Points/Game:** 35.4 (17)  
**Turnover Margin/Game:** -0.85 (107)

**Defense (National Rank)**  
**Yards Rushing/Game:** 116.5 (21)  
**Passing Yards/Game:** 233.4 (89)  
**Total Net Yards/Game:** 349.9 (55)  
**Total Net Yards/Attempt:** 5.7  
**Points/Game:** 28.5 (80)  
**Pass Efficiency Defense:** 133.9 (82)

**Spring Football Guide Credits**

The 2009 Nebraska Football Spring Guide and Game Program was written by Media Relations Director Keith Mann and Assistant Director Jerry Trickle. Editing assistance provided by members of the Nebraska Media Relations Office. Cover design by Design Specialist Annie Wood. The book was printed by the University of Nebraska Printing Services. Cost is \$5.

**2008 BIG 12 STANDINGS**

**North Division**

| Team            | Big 12     | Overall    |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| 1. Missouri     | 5-3        | 10-4       |
| <b>Nebraska</b> | <b>5-3</b> | <b>9-4</b> |
| 3. Kansas       | 4-4        | 8-5        |
| 4. Colorado     | 2-6        | 5-7        |
| Kansas State    | 2-6        | 5-7        |
| 6. Iowa State   | 0-8        | 2-10       |

**South Division**

|                   |     |      |
|-------------------|-----|------|
| 1. Oklahoma       | 7-1 | 12-2 |
| Texas             | 7-1 | 12-1 |
| Texas Tech        | 7-1 | 11-2 |
| 4. Oklahoma State | 5-3 | 9-4  |
| 5. Baylor         | 2-6 | 4-8  |
| Texas A&M         | 2-6 | 4-8  |

**Big 12 Championship Game**  
 Oklahoma 62, Missouri 21 (Kansas City, Mo.)

**Nebraska's 2009 Non-Conference Opponents**

| Team                | Overall | Bowl       |
|---------------------|---------|------------|
| Florida Atlantic    | 7-6     | Motor City |
| Arkansas State      | 6-6     |            |
| Virginia Tech       | 10-4    | Orange     |
| Louisiana-Lafayette | 6-6     |            |

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the University of Nebraska Athletic Department is to serve our student-athletes, coaches, staff and fans by:  
 Displaying **INTEGRITY** in every decision and action; Building and maintaining **TRUST** with others; Giving **RESPECT** to each person we encounter; Pursuing unity of purpose through **TEAMWORK**; Maintaining **LOYALTY** to student-athletes, co-workers, fans and the University of Nebraska.

## NEBRASKA 2009 SPRING FOOTBALL ROSTER

## NUMERICAL ROSTER

| No. | Name                   | Position |
|-----|------------------------|----------|
| 1   | * Chris Brooks         | WR       |
| 2   | Antonio Bell           | WR       |
| 3   | Zac Lee                | QB       |
| 3   | *** Rickey Thenarse    | S        |
| 4   | ** Larry Asante        | S        |
| 5   | ** Anthony West        | CB       |
| 6   | Khiry Cooper           | WR       |
| 7   | Kody Spano             | QB       |
| 7   | ** Latravis Washington | LB       |
| 8   | Austin Cassidy         | S        |
| 8   | ** Will Henry          | WR       |
| 9   | Ben Lester             | WR       |
| 10  | ** Roy Helu Jr.        | IB       |
| 11  | * Curenski Gilleylen   | WR       |
| 12  | Courtney Osborne       | DB       |
| 13  | P.J. Smith             | DB       |
| 14  | * Anthony Blue         | CB       |
| 14  | Lester Ward            | IB       |
| 15  | * Alfonzo Dennard      | DB       |
| 16  | John Dostal            | WR       |
| 16  | Jim Ebke               | S        |
| 17  | Cody Green             | QB       |
| 17  | Josh Williams          | DE       |
| 18  | *** Menelik Holt       | WR       |
| 19  | ** Quentin Castille    | IB       |
| 20  | Jase Dean              | DB       |
| 20  | ** Adi Kunalic         | PK       |
| 21  | ** Prince Amukamara    | CB       |
| 21  | Tim Marlowe            | WR       |
| 22  | * Mason Wald           | DB       |
| 23  | * Lance Thorell        | CB       |
| 24  | ** Niles Paul          | WR       |
| 24  | Adam Watson            | DB       |
| 25  | Kyler Reed             | TE       |
| 25  | Jeremy Wallace         | RB       |
| 26  | Steven Osborne         | WR       |
| 27  | Jonathon Damkroger     | P/PK     |
| 28  | ** Eric Hagg           | CB       |
| 28  | Austin Jones           | IB       |
| 29  | Dejon Gomes            | DB       |
| 29  | Collins Okafor         | IB       |
| 30  | * Mike Hays            | FB       |
| 31  | Nick Covey             | DE       |
| 32  | Marcus Mendoza         | IB       |
| 33  | *** Matt O'Hanlon      | S        |
| 35  | * Matt Holt            | LB       |
| 35  | Jordan Makovicka       | RB       |
| 36  | * Mathew May           | LB       |
| 37  | Kevin Thomsen          | FB       |
| 39  | Justin Blatchford      | DB       |
| 39  | Dan Glassman           | DE       |
| 40  | ** Blake Lawrence      | LB       |
| 41  | ** Thomas Grove        | LB       |
| 42  | Joseph Camarata        | LB       |
| 42  | Sean Fisher            | LB       |
| 43  | Brent Moravec          | FS       |
| 44  | ** Mike McNeill        | TE       |
| 44  | Micah Kreikemeier      | LB       |
| 45  | Justin Makovicka       | FB       |
| 45  | Alonzo Whaley          | LB       |
| 46  | Taylor Dixon           | WR       |

## ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

Lettermen in Bold; \*-Indicates Letters Earned

| No. | Name                  | Pos. | Ht.  | Wt. | Yr.  | Hometown (High School/College)                                       |
|-----|-----------------------|------|------|-----|------|--|
| 95  | ** Allen, Pierre      | DE   | 6-5  | 265 | Jr.  | Denver, Colo. (Thomas Jefferson)                                     |
| 21  | ** Amukamara, Prince  | CB   | 6-1  | 200 | Jr.  | Glendale, Ariz. (Apollo)   |
| 70  | Anderson, Kenny       | DE   | 6-2  | 240 | RFr. | Omaha, Neb. (Millard West)   |
| 4   | ** Asante, Larry      | S    | 6-1  | 215 | Sr.  | Alexandria, Va. (Hayfield/Coffeyville CC)                            |
| 66  | Barrett, Cruz         | OL   | 6-4  | 310 | Jr.  | Daytona Beach, Fla. (Mainland)                                       |
| 83  | Bechtold, Damon       | TE   | 6-4  | 235 | RFr. | Omaha, Neb. (Westside)   |
| 2   | Bell, Antonio         | WR   | 6-2  | 180 | Fr.  | Daytona Beach, Fla. (Mainland)                                       |
| 39  | Blatchford, Justin    | DB   | 6-1  | 195 | RFr. | Ponca, Neb.  |
| 14  | * Blue, Anthony       | CB   | 5-10 | 185 | So.  | Cedar Hill, Texas  |
| 1   | * Brooks, Chris       | WR   | 6-2  | 215 | Sr.  | St. Louis, Mo. (Hazelwood East)                                      |
| 72  | ** Burkes, Jaivorio   | OL   | 6-5  | 295 | Jr.  | Phoenix, Ariz. (Moon Valley)   |
| 42  | Camarata, Joseph      | LB   | 5-10 | 225 | RFr. | Overland Park, Kan.  |
| 82  | *** Cammack, Wes      | WR   | 5-11 | 200 | Sr.  | DeWitt, Neb. (Tri-County)  |
| 58  | * Caputo, Mike        | OL   | 6-1  | 275 | So.  | Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)  |
| 8   | Cassidy, Austin       | S    | 6-1  | 210 | So.  | Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)  |
| 19  | ** Castille, Quentin  | IB   | 6-1  | 235 | Jr.  | LaPorte, Texas   |
| 77  | Choi, Seung Hoon      | OL   | 6-2  | 295 | RFr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Christian)  |
| 62  | ** Christensen, Andy  | OL   | 6-3  | 310 | Sr.  | Bennington, Neb.   |
| 51  | Compton, Will         | LB   | 6-2  | 220 | RFr. | Bonne Terre, Mo. (North County)                                      |
| 6   | Cooper, Khiry         | WR   | 6-2  | 195 | RFr. | Shreveport, La. (Calvary Baptist Academy)                            |
| 81  | Cotton, Ben           | TE   | 6-6  | 240 | RFr. | Ames, Iowa   |
| 94  | * Crick, Jared        | DT   | 6-6  | 285 | So.  | Cozad, Neb.  |
| 27  | Damkroger, Jonathon   | P/PK | 6-1  | 185 | So.  | Firth, Neb. (Norris)   |
| 20  | Dean, Jase            | DB   | 6-0  | 185 | RFr. | Bridgeport, Neb.   |
| 15  | * Dennard, Alfonzo    | CB   | 5-10 | 190 | So.  | Rochelle, Ga. (Wilcox County)  |
| 52  | *** Dillard, Phillip  | LB   | 6-1  | 240 | Sr.  | Tulsa, Okla. (Jenks)   |
| 46  | Dixon, Taylor         | WR   | 5-11 | 190 | RFr. | Wauneta, Neb. (Wauneta-Palisade)                                     |
| 16  | Dostal, John          | WR   | 5-9  | 175 | Fr.  | Papillion, Neb. (Omaha Gross)  |
| 16  | Ebke, Jim             | S    | 6-0  | 215 | So.  | Lincoln, Neb. (East/South Dakota State)                              |
| 92  | Fahie, Tyrone         | DE   | 6-3  | 255 | Jr.  | Virginia Beach, Va. (Ocean Lakes)                                    |
| 42  | Fisher, Sean          | LB   | 6-6  | 230 | RFr. | Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)  |
| 49  | Foxhoven, Tanner      | LB   | 6-3  | 225 | RFr. | Crofton, Neb.  |
| 11  | * Gilleylen, Curenski | WR   | 6-0  | 220 | So.  | Leander, Texas   |
| 39  | Glassman, Dan         | DE   | 6-4  | 250 | Jr.  | Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)   |
| 29  | Gomes, Dejon          | DB   | 6-0  | 190 | Jr.  | Hayward, Calif. (Logan/San Francisco City College)                   |
| 17  | Green, Cody           | QB   | 6-4  | 215 | Fr.  | Dayton, Texas  |
| 41  | ** Grove, Thomas      | LB   | 6-2  | 225 | Jr.  | Arlington, Neb.  |
| 28  | ** Hagg, Eric         | CB   | 6-2  | 205 | Jr.  | Peoria, Ariz. (Ironwood)   |
| 80  | Harvey, David         | DT   | 6-4  | 275 | Sr.  | LaPlata, Md. (McDonough)   |
| 30  | * Hays, Mike          | FB   | 6-1  | 240 | So.  | Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-LaVista)                                  |
| 10  | ** Helu Jr., Roy      | IB   | 6-0  | 215 | Jr.  | Danville, Calif. (San Ramon Valley)                                  |
| 90  | ** Henry, Alex        | PK   | 6-2  | 175 | Jr.  | Omaha, Neb. (Burke)  |
| 74  | Henry, Ricky          | OL   | 6-4  | 300 | Jr.  | Omaha, Neb. (Burke/North Dakota State College of Science)            |
| 8   | ** Henry, Will        | WR   | 6-5  | 215 | Jr.  | El Paso, Texas (J.M. Hanks)  |
| 67  | *** Hickman, Jacob    | OL   | 6-4  | 295 | Sr.  | Bakersfield, Calif. (Centennial)                                     |
| 80  | * Hill, Ryan          | TE   | 6-3  | 250 | So.  | Arvada, Colo. (West)   |
| 35  | * Holt, Matt          | LB   | 6-0  | 200 | So.  | Lee's Summit, Mo. (West)   |
| 18  | *** Holt, Menelik     | WR   | 6-4  | 220 | Sr.  | San Diego, Calif. (St. Augustine)                                    |
| 85  | Hyland, KC            | WR   | 6-6  | 205 | RFr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Pius X)   |
| 58  | Jackson, Justin       | DL   | 6-3  | 270 | RFr. | Roca, Neb. (Norris)  |
| 28  | Jones, Austin         | IB   | 5-10 | 210 | So.  | Aurora, Colo.  |
| 73  | * Jones, D.J.         | OL   | 6-5  | 315 | Jr.  | Omaha, Neb. (Central)  |
| 78  | * Jones, Marcel       | OL   | 6-7  | 310 | So.  | Phoenix, Ariz. (Trevor Browne)                                       |
| 85  | Klingelhoefer, Faron  | DE   | 6-2  | 255 | RFr. | Amherst, Neb.  |
| 54  | * Koehler, Colton     | LB   | 6-1  | 230 | Sr.  | Harvard, Neb. (Harvard/Nebraska Wesleyan)                            |
| 44  | Kreikemeier, Micah    | LB   | 6-3  | 215 | RFr. | West Point, Neb. (Central Catholic)                                  |
| 20  | ** Kunalic, Adi       | PK   | 6-0  | 190 | Jr.  | Fort Worth, Texas (North Crowley)                                    |
| 40  | ** Lawrence, Blake    | LB   | 6-3  | 220 | Jr.  | Shawnee Mission, Kan. (Shawnee Mission West)                         |
| 3   | Lee, Zac              | QB   | 6-2  | 210 | Jr.  | San Francisco, Calif. (St. Ignatius Prep/San Francisco City College) |
| 48  | Legate, Tyler         | FB   | 5-10 | 225 | RFr. | Neligh, Neb. (Neligh-Oakdale/South Dakota)                           |
| 9   | Lester, Ben           | WR   | 5-10 | 170 | So.  | Tecumseh, Neb.   |

|           |                                |           |             |            |            |   |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|------------|---|
| 75        | Lingenfelter, Luke             | DE        | 6-4         | 255        | So.        | Plainview, Neb.                           |
| 96        | Maher, Brett                   | PK/P      | 6-0         | 170        | RFr.       | Kearney, Neb.                             |
| 35        | Makovicka, Jordan              | RB        | 5-10        | 195        | RFr.       | Ulysses, Neb. (East Butler)               |
| 45        | Makovicka, Justin              | FB        | 6-1         | 230        | Jr.        | Ulysses, Neb. (East Butler)               |
| 61        | Manning, Matt                  | LB        | 6-1         | 220        | RFr.       | Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)              |
| 21        | Marlowe, Tim                   | WR        | 5-10        | 175        | RFr.       | Youngstown, Ohio (Cardinal Mooney)        |
| <b>63</b> | <b>* Martin, Ben</b>           | <b>DT</b> | <b>6-4</b>  | <b>260</b> | <b>Jr.</b> | <b>Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)</b>          |
| 88        | Martin, Jay                    | TE        | 6-2         | 225        | So.        | Waverly, Neb.                             |
| <b>36</b> | <b>* May, Mathew</b>           | <b>LB</b> | <b>6-1</b>  | <b>210</b> | <b>So.</b> | <b>Imperial, Neb. (Chase County)</b>      |
| 86        | McClure, Mychael               | TE        | 6-5         | 235        | RFr.       | Wisner, Neb. (Wisner-Pilger)              |
| 65        | McDermott, Colin               | LB        | 6-2         | 240        | RFr.       | Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)              |
| 66        | McDermott, Conor               | DE        | 6-2         | 240        | RFr.       | Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)              |
| <b>44</b> | <b>** McNeill, Mike</b>        | <b>TE</b> | <b>6-4</b>  | <b>240</b> | <b>Jr.</b> | <b>Kirkwood, Mo.</b>                      |
| 54        | McShane, Max                   | OL        | 6-6         | 305        | RFr.       | Elkhorn, Neb.                             |
| 67        | Meginnis, Sam                  | LB        | 6-2         | 220        | RFr.       | Lincoln, Neb. (East)                      |
| 32        | Mendoza, Marcus                | IB        | 5-10        | 185        | So.        | Houston, Texas (Spring Woods)             |
| 96        | Meredith, Cameron              | DE        | 6-4         | 260        | RFr.       | Santa Ana, Calif. (Mater Dei)             |
| 63        | Meyer, Derek                   | OL        | 6-5         | 315        | Sr.        | Campbell, Neb. (Silver Lake/Kansas State) |
| 68        | Molek, Josh                    | DL        | 6-3         | 245        | RFr.       | Omaha, Neb. (Skutt Catholic)              |
| <b>90</b> | <b>* Moore, Terrence</b>       | <b>DT</b> | <b>6-3</b>  | <b>285</b> | <b>So.</b> | <b>New Orleans, La. (McDonogh 35)</b>     |
| 43        | Moravec, Brent                 | FS        | 6-0         | 185        | RFr.       | Grand Island, Neb. (Central Catholic)     |
| <b>33</b> | <b>*** O'Hanlon, Matt</b>      | <b>S</b>  | <b>5-11</b> | <b>200</b> | <b>Sr.</b> | <b>Bellevue, Neb. (Bellevue East)</b>     |
| 29        | Okafor, Collins                | IB        | 6-1         | 225        | RFr.       | Omaha, Neb. (Westside)                    |
| 12        | Osborne, Courtney              | DB        | 6-3         | 185        | RFr.       | Garland, Texas (South Garland)            |
| 26        | Osborne, Steven                | WR        | 6-4         | 195        | RFr.       | Garland, Texas (South Garland)            |
| <b>24</b> | <b>** Paul, Niles</b>          | <b>WR</b> | <b>6-1</b>  | <b>215</b> | <b>Jr.</b> | <b>Omaha, Neb. (North)</b>                |
| 25        | Reed, Kycler                   | TE        | 6-3         | 225        | RFr.       | Shawnee, Kan. (St. Thomas Aquinas)        |
| <b>65</b> | <b>** Smith, Mike</b>          | <b>OL</b> | <b>6-6</b>  | <b>290</b> | <b>Jr.</b> | <b>Las Vegas, Nev. (Palo Verde)</b>       |
| 13        | Smith, P.J.                    | DB        | 6-2         | 205        | RFr.       | River Ridge, La. (John Curtis)            |
| 7         | Spano, Kody                    | QB        | 6-2         | 215        | RFr.       | Stephenville, Texas                       |
| 55        | Steinkuhler, Baker             | DL        | 6-6         | 295        | RFr.       | Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)                 |
| 71        | Stoddard, Graham               | LB        | 6-2         | 225        | RFr.       | Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)                 |
| <b>93</b> | <b>*** Suh, Ndamukong</b>      | <b>DT</b> | <b>6-4</b>  | <b>300</b> | <b>Sr.</b> | <b>Portland, Ore. (Grant)</b>             |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>*** Thenarse, Rickey</b>    | <b>S</b>  | <b>6-0</b>  | <b>205</b> | <b>Sr.</b> | <b>Los Angeles, Calif. (Jordan)</b>       |
| 79        | Thompson, Brandon              | OL        | 6-6         | 300        | RFr.       | The Woodlands, Texas                      |
| 37        | Thomsen, Kevin                 | FB        | 6-2         | 235        | So.        | Elkhorn, Neb.                             |
| <b>23</b> | <b>* Thorell, Lance</b>        | <b>CB</b> | <b>6-1</b>  | <b>195</b> | <b>So.</b> | <b>Loomis, Neb.</b>                       |
| 59        | Thorson, Brian                 | OL        | 6-3         | 290        | RFr.       | Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)               |
| 50        | Toailoa, Quentin               | DL        | 6-4         | 300        | RFr.       | Highland, Calif. (Redlands East Valley)   |
| <b>99</b> | <b>*** Turner, Barry</b>       | <b>DE</b> | <b>6-3</b>  | <b>265</b> | <b>Sr.</b> | <b>Antioch, Tenn. (Brentwood Academy)</b> |
| <b>22</b> | <b>* Wald, Mason</b>           | <b>DB</b> | <b>5-11</b> | <b>195</b> | <b>So.</b> | <b>Birmingham, Ala. (Vestavia Hills)</b>  |
| 25        | Wallace, Jeremy                | RB        | 6-1         | 235        | RFr.       | Omaha, Neb. (Bryan)                       |
| 14        | Ward, Lester                   | IB        | 6-3         | 215        | RFr.       | Brenham, Texas                            |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>** Washington, Latravis</b> | <b>QB</b> | <b>6-3</b>  | <b>225</b> | <b>Jr.</b> | <b>Bradenton, Fla. (Bayshore)</b>         |
| 24        | Watson, Adam                   | S         | 6-0         | 195        | Jr.        | Lincoln, Neb. (Niwoot [Colo.])            |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>** West, Anthony</b>        | <b>CB</b> | <b>6-0</b>  | <b>205</b> | <b>Jr.</b> | <b>San Diego, Calif. (Point Loma)</b>     |
| 45        | Whaley, Alonzo                 | LB        | 6-1         | 225        | RFr.       | Madisonville, Texas                       |
| 17        | Williams, Josh                 | DE        | 6-4         | 245        | RFr.       | Denton, Texas (Ryan)                      |
| <b>68</b> | <b>** Williams, Keith</b>      | <b>OL</b> | <b>6-5</b>  | <b>320</b> | <b>Jr.</b> | <b>Florissant, Mo. (McClure North)</b>    |
| 47        | Yancy, William                 | DE        | 6-4         | 245        | So.        | Glendale, Ariz. (Ironwood)                |
| <b>49</b> | <b>** Young, Dreu</b>          | <b>TE</b> | <b>6-4</b>  | <b>245</b> | <b>Jr.</b> | <b>Cozad, Neb.</b>                        |
| 47        | William Yancy                  | DE        |             |            |            |   |
| 48        | Tyler Legate                   | FB        |             |            |            |   |
| 49        | Tanner Foxhoven                | LB        |             |            |            |   |
| <b>49</b> | <b>** Dreu Young</b>           | <b>TE</b> |             |            |            |   |
| 50        | Quentin Toailoa                | DL        |             |            |            |   |
| 51        | Will Compton                   | LB        |             |            |            |   |
| <b>52</b> | <b>*** Phillip Dillard</b>     | <b>LB</b> |             |            |            |   |
| <b>54</b> | <b>* Colton Koehler</b>        | <b>LB</b> |             |            |            |   |
| 54        | Max McShane                    | OL        |             |            |            |   |
| 55        | Baker Steinkuhler              | DL        |             |            |            |   |
| <b>58</b> | <b>* Mike Caputo</b>           | <b>OL</b> |             |            |            |   |
| 58        | Justin Jackson                 | DL        |             |            |            |   |
| 59        | Brian Thorson                  | OL        |             |            |            |   |
| 61        | Matt Manning                   | LB        |             |            |            |   |
| <b>62</b> | <b>** Andy Christensen</b>     | <b>OL</b> |             |            |            |   |
| <b>63</b> | <b>* Ben Martin</b>            | <b>DT</b> |             |            |            |   |
| 63        | Derek Meyer                    | OL        |             |            |            |   |
| 65        | Colin McDermott                | LB        |             |            |            |   |
| <b>65</b> | <b>** Mike Smith</b>           | <b>OL</b> |             |            |            |   |
| 66        | Cruz Barrett                   | OL        |             |            |            |   |
| 66        | Conor McDermott                | DE        |             |            |            |   |
| <b>67</b> | <b>*** Jacob Hickman</b>       | <b>OL</b> |             |            |            |   |
| 67        | Sam Meginnis                   | LB        |             |            |            |   |
| 68        | Josh Molek                     | DL        |             |            |            |   |
| <b>68</b> | <b>** Keith Williams</b>       | <b>OL</b> |             |            |            |   |
| 70        | Kenny Anderson                 | DE        |             |            |            |   |
| 71        | Graham Stoddard                | LB        |             |            |            |   |
| <b>72</b> | <b>** Jaivorio Burkes</b>      | <b>OL</b> |             |            |            |   |
| <b>73</b> | <b>* D.J. Jones</b>            | <b>OL</b> |             |            |            |   |
| 74        | Ricky Henry                    | OL        |             |            |            |   |
| 75        | Luke Lingenfelter              | DE        |             |            |            |   |
| 77        | Seung Hoon Choi                | OL        |             |            |            |   |
| <b>78</b> | <b>* Marcel Jones</b>          | <b>OL</b> |             |            |            |   |
| 79        | Brandon Thompson               | OL        |             |            |            |   |
| 80        | David Harvey                   | DT        |             |            |            |   |
| <b>80</b> | <b>* Ryan Hill</b>             | <b>TE</b> |             |            |            |   |
| 81        | Ben Cotton                     | TE        |             |            |            |   |
| <b>82</b> | <b>*** Wes Cammack</b>         | <b>WR</b> |             |            |            |   |
| 83        | Damon Bechtold                 | TE        |             |            |            |   |
| 85        | KC Hyland                      | WR        |             |            |            |   |
| 85        | Faron Klingelhofer             | DE        |             |            |            |   |
| 86        | Mychael McClure                | TE        |             |            |            |   |
| 88        | Jay Martin                     | TE        |             |            |            |   |
| 89        | Jonathon Santin                | DE        |             |            |            |   |
| <b>90</b> | <b>** Alex Henery</b>          | <b>PK</b> |             |            |            |   |
| <b>90</b> | <b>* Terrence Moore</b>        | <b>DT</b> |             |            |            |   |
| 92        | Tyrone Fahie                   | DL        |             |            |            |   |
| <b>93</b> | <b>*** Ndamukong Suh</b>       | <b>DT</b> |             |            |            |   |
| <b>94</b> | <b>* Jared Crick</b>           | <b>DT</b> |             |            |            |   |
| <b>95</b> | <b>** Pierre Allen</b>         | <b>DE</b> |             |            |            |   |
| 96        | Brett Maher                    | PK/P      |             |            |            |   |
| 96        | Cameron Meredith               | DE        |             |            |            |   |
| <b>99</b> | <b>*** Barry Turner</b>        | <b>DE</b> |             |            |            |   |

## HUSKER COACHING STAFF

**Head Coach:** Bo Pelini, 10-4, second season at Nebraska

**Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Line:** Carl Pelini; **Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks:** Shawn Watson; **Running Backs:** Tim Beck; **Tight Ends:** Ron Brown; **Associate Head Coach/Offensive Line:** Barney Cotton; **Assistant Head Coach/Receivers/Recruiting Coordinator:** Ted Gilmore; **Linebackers:** Mike Ekeler; **Defensive Ends:** John Papuchis; **Secondary:** Marvin Sanders; **Graduate Assistant/Offense:** Curt Baldus; **Graduate Assistant/Defense:** Ross Watson; **Head Football Strength Coach:** James Dobson; **Associate A.D./Football:** Jeff Jamrog; **Head Football Trainer:** Mark Mayer; **Equipment Manager:** Jay Terry.

# HUSKER EXPERIENCE RETURNING/LOST

## EXPERIENCE RETURNING/LOST

**Total Starters Returning:** 13 (5 offense, 7 defense, 1 kicker)  
**Total Starters Lost:** 12 (6 offense, 5 defense, 1 kicker)  
**Offensive Starters Returning (No. of 2008 starts):** 5—C Jacob Hickman (13); TE Mike McNeill (12); OT Mike Smith (12); OG Keith Williams (9); WR/TE Menelik Holt (4)/Niles Paul (4)/Dreu Young (4)  
**Other Offensive Players with 2008 Starting Experience (No. of starts):** OT Jaivorio Burkes (4); IB Quentin Castille (1); IB Roy Helu Jr. (2); OT Marcel Jones (1)  
**Offensive Starters Lost:** 6—QB Joe Ganz (13); IB Marlon Lucky (11); OT Lydon Murtha (9); WR Todd Peterson (12); OG Matt Slauson (13); WR Nate Swift (13)  
**Defensive Starters Returning (No. of 2008 starts):** 7—DE Pierre Allen (11); SS Larry Asante (12); LB Phillip Dillard (5); DB Eric Hagg (10); SS Matt O'Hanlon (9)/Rickey Thenarse (5); DT Ndamukong Suh (13); CB Anthony West (11)  
**Other Defensive Players with 2008 Starting Experience (No. of starts):** CB Prince Amukamara (3); LB Matt Holt (1); LB Colton Koehler (1); LB Blake Lawrence (2); DB Lance Thorell (5); DE Barry Turner (2)  
**Defensive Starters Lost:** 5—LB Cody Glenn (9); CB Armando Murillo (12); DE Zach Potter (13); DT Ty Steinkuhler (13); LB Tyler Wortman (6)  
**Starting Kickers Returning:** 1—PK Alex Henery  
**Starting Kickers Lost:** 1—P Dan Titchener  
**Starting Specialists Returning:** KOR Alfonso Dennard; KO Adi Kunalic; PR/KOR Niles Paul  
**Other Starting Specialists Lost:** LS T.J. O'Leary; PR Nate Swift; H Jake Wesch  
**Total Lettermen Returning:** 46 (20 offense, 24 defense, 2 specialists)  
**Total Lettermen Lost:** 21 (10 offense, 7 defense, 4 specialists)

## LETTERMEN RETURNING (45)/LOST (22)

Starters in Bold (Number of 2008 starts)

### OFFENSE

(20 Lettermen Returning/5 Starters)

**WR:** Chris Brooks\*  
 Wes Cammack\*\*\*  
 Curenski Gilleylen\*  
 Will Henry\*\*  
**Menelik Holt\*\*\* (4)**  
**Niles Paul\*\* (4)**  
**OL:** Jaivorio Burkes\*\* (4)  
 Mike Caputo\*  
 Andy Christensen\*\*  
**Jacob Hickman\*\*\* (13)**  
 D.J. Jones\*  
 Marcel Jones\* (1)  
**Mike Smith\*\* (12)**  
**Keith Williams\*\* (9)**  
**TE:** Ryan Hill\*  
**Mike McNeill\*\* (12)**  
**Dreu Young\*\* (4)**  
**QB:** none  
**FB:** Mike Hays\*  
**IB:** Quentin Castille\*\* (1)  
 Roy Helu Jr.\*\* (2)

(10 Lettermen Lost/6 Starters)

**WR:** **Todd Peterson\*\*\*\* (12)**  
**Nate Swift\*\*\*\* (13)**  
**OL:** Mike Huff\*\*\*\* (4)  
**Lydon Murtha\*\*\*\* (8)**  
**Matt Slauson\*\*\*\* (8)**  
**TE:** Hunter Teafatiller\*\*\*\* (2)  
**QB:** Beau Davis\*  
**Joe Ganz\*\*\* (13)**  
**FB:** Thomas Lawson\*\*\*  
**IB:** **Marlon Lucky\*\*\*\* (12)**

### DEFENSE

(24 Lettermen Returning/6 Starters)

**DL:** **Pierre Allen\*\* (11)**  
 Jared Crick\*  
 Ben Martin\*  
 Terrence Moore\*  
**Ndamukong Suh\*\*\* (13)**  
 Barry Turner\*\*\* (2)  
**LB:** **Phillip Dillard\*\*\* (5)**  
 Thomas Grove\*\*  
 Matt Holt\* (1)  
 Colton Koehler\* (1)

Blake Lawrence\*\* (2)  
 Mathew May\*  
 Latravis Washington\*\*  
**DB:** Prince Amukamara\*\* (3)  
**Larry Asante\*\* (12)**  
 Anthony Blue\*  
 Alfonzo Dennard\*  
**Eric Hagg\*\* (10)**  
**Matt O'Hanlon\*\*\* (9)**  
**Rickey Thenarse\*\*\* (5)**  
 Lance Thorell\* (5)  
 Mason Wald\*  
**Anthony West\*\* (11)**

(8 Lettermen Lost/5 Starters)

**DL:** Shukree Barfield\*\*  
**Zach Potter\*\*\*\* (13)**  
 Clayton Sievers\*\*\*\*  
**Ty Steinkuhler\*\*\*\* (13)**  
**LB:** **Cody Glenn\*\*\*\* (9)**  
 Tyler Wortman\*\* (6)  
**DB:** **Armando Murillo\* (12)**  
 Major Culbert\*\*\*

### KICKERS/SPECIALISTS

(2 Lettermen Returning)

**PK:** Alex Henery\*\* (13 as PK)  
 Adi Kunalic\*\* (13 as KO specialist)

(4 Lettermen Lost)

**P:** Dan Titchener\*\*\* (12)  
**PK/P:** Jake Wesch\*\*\*\*  
**LS:** T.J. O'Leary\*\*\* (13)  
 Justin Baumgartner\*  
**Holder:** Jake Wesch\*\*\*\* (13)

### Husker 2008 Statistical Leaders (returnees in bold)

| Rushing                 | G/S         | Att.       | Yds.       | YPC        | YPG         | Long      | TD       |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| <b>Roy Helu Jr., IB</b> | <b>13/2</b> | <b>125</b> | <b>803</b> | <b>6.4</b> | <b>61.8</b> | <b>57</b> | <b>7</b> |
| Marlon Lucky, IB        | 12/11       | 125        | 550        | 4.1        | 43.1        | 58        | 7        |
| Quentin Castille, IB    | <b>13/1</b> | <b>106</b> | <b>467</b> | <b>4.4</b> | <b>35.9</b> | <b>58</b> | <b>6</b> |

| Passing          | G/S   | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds   | YPG   | TDs |
|------------------|-------|-------------|------|-------|-------|-----|
| Joe Ganz, QB     | 13/13 | 420-285-11  | .679 | 3,568 | 274.5 | 25  |
| Patrick Witt, QB | 5/0   | 8-6-0       | .750 | 48    | 9.6   | 0   |

| Receiving               | G/S          | No.       | Yds        | YPR         | YPG         | Long      | TDs      |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| Nate Swift, WR          | 13/13        | 63        | 941        | 14.9        | 72.4        | 67        | 10       |
| Todd Peterson, WR       | 13/12        | 62        | 786        | 12.7        | 60.5        | 36        | 4        |
| <b>Mike McNeill, TE</b> | <b>13/12</b> | <b>32</b> | <b>442</b> | <b>13.8</b> | <b>34.0</b> | <b>53</b> | <b>6</b> |
| <b>Menelik Holt, WR</b> | <b>12/4</b>  | <b>30</b> | <b>355</b> | <b>11.8</b> | <b>29.6</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>1</b> |
| Marlon Lucky, IB        | 12/11        | 26        | 288        | 11.1        | 24.0        | 69        | 1        |
| <b>Roy Helu Jr., IB</b> | <b>13/2</b>  | <b>25</b> | <b>266</b> | <b>10.6</b> | <b>20.5</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>0</b> |
| Niles Paul, WR          | 13/4         | 23        | 214        | 9.3         | 16.5        | 21        | 0        |

| Scoring                 | TDs      | PAT1     | PAT2     | FG       | Saf.     | TP        |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Alex Henery, PK         | 0        | 56-57    | 0        | 18-21    | 0        | 110       |
| Nate Swift, WR          | 11       | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 66        |
| Marlon Lucky, IB        | 8        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 48        |
| <b>Roy Helu Jr., IB</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>42</b> |

| Punting       | G  | No. | Yds   | Avg. | I20 | Long |
|---------------|----|-----|-------|------|-----|------|
| Dan Titchener | 12 | 42  | 1,649 | 39.3 | 13  | 58   |

| Punt Returns | G  | No. | Yds | YPR  | Long | TDs |
|--------------|----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|
| Nate Swift   | 13 | 23  | 296 | 12.9 | 88   | 1   |
| Niles Paul   | 13 | 8   | 80  | 10.0 | 28   | 0   |

| Kickoff Returns | G  | No. | Yds | YPR  | Long | TDs |
|-----------------|----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|
| Niles Paul      | 13 | 41  | 969 | 23.6 | 85   | 1   |

| Interceptions     | G/S   | No. | Yds | YPR  | Long | TDs |
|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|
| Ndamukong Suh, DT | 13/13 | 2   | 79  | 39.5 | 49   | 2   |
| Anthony West, CB  | 12/11 | 2   | 26  | 13.0 | 26   | 0   |
| Zach Potter, DE   | 13/13 | 2   | 11  | 5.5  | 11   | 0   |

| Tackles           | G/GS  | UT | TOT | TFL   | Sacks  | PBU | Int.-Yds |
|-------------------|-------|----|-----|-------|--------|-----|----------|
| Ndamukong Suh, DT | 13/13 | 39 | 76  | 19-85 | 7.5-67 | 3   | 2-79     |
| Larry Asante, SS  | 13/12 | 45 | 67  | 2-4   | 1-4    | 4   | 1-0      |
| Matt O'Hanlon, FS | 13/9  | 33 | 52  | 2-5   | --     | 5   | 1-21     |
| Pierre Allen, DE  | 13/11 | 21 | 52  | 10-37 | 5-27   | 1   | --       |

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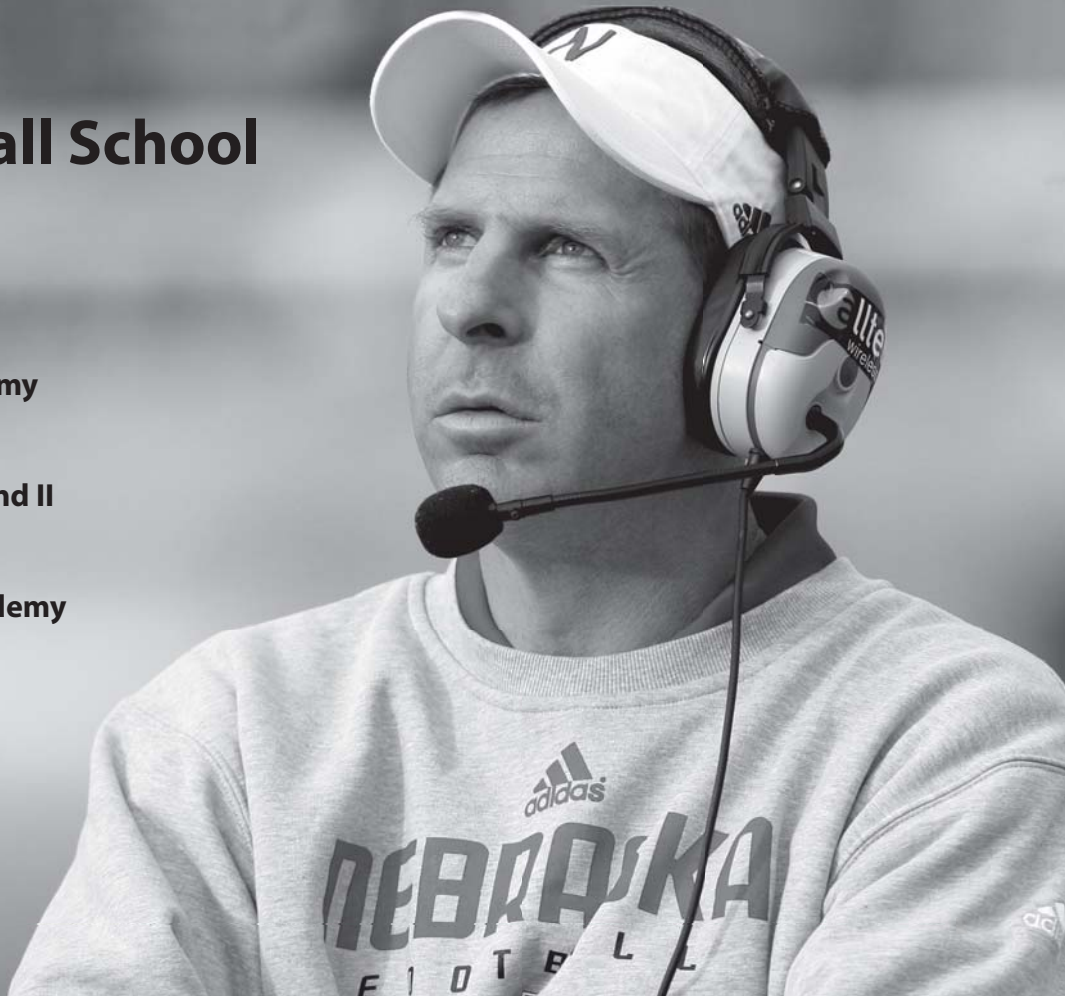


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# NEBRASKA COACHING STAFF

## BO PELINI HEAD COACH SECOND SEASON



### Tradition. Passion. Discipline.

Those are a few of the trademarks that define Nebraska football and are characteristics that have made Nebraska one of the most storied and decorated programs in college football history.

The words can also be used to describe Bo Pelini—the man in his second season in charge of the Cornhusker football program.

The youngest of eight children, Pelini grew up in the hard-nosed town of Youngstown, Ohio. Pelini's parents instilled the discipline at a young age that has guided Bo to success both in and out of athletics.

Pelini's passion for athletics began in Youngstown. After a standout prep career at Cardinal Mooney High School, Pelini went on to Ohio State. A hard-hitting safety, Pelini was known for his passionate and relentless play. Teammates recognized his leadership and elected him a team captain as a senior.

The tradition of being part of winning programs did not end after Pelini's playing career. His coaching career has featured success at every stop along the way. A Super Bowl ring and a national championship are part of the 41-year-old's impressive resume.

That coaching resume included a one-year stop as defensive coordinator at Nebraska. During the 2003 season, Pelini quickly learned the traditions of Nebraska football and its passionate fan base. In turn, Husker fans recognized the discipline and passion instilled by Pelini in the Blackshirt defense.

After four years as the nation's most successful defensive coordinator, Pelini returned to Lincoln in December of 2007. Nebraska Athletic Director and Hall of Fame coach Tom Osborne named Pelini as the 28th head coach in Nebraska football history on Dec. 2, 2007.

In his first season in charge of the program, Pelini stayed true to his disciplined, no-nonsense attitude. The result was a Cornhusker team that has reflected the mentality of its head coach and continued to improve throughout the 2008 season.

Pelini guided the Huskers to a 9-4 record, capped by victories in the Huskers' final four games and six of the season's final seven contests. The late-season surge allowed Nebraska to earn a share of the Big 12 North Championship, and the Huskers picked up their ninth win with a 26-21 come-from-behind victory over Clemson in the Konica Minolta Gator Bowl. The win was a fitting conclusion for a team that developed a toughness that was a direct extension of its head coach.

Pelini became just the fourth Cornhusker coach to win nine games in his first season, taking a place alongside only Bob Devaney, Tom Osborne and Frank Solich. The nine wins were also tied for the most among the 18 first-year 2008 head coaches in the Football Bowl Subdivision, and were the most among first-time head coaches.

Nebraska's current four-game winning streak is the longest for the Huskers entering a season since 2000. The 6-1 run to close 2008 tied for the best by a Nebraska team since 1997, and Nebraska won its final four games for just the second time since 1997.

The success under Pelini in 2008 can be attributed to both sides of the football. The Husker offense continued to rank among the nation's best, finishing in the nation's top 20 in passing offense, scoring offense and total offense, while developing a consistent running game over the second half of the season.

The biggest gains were made on the defensive side of the ball where Pelini implemented his proven defensive system. Nebraska improved its total defensive average by 126.9 yards per game and finished second in the Big 12 in total defense. The run defense allowed 116.5 yards per game, nearly cutting its average from 2007 in half and finishing in the top 25 nationally in that category. The Blackshirts also posted 35 sacks, nearly tripling the total of the previous season.

The successful first season for Pelini came as a result of his ability to quickly implement his attitude and leadership into the program. After taking over the Huskers, Pelini wasted no time instilling a disciplined approach on and off the field, while also embracing the traditions of the Cornhusker football program. Pelini built a coaching staff that had close ties to both the Pelini family and the Nebraska football family.

The Nebraska staff includes three former Husker players, and six full-time assistant coaches with previous experience at Nebraska. Seven coaches have worked alongside Pelini, including five members of the 2003 Husker staff. His Youngstown roots are also represented with three Cardinal Mooney grads among the Husker coaches.

Pelini immediately showed the discipline to handle multiple tasks following his

hiring. While quickly taking charge of all aspects of the Nebraska program, Pelini was also committed to finishing what he had started at LSU. Pelini returned to Baton Rouge in mid-December and successfully orchestrated the Tigers' defensive game plan for the BCS National Championship game against Ohio State. The 38-24 win over the Buckeyes was keyed by a defense that forced three turnovers and had five sacks.

Following the championship victory, Pelini turned his full focus to Nebraska. His first order of business in Lincoln was to pull together the Huskers' 2008 recruiting class. Pelini successfully organized and led a recruiting charge that allowed Nebraska to sign a talented and balanced recruiting class in February. In its first full year together, Pelini's staff assembled another impressive group of recruits in 2009.

Pelini also understands the importance of the storied Nebraska walk-on program, and has integrated it as a key part of the Huskers' recruiting plan. The Cornhusker staff has welcomed nearly 50 walk-ons to the program in the first two seasons, and will continue to make the walk-on program a focus in future years.

Pelini has also reached out to two groups that form the backbone of the tradition-rich Nebraska program—its former players and its passionate fan base.

Former Cornhuskers have rallied behind Pelini's blue-collar approach to returning Nebraska to its place among the nation's elite. In turn the head coach has opened his door to those who helped build the program. Pelini has made a strong effort to connect with former players and those past Cornhuskers have become a fixture in the football offices and at practices.

Pelini has made regular public appearances around the state, reaching out to the nation's most loyal fans. The widespread support for Pelini has been evident at every stop and his simple, humble approach is a perfect fit with Nebraskans. The support for Pelini has been evident since his arrival, beginning with 80,000 fans at the Red-White Spring Game in April of 2008 to loyal followings on the road and at the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville.

While devoting time to former players, fans and attracting talented future Huskers, Pelini's No. 1 priority has been, and always will be, the current players in his program. Players have responded to his straight-forward message: Work hard, do the right thing and success will follow.

That approach has worked for Pelini at each of his previous stops. In his three seasons as the defensive coordinator at LSU, Pelini's dominant defenses helped the Tigers compile a 34-6 record, including the 2007 BCS national championship and the Southeastern Conference championship. The BCS title game in January of 2008 marked the third time in four years that Pelini was a part of a team that has played in a BCS game.

The play of Pelini's defenses was a key part of LSU's success. The Tigers ranked third in the nation in total defense in 2007, surrendering an average of 288.8 yards per game. LSU also ranked in the top 25 nationally in pass efficiency defense (3rd), passing yards allowed per game (9th), rush defense (14th) and scoring defense (17th). Senior defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey was the nation's most decorated defender in 2007, earning the Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award, while safety Craig Steltz earned All-America honors.

Pelini's defenses have a history of swarming to the football. LSU forced 36 turnovers in 2007, the third-most takeaways in the country, and it was a fourth-quarter interception return for a touchdown that provided the difference in LSU's SEC title-game win over Tennessee. The Tigers' 2007 defensive success was the standard for Pelini at LSU, as each of his three LSU defenses ranked No. 3 nationally in total defense.

Pelini's 2006 unit surrendered just 242.8 yards per game, the fewest by a Tiger team since 1976. The play helped LSU to a No. 3 final national ranking, and the Tigers led the SEC in six categories and also ranked in the top five nationally in scoring defense, pass defense and pass efficiency defense. A pair of Tigers earned first-team All-America honors, including Dorsey and safety LaRon Landry, who went on to become the sixth overall pick in the NFL Draft by the Washington Redskins.

In 2005, the Tigers allowed just 266.9 yards per game, and ranked in the top 10 nationally in all four major defensive categories, including third in total defense, scoring defense and pass efficiency defense. Kyle Williams and Claude Wroten were both first-team All-America selections.

Pelini served as the co-defensive coordinator on Bob Stoops' staff at Oklahoma in 2004, helping the Sooners win a Big 12 title and reach the national championship game against USC. Oklahoma finished the season ranked sixth nationally in rush defense, 11th in scoring defense and 13th in total defense.

Pelini's first collegiate full-time job came at Nebraska in 2003, when he engineered a dominant Blackshirt defense and earned widespread support from the Cornhusker faithful. As the coordinator of the Huskers' defense for Head Coach Frank Solich, Pelini led an energized unit that finished among the Big 12 and nation's best in nearly every defensive category.

Nebraska finished the year ranked first nationally in pass efficiency defense, second in scoring defense and 11th in total defense. Pelini's defense was also one of the most opportunistic in school history. The Huskers set a school and Big 12 record with 32 interceptions and tied an NU record with 47 takeaways, helping Nebraska lead the nation in turnover margin.



Pelini began his second tour of duty at Nebraska with a victory on his resume. His first tenure in Lincoln was capped by serving as the interim head coach for Nebraska's dominant 17-3 win over Michigan State in the 2003 Alamo Bowl. NU's performance in that game reflected Pelini's personality as the Huskers controlled the line of scrimmage with the running game and the defense held MSU to just 174 total yards and a first-quarter field goal.

Overall, the six college teams Pelini has been a part of have compiled an impressive 65-14 record, winning at least nine games every season. His defenses have posted eight shutouts and held the opposition to seven points or less 28 times.

Before joining the Huskers in 2003, Pelini had nine years of NFL experience, one season at a Division I university, and one year in the high school ranks. Pelini broke into the NFL in 1994 as assistant secondary coach for head coach George Seifert and the San Francisco 49ers. Originally hired as a scouting assistant, Pelini was quickly promoted to assistant secondary coach in the spring of 1994. Less than a year after his promotion to an on-field coaching spot, Pelini was coaching in the Super Bowl, helping the 49ers to a 49-26 win over San Diego in Super Bowl XXIX. Pelini held that position for three years before moving to the Patriots for the 1997 season.

As a member of the Patriots staff, Pelini coached the linebackers under head coach Pete Carroll. Pelini helped the Patriots go 27-21 over a three-year period with the club making the playoffs twice. Pelini's efforts were highlighted with a Pro Bowl appearance by Chris Slade in 1997, the first Patriot linebacker to be named All-Pro since 1989.

After three years with the Patriots, Pelini moved to the Packers, coaching linebackers for three seasons. In three years in Green Bay with head coach Mike Sherman, the Packers posted a 33-15 record and advanced twice to the playoffs. In 2002, the Packer defense ranked fourth in the NFL in pass defense, allowing 188.4 yards per game.

Pelini got his start in coaching in 1991, serving as a graduate assistant coach at Iowa under Hayden Fry. From there he moved into the high school ranks, serving as quarterbacks coach at Cardinal Mooney High School in Youngstown, Ohio in 1993 before taking the leap to the 49ers.

A standout free safety at Ohio State from 1987 to 1990, Pelini earned four letters for the Buckeyes. He was coached by Earle Bruce in 1987 and John Cooper his final three seasons. Pelini helped the Buckeyes to a 15-8 record over his final two seasons as a starter, and he was a three-time selection to the Academic All-Big Ten team. As a senior co-captain Pelini received the "Bo Rein Award," given annually to the Buckeyes' most inspirational player.

After earning his bachelor's degree in business marketing from Ohio State in 1990, Pelini completed his master's degree in sports administration at Ohio University in 1992. Pelini and his wife, Mary Pat, have three children, a 10-year-old son, Patrick, and two daughters, Kate, 8 and Caralyn, 6.

## THE BO PELINI FILE

**Birthdate:** Dec. 13, 1967 in Youngstown, Ohio

**Wife:** Mary Pat

**Children:** Patrick, Kate, and Caralyn

**High School:** Cardinal Mooney, '86

**College:** Ohio State, 1990

### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

1987-90 Ohio State free safety

### HEAD COACHING EXPERIENCE

2003 Nebraska interim head coach, 1-0  
def. Michigan St., 17-3 in Alamo Bowl

2008 Nebraska 9-4, def. Clemson, 26-21 in Gator Bowl

### ASSISTANT COACHING EXPERIENCE

1991 Iowa graduate assistant

1993 Cardinal Mooney High School quarterbacks

1994-96 San Francisco 49ers assistant secondary coach

1997-99 New England Patriots linebackers

2000-02 Green Bay Packers linebackers

2003 Nebraska defensive coordinator

2004 Oklahoma co-defensive coordinator, defensive backs

2005-07 LSU defensive coordinator

### BOWL AND PLAYOFF EXPERIENCE

#### Player

1990 Hall of Fame Bowl lost to Auburn, 31-14

1990 Liberty Bowl lost to Air Force, 23-11

#### Coach

1991 Holiday Bowl Iowa tied BYU, 13-13

1995 NFC Divisional Playoffs 49ers def. Bears, 44-15

1995 NFC Championship Game 49ers def. Cowboys, 38-28

1995 Super Bowl XXIX 49ers def. Chargers, 49-26

1996 NFC Divisional Playoffs 49ers lost to Packers, 27-17

1997 NFC Wild Card Game 49ers def. Eagles, 14-0

1997 NFC Divisional Playoffs 49ers lost to Packers, 35-14

1998 AFC Divisional Playoffs Patriots lost to Steelers, 7-6

1999 AFC Wild Card Game Patriots lost to Jaguars, 25-10

2002 NFC Wild Card Game Packers def. 49ers, 25-15

2002 NFC Divisional Playoffs Packers lost to Rams, 45-17

2003 NFC Divisional Playoffs Packers lost to Falcons, 27-7

2003 Alamo Bowl Nebraska def. Michigan State, 17-3

2004 Orange Bowl Oklahoma lost to USC, 55-19

2005 Peach Bowl LSU def. Miami, 40-3

2007 Sugar Bowl LSU def. Notre Dame, 41-14

2008 BCS Championship Game LSU def. Ohio State, 38-24

2009 Gator Bowl Nebraska def. Clemson, 26-21

### PELINI'S NOTABLE FIRST-YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- \* Pelini guided Nebraska to a 9-4 record in 2008, a four-win improvement from 2007.
- \* Pelini was the first coach in Big 12 history to lead his team to at least a share of a division championship in his first season.
- \* Pelini's 9-4 mark was the best among first-time head coaches in 2008, and tied for the most of any of the 18 coaches in their first season at their school.
- \* Pelini became just the eighth BCS Conference (since 1998) first-time head coach to post nine victories in his first season and just the second first-year head coach in that span to win nine games after inheriting a team with a losing record.

### 2008 FIRST-YEAR HEAD COACHES

| Coach, School               | Record | Conference |
|-----------------------------|--------|------------|
| 1. Bo Pelini, Nebraska*     | 9-4    | 5-3        |
| Paul Johnson, Georgia Tech  | 9-4    | 5-3        |
| Houston Nutt, Mississippi   | 9-4    | 5-3        |
| Bill Stewart, West Virginia | 9-4    | 5-2        |
| 5. Ken Niumatololo, Navy*   | 8-5    | ---        |

\*first-time head coach

### PELINI MOVES HUSKERS UP BIG 12 STANDINGS

Nebraska finished with a 5-3 record within the Big 12 Conference in 2008 and the Huskers were co-champions of the North Division. Under Pelini, NU became just the second team in the 13-year history of the conference to finish last in its division one season and finish in at least a tie for first in its division the following year. Nebraska's three-game turnaround in Big 12 play from 2007 ranks as the fifth-best turnaround nationally among all conferences.

# NEBRASKA COACHING STAFF



**CARL PELINI**  
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR/DEFENSIVE LINE  
SECOND SEASON

Carl Pelini is in his second season on his younger brother's coaching staff. In his first season as Nebraska's defensive coordinator and defensive line coach, Pelini helped the Huskers field one of the nation's most improved defensive units.

The Nebraska defense finished second in the Big 12 in total defense and ranked among the top 25 nationally in rushing defense. Pelini also oversaw the work of a standout defensive

line, led by first-team All-Big 12 pick Ndamukong Suh, who led the Huskers in tackles. Pelini joined the NU staff after three seasons on Frank Solich's coaching staff at Ohio University. Pelini worked for Solich and Bo Pelini at Nebraska in 2003, serving as the defensive graduate assistant. The Blackshirts finished 11th nationally in total defense in that season.

**Coaching Experience**

1987-88 ..... Cardinal Mooney High School, Youngstown Ohio.....assistant coach  
1989-91 ..... Kansas State..... graduate assistant; restricted earnings coach  
1993-94 ..... Blue Valley High School, Overland Park, Kan. .... assistant coach/def. coordinator  
1995-99 ..... Winnetonka High School, Kansas City, Mo. .... head coach, athletic director  
2000-02 ..... Fitch High School, Austintown, Ohio ..... head coach  
2003..... Nebraska..... graduate assistant/defense  
2004..... Minnesota State ..... assistant coach/defensive coordinator, secondary  
2005-07 ..... Ohio ..... assistant coach/defensive line  
2008-09 ..... Nebraska..... assistant coach/defensive coordinator, defensive line



**SHAWN WATSON**  
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR/QUARTERBACKS  
FOURTH SEASON

Shawn Watson is in his fourth season at Nebraska and his third as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. Over the past two seasons, Watson has guided the Nebraska offense to top-12 finishes in total offense each of the past two seasons. The Huskers have also ranked in the top 15 nationally in passing offense in both 2007 and 2008. Last fall, he tutored Joe Ganz who put together the most prolific season in school history in

passing yards and total offensive yards.

The success at Nebraska has added to Watson's proven track record as an offensive coordinator in the Big 12 Conference. Watson came to Nebraska after seven seasons on Gary Barnett's Colorado coaching staff from 1999 to 2005, including the last six as the Buffs' offensive coordinator. Watson has 27 overall years of college coaching experience, including a stint as head coach at Southern Illinois from 1994 to 1996.

**Coaching Experience**

1982..... Southern Illinois..... graduate assistant coach  
1983-86 ..... Illinois ..... graduate assistant coach; assistant coach/tight ends, tackles, receivers  
1987-93 ..... Miami (Ohio) University.... assistant coach/tight ends, receivers, quarterbacks, recruiting  
1997-98 ..... Northwestern ..... assistant coach/quarterbacks  
1999-2005 .. Colorado ..... assistant coach/quarterbacks, offensive coordinator  
2006..... Nebraska ..... assistant coach/tight ends, recruiting coordinator  
2007-09 ..... Nebraska..... assistant coach/offensive coordinator, quarterbacks



**BARNEY COTTON**  
ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH/OFFENSIVE LINE  
SECOND SEASON (THIRD OVERALL AT NU)

Barney Cotton is in his second season on Bo Pelini's staff as the offensive line coach and associate head coach. Cotton is in his third season overall as a Nebraska assistant, having previously served as offensive coordinator and offensive line coach in 2003.

Cotton helped the Nebraska offense post impressive numbers in 2008, as the Huskers finished among the top 20 nationally in total offense, scoring offense and passing offense. Senior offensive guard Matt Slauson was a second-team All-Big 12 pick under Cotton's guidance.

Following his one year at Nebraska in 2003, Cotton served as the offensive coordinator at Iowa State from 2004 to 2006 and directed a potent ISU attack. Before his four years as an offensive coordinator in the Big 12, Cotton was an assistant coach at New Mexico State and St. Cloud State and was the head coach at Hastings College in 1995 and 1996. Cotton had a successful career as a lineman at Nebraska in the late 1970s.

**Coaching Experience**

1989-94 ..... St. Cloud State ..... assistant coach/offensive coordinator, offensive line  
1995-96 ..... Hastings College..... head coach  
1997-2002 .. New Mexico State..... assistant head coach/offensive coordinator, offensive line  
2003..... Nebraska..... assistant coach/offensive coordinator, offensive line  
2004-06 ..... Iowa State..... assistant coach/offensive coordinator, offensive line  
2007..... Ames (Iowa) High School ..... volunteer offensive assistant  
2008-09 ..... Nebraska..... associate head coach/offensive line



**TED GILMORE**  
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/WIDE RECEIVERS  
FIFTH SEASON

Ted Gilmore enters his fifth season on the Nebraska coaching staff in 2009. He has served as the receivers coach for each of his four years, while also handling the role of recruiting coordinator the past three years. Gilmore added the role of assistant head coach on Bo Pelini's staff.

In 2008, Gilmore oversaw senior receivers Nate Swift and Todd Peterson who finished their careers as two of the most prolific wideouts in school history. Swift finished first in career receptions and second in yards, and Peterson finished in the top five in both categories. The play of the receiving corps helped Nebraska rank in the top 15 nationally in passing each of the past two seasons.

Gilmore came to Nebraska after two seasons on the coaching staff at Colorado, where he also served as receivers coach. He also had assistant coaching stints at Purdue (2001-02), Houston (2000), Kansas (1999) and Wyoming (1994-98).

**Coaching Experience**

1994-98 ..... Wyoming..... graduate assistant/receivers/tight ends; assistant coach/receivers  
1999..... Kansas..... assistant coach/tight ends  
2000..... Houston ..... assistant coach/wide receivers  
2001-02 ..... Purdue ..... assistant coach/wide receivers  
2003-04 ..... Colorado ..... assistant coach/wide receivers  
2005-07 ..... Nebraska..... assistant coach/wide receivers, recruiting coordinator  
2008-09 ..... Nebraska..... assistant head coach/wide receivers, recruiting coordinator



**TIM BECK**  
RUNNING BACKS  
SECOND SEASON

Tim Beck is in his second season on Coach Bo Pelini's Nebraska staff and serves as the Huskers' running backs coach. In his first season at Nebraska, Beck tutored three running backs who topped 450 rushing yards, including Roy Helu Jr. and Quentin Castille who both return for their junior seasons in 2009.

Beck had prior experience in the Big 12 North Division before coming to Nebraska, serving three seasons on the Kansas coaching staff. Beck was KU's receivers coach each of his three seasons in Lawrence, and was promoted to pass game coordinator in 2007. In his final season with KU he helped the Jayhawks to a 12-1 record and No. 7 national ranking.

Before his time at Kansas, Beck was one of the most respected high school coaches in the state of Texas. He also worked in the prep ranks in Arizona and had college coaching stops at Missouri State, Illinois State and Kansas State.

**Coaching Experience**

1988-89 ..... Miramar High School, Miramar, Fla. .... assistant coach  
1990..... Illinois State ..... assistant coach/outside linebackers  
1991-92 ..... Kansas State..... graduate assistant coach  
1993-95 ..... Saguro High School, Scottsdale, Ariz..... head coach  
1996-98 ..... Missouri State..... assistant coach/offensive coordinator  
1999-2001 .. R.L. Turner High School, Carrollton, Texas ..... head coach  
2002-04 ..... Mansfield Summitt High School, Mansfield, Texas ..... head coach  
2005-07 ..... Kansas..... assistant coach/wide receivers, passing game coordinator  
2008-09 ..... Nebraska..... assistant coach/running backs



**RON BROWN**  
TIGHT ENDS  
SECOND SEASON (19TH OVERALL AT NU)

Veteran college assistant Ron Brown re-joined the Nebraska coaching staff in 2008 and enters his second season as the Huskers' tight ends coach. The 2009 campaign will be Brown's 19th overall season as a Nebraska assistant after serving as an assistant for 17 seasons from 1987 to 2003 under Tom Osborne and Frank Solich. Brown served as receivers coach for his entire

tenure and also tutored the tight ends during his first 16 seasons on the NU staff. During his first stint, the blocking of Brown's receivers played a key role in nine NU NCAA rushing titles.

In his first season back in the collegiate game, Brown assisted with an NU offense that finished 12th nationally in total offense. Sophomore tight end Mike McNeill set a Nebraska tight end season record with 32 receptions, including six TD grabs. Brown spent his four years out of football serving as the Nebraska State Director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

**Coaching Experience**

1982..... New Jersey Rams ..... defensive coordinator  
1983..... Brown ..... head freshman coach  
1984-86 .. Brown ..... assistant coach  
1987-2003 .. Nebraska..... assistant coach/wide receivers, tight ends  
2008-09 ..... Nebraska..... assistant coach/tight ends



# NEBRASKA SUPPORT STAFF



## MIKE EKELER LINEBACKERS SECOND SEASON

Mike Ekeler is in his second season on Coach Bo Pelini's Husker defensive staff. A native Nebraskan, Ekeler serves as Nebraska's linebackers coach.

In his first season with Nebraska, Ekeler helped a defensive resurgence that saw the Huskers finish second in the Big 12 in total defense. Nebraska allowed 126 fewer yards per game than

in 2008 and cut its rushing defense average nearly in half.

Ekeler had worked with Pelini for four seasons before following him to Nebraska. He spent the 2005 through 2007 seasons as a graduate assistant and intern with the LSU defense, helping the Tigers finish third nationally in total defense each year. Ekeler spent the 2003 and 2004 seasons as a defensive graduate assistant at Oklahoma on Coach Bob Stoops' staff, helping the Sooners to two national championship games.

### Coaching Experience

1999-2001 .. Omaha Skutt High School ..... volunteer coach  
 2002..... Manhattan (Kan.) High School.....assistant coach  
 2003-04 ..... Oklahoma .....graduate assistant/defense  
 2005-07 ..... LSU.....graduate assistant coach, intern/defense  
 2008-09 ..... Nebraska..... assistant coach/linebackers



## JOHN PAPUCHIS DEFENSIVE ENDS SECOND SEASON

John Papuchis enters his second season on the Nebraska coaching staff. Papuchis tutors the Nebraska defensive ends and also plays a key role with the Husker special teams.

In his first year in Lincoln, Papuchis saw starting defensive ends Zach Potter and Pierre Allen combine for 26 tackles for loss and 10.5 sacks. The defensive ends helped a Nebraska

defense that finished second in the Big 12 in total defense.

Before his arrival at Nebraska, Papuchis served as a defensive intern at LSU, assisting in every aspect of the defensive game plan and scouting reports. His efforts helped the Tigers rank among the nation's top three defenses from 2005 to 2007, while winning the 2007 national championship. Papuchis had a three-year stint as a graduate assistant at Kansas from 2001 to 2003, and in his final season in Lawrence, he helped the Jayhawks earn a berth in the Tangerine Bowl.

### Coaching Experience

2001-03 ..... Kansas.....graduate assistant/defense  
 2004-07 ..... LSU..... defensive intern/graduate assistant  
 2008-09 ..... Nebraska..... assistant coach/defensive ends



## MARVIN SANDERS SECONDARY SECOND SEASON (THIRD OVERALL AT NU)

Former Nebraska defensive back and assistant coach Marvin Sanders is in his second season as the secondary coach on Bo Pelini's Cornhusker staff. Sanders has 16 years of experience in the college ranks, including previously serving as the NU defensive backs coach in 2003.

In 2008, Sanders developed a young Nebraska secondary that helped the Huskers rank second in the Big 12 Conference in total defense. Nebraska also finished second in the league in passing yards allowed per game.

Sanders joined Pelini's staff after serving as the defensive coordinator at North Carolina from 2004 to 2006. In his first stint at NU, Sanders' secondary played a key role in Nebraska setting a school record with 47 takeaways in 2003, led by All-America safety Josh Bullocks' school-record 10 interceptions and earned first-team All-America honors. Sanders also has previous coaching stints at Colorado State, New Mexico State, UNO, Minnesota-Morris and Nebraska Wesleyan. He earned three letters as a defensive back at Nebraska from 1987 to 1989, playing for Tom Osborne.

### Coaching Experience

1992-93 ..... Nebraska Wesleyan .....assistant coach/secondary  
 1994..... Minnesota-Morris.....assistant coach/secondary  
 1995-99 ..... Nebraska-Omaha..... assistant coach/secondary, defensive coordinator  
 1997-99 ..... Nebraska-Omaha..... assistant coach/defensive coordinator  
 2000..... New Mexico State.....assistant coach/defensive ends, outside linebackers  
 2001-02 ..... Colorado State .....assistant coach/secondary  
 2003..... Nebraska..... assistant coach/defensive backs  
 2004-06 ..... North Carolina ..... assistant coach/defensive coordinator, defensive backs  
 2008-09 ..... Nebraska.....assistant coach/secondary



**Jeff Jamrog**  
Assistant A.D. for  
Football Operations



**James Dobson**  
Head Football  
Strength Coach



**Wince Morris**  
Assistant Director of  
Football Operations



**Curt Baldus**  
Graduate Assistant Coach/  
Offense



**Ross Watson**  
Graduate Assistant Coach/  
Defense



**Megan Rogers**  
Coordinator of  
On-Campus Recruiting



**Doug Colman**  
Football Intern



**Brett Diersen**  
Football Intern



**Jon Garrison**  
Football Intern



**Chris Kiffin**  
Football Intern



**Mark Mayer**  
Head Football Trainer



**Jay Terry**  
Equipment Manager



**Matt Schilling**  
Assistant Video Coordinator

### ADDITIONAL SUPPORT STAFF

#### Football Office Staff

Linda Leupold ..... Assistant to Coach Pelini  
 Joni Duff ..... Assistant to the Defense  
 Teri Riggins ..... Assistant to the Offense  
 Aaryn Kearney ..... Recruiting Staff Assistant

#### Strength and Conditioning

Tyler Clarke .....Assistant Strength Coach  
 Chad Wade .....Assistant Strength Coach  
 Daniel Francis .....Strength Intern  
 Brandon Rigoni .....Strength Intern

#### Athletic Medicine

Dr. Lonnie Albers ..... Director of Athletic Medicine  
 Jerry Weber .....Head Trainer  
 Patrick Spieldenner ..... Assistant Trainer for Football

#### Equipment

Chris McQuillan ..... Assistant Equipment Manager

# 2009 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SPRING NOTEBOOK

## 2009 HUSKERS ENTER SPRING WITH MOMENTUM

Nebraska will take to the field for the NCAA-allowed 15 spring practices between March 25 and the Red-White Spring Game on April 18. Nebraska capped its winter conditioning session the week of March 9, and began spring drills following its return to campus after Spring Break.

During spring practice the Huskers will regularly hit the field on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, with the lone exception a Thursday practice in the final week of workouts. The Red-White Spring Game will signal the end of spring practice with kickoff on Saturday, April 18 set for 1 p.m. at Memorial Stadium. A capacity crowd is expected for the contest.

Nebraska Head Coach Bo Pelini will welcome back 13 starters for his second season, including five on offense, seven on defense and a place-kicker.

The Huskers enter spring full of momentum after winning their final four games of the 2008 season to finish with a 9-4 record. Overall, Nebraska won six of its final seven games for its best finish to a season since also posting a 6-1 mark to cap a 12-1 1999 campaign.

### HUSKER SPRING SCHEDULE

**Week 1**—March 25, 27, 28

**Week 2**—March 30, April 1, 3, 4

**Week 3**—April 6, 8, 10, 11

**Week 4**—April 13, 15, 16

### RED-WHITE SPRING GAME

Saturday, April 18, 1 p.m.

### KEY FALL DATES

**Friday, Aug. 7**—Players report

**Saturday, Aug. 8**—First day of practice

**Monday, Aug. 24**—First Day of Classes

**Saturday, Sept. 5**—Season Opener vs.

Florida Atlantic, Memorial Stadium

**Fan Day TBA**

## NEBRASKA EXPECTING ANOTHER SPRING SELLOUT

In recent years, Nebraska fans have turned out in large numbers for the Red-White Spring Game, another example of the loyalty of the Husker fan base. During each of the past five years, Nebraska has drawn at least 54,000 fans for the spring game, highlighted by last year's sellout crowd of 80,149.

The demand for spring game tickets led Nebraska to sell all tickets for the 2009 game on a reserved basis. As of March 17, more than 70,000 tickets had been sold for the contest, making a spring record crowd quite likely. More than 44,000 tickets were snapped up on the first day of sales in February, more than 15,000 more than on day one in 2008.

Overall Nebraska has drawn 316,685 fans for its past five spring games at Memorial Stadium, an average of better than 63,000 per game.

### Red-White Game Attendance Figures

| Year | Attendance |
|------|------------|
| 2004 | 61,417     |
| 2005 | 63,416     |
| 2006 | 57,415     |
| 2007 | 54,288     |
| 2008 | 80,149     |

## HUSKERS PUT TOGETHER STRONG RECRUITING CLASS

After completing an impressive first season on the Nebraska sideline, Bo Pelini and his staff put the finishing touches on the 2009 recruiting class in February. The NU staff signed 21 prospects to national letters of intent on Feb. 4. The signing class included a strong influx of talent from Texas and California, and the Huskers also again put a focus on attracting a talented crop of walk-ons.

» The 2009 recruiting class included eight players from Texas, just one year after the Huskers signed nine players from the Lone Star State

» Six Californians were a part of the Cornhusker signing class

» The class included a player from North Dakota for the first time since 1989

## THREE SIGNEES JOIN HUSKERS IN JANUARY

The Nebraska football program welcomed three signees to the program at mid-year. Defensive back Dejon Gomes joined the Huskers after graduating from the City College of San Francisco in December. The Hayward, Calif., product is expected to immediately push for playing time during spring ball.

Quarterback Cody Green is the most heralded of the mid-year additions. The 6-4, 215-pound Green quarterbacked Dayton High to the finals of the Class 4A state playoffs in Texas. He is a dual-threat quarterback who will push for playing time early in his Nebraska career. Receiver Antonio Bell was originally part of the 2008 signing class, but enrolled at Nebraska for the first time in January and joins a receiving corps that must replace two of the top five receivers in school history this spring.

## NCAA-RECORD SELLOUT STREAK TO REACH 300 IN 2009

Nebraska boasts an incredible NCAA-record 297 consecutive sellouts at Memorial Stadium, and the streak will hit 300 games this fall when Nebraska takes on Louisiana-Lafayette in Lincoln on Sept. 26. The sellout streak dates back to Hall of Fame Coach Bob Devaney's first year in 1962 (vs. Missouri on Nov. 3). Notre Dame is second in all-time consecutive sellouts with 205, 92 fewer than Nebraska.

The Huskers are 258-39 during the 297 sellouts. The mark includes a 39-24 record against ranked teams. Nebraska is 5-0 in the five milestone sellouts during that period (50th, 100th, 150th, 200th and 250th sellouts), including a 24-7 win over No. 2 Colorado on Oct. 29, 1994 (No. 200) and a 44-13 victory over Utah State on Sept. 7, 2002 (No. 250). The fan support at Memorial Stadium has led to a huge home advantage for the Huskers. NU has won at least six home games in 19 of the past 22 seasons and is 169-23 at home since 1981. The Huskers finished 6-2 at home in 2008.

## NEBRASKA CARRIES WIN STREAK INTO 2009

Nebraska finished 5-1 in the second half of the 2008 regular season, a vast improvement over a 1-5 record in the final six games of 2007. Nebraska's only loss in the second half of this season was on the road against BCS Championship game participant Oklahoma. Nebraska added a 26-21 victory over Clemson in the Gator Bowl to secure a 6-1 finish to the 2008 season.

NU's second-half record in 2008 was the best seven-game finish to a season for Nebraska since 1999, when NU was also 6-1. Nebraska is one of only 16 teams in the Football Bowl Subdivision to win six of its final seven games last season. Just 12 teams carry a winning streak of at least four games into the 2009 season, including only seven with winning streaks longer than NU's four-game streak.

Nebraska's season-opening opponent—Florida Atlantic—also won six of its last seven games last season, while non-conference foe Virginia Tech carries a four-game winning streak into the 2009 season.

### NU's Record in Final Seven Games

|      |     |
|------|-----|
| 2008 | 6-1 |
| 2007 | 1-6 |
| 2006 | 3-4 |
| 2005 | 4-3 |
| 2004 | 2-5 |
| 2003 | 5-2 |
| 2002 | 2-5 |
| 2001 | 5-2 |
| 2000 | 5-2 |
| 1999 | 6-1 |
| 1998 | 4-3 |
| 1997 | 7-0 |

## COACHING STAFF INTACT FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 2002

Head Coach Bo Pelini returns his entire coaching staff for the 2009 season. That may not seem like news at Nebraska where coaching continuity has been a key to success over the years, but it is noteworthy when considering the past few years.

The last time Nebraska had its full coaching staff remain the same from one season to the next was from 2001 to 2002 when Frank Solich's staff was unchanged. Since that year, Nebraska has had two head coaching changes and at least one assistant coach changed each season.

## SEASON OPENING WIN STREAK

Nebraska will look to continue a nation-leading streak when it opens the 2009 season against Florida Atlantic at Memorial Stadium on Sept. 5. Last year's 47-24 victory over Western Michigan in the season opener marked the Huskers' 23rd straight victory in a season opener. The streak leads the nation, bettering Florida's 19 straight season-opening wins.

The Huskers have won each of their last 23 season openers by 10 or more points, and have scored 40 or more points in the opener 16 of the past 23 seasons. In the win streak, NU has limited opponents to 14 points or less 15 times.

Nebraska will not have an easy task in the 2009 opener. Florida Atlantic finished 7-6 last season, including a 6-1 record down the stretch. The Owls capped the year with a Motor City Bowl victory over Central Michigan.

## NU OFFENSE TO CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR BALANCE

The Nebraska offense became one of the nation's most balanced attacks during the second half of the 2008 campaign. The Huskers will be looking to strive for the same type of balance in 2009 as the offense begins to take shape during spring practice.

In its final six regular-season contests, Nebraska averaged 211.6 yards rushing per game and ranked third in the Big 12 Conference in rushing in league games only.

Nebraska rushed for at least 160 yards in each of the final six games of the regular season, topped by a season-high 340 rushing yards in a 56-28 win at Kansas State. That effort was the Huskers' best ground output in a Big 12 game in six seasons and highlighted Nebraska's running game over the second half of the season.

The late-season surge in the running game improved the Huskers to 37th nationally in rushing offense at 169.8 yards per contest. By improving its rushing average, Nebraska ranked in the top 40 nationally in all four major offensive statistical categories. NU was 12th in total offense, 15th in passing offense and 17th in scoring.

The Huskers were one of just nine teams nationally to rank in the top 40 in all four major statistical categories, including Oklahoma and Oklahoma State in the Big 12.

### Well-Rounded Offenses (national rank)

| School          | Rush      | Pass      | Total     | Scoring   |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Tulsa           | 4         | 9         | 1         | 2         |
| Oklahoma        | 20        | 3         | 3         | 1         |
| Oklahoma State  | 8         | 38        | 6         | 9         |
| So. California  | 22        | 22        | 11        | 14        |
| <b>Nebraska</b> | <b>37</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>17</b> |
| Penn State      | 17        | 37        | 14        | 11        |
| Ball State      | 31        | 24        | 17        | 18        |
| Illinois        | 38        | 20        | 19        | 40        |
| Southern Miss   | 24        | 40        | 20        | 31        |
| Troy            | 40        | 33        | 27        | 26        |

## 2009 BLACKSHIRTS HOPE TO BUILD ON IMPROVEMENT

The Nebraska defense finished as one of the top units in the Big 12 Conference in 2008, and was among the most improved defenses in the nation in the first season under Head Coach Bo Pelini. Nebraska ranked second in the Big 12 in total defense at 349.9 yards per game. The defensive numbers came just one season after Nebraska finished last in the Big 12 and 112th nationally in total defense at 476.8 yards per contest. With seven starters returning for the 2009 campaign Nebraska will look to build on that success this fall.

Nebraska led the conference in third-down defense and in Big 12 games only, Nebraska ranked second in the league in total defense and first in pass defense. Nebraska also registered 35 sacks on the season, nearly tripling its 2007 total. Among those sacks, 19 came in the final four games of 2008.

Nebraska was the national leader in defensive improvement in rushing defense and team sacks. The Huskers improved their rush defense by 115.7 yards per game and 95 spots in the national rankings. NU's 22-sack improvement tied with Minnesota for the greatest gain in the country. Nebraska's total defense average was an improvement of 126.9 yards per game, the fourth-best improvement nationally. The Huskers' ranking in total defense also improved 57 spots in 2008.

### 2008 NATIONAL DEFENSIVE IMPROVEMENT

#### Improvement in Total Yards Per Game

| Team                 | YPG (NCAA rank)     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Tennessee         | -139.8 (+67)        |
| 2. Northern Illinois | -135.8 (+80)        |
| 3. Minnesota         | -135.1 (+39)        |
| <b>4. Nebraska</b>   | <b>-126.9 (+57)</b> |
| 5. Mississippi       | -116.2 (+69)        |

#### Improvement in Rushing YPG

| Team               | YPG (NCAA rank)     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>1. Nebraska</b> | <b>-115.7 (+95)</b> |
| 2. Mississippi     | -113.6 (+97)        |
| 3. UAB             | -89.8 (+31)         |
| 4. Army            | -88.4 (+47)         |
| 5. Nevada          | -85.6 (+72)         |

#### Improvement in Total Team Sacks

| Team               | Sacks            |
|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>1. Nebraska</b> | <b>+22 (+98)</b> |
| Minnesota          | +22 (+92)        |
| 3. Texas           | +19 (+53)        |
| 4. Mississippi     | +18 (+77)        |

### DEFENSIVE IMPROVEMENT

The 2008 Nebraska defense improved statistically in several areas over 2007. Here's a look at the 2008 improvement.

#### » Total Defense

| 2007      | 2008      | Difference |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 476.8 ypg | 349.9 ypg | +126.9 ypg |

#### » Rushing Defense

| 2007      | 2008      | Difference |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 232.2 ypg | 116.5 ypg | +115.7 ypg |

#### » Scoring Defense

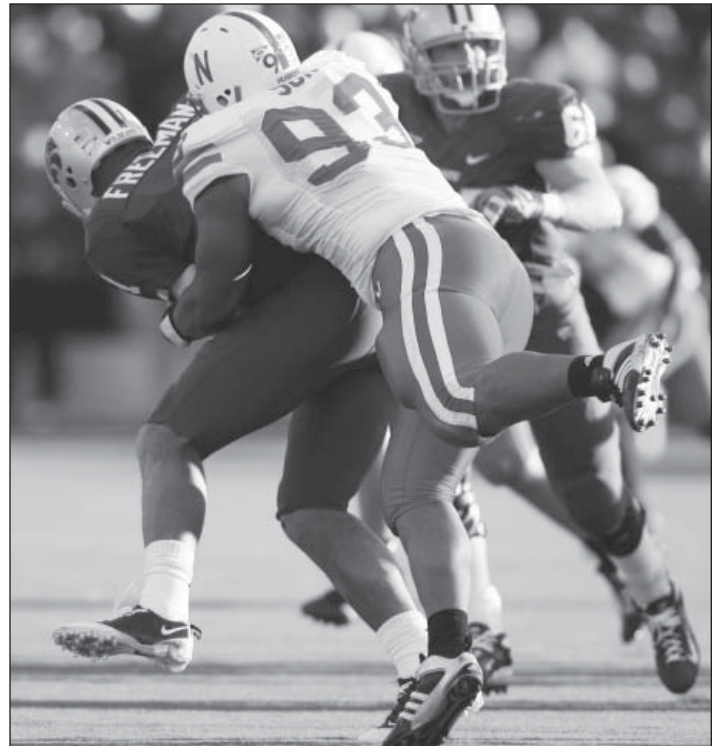
| 2007     | 2008     | Difference |
|----------|----------|------------|
| 37.9 ppg | 28.5 ppg | +9.1 ppg   |

#### » Sacks

| 2007 | 2008 | Difference   |
|------|------|--------------|
| 13   | 35   | +22 (1.7 pg) |

#### » Opponents 3rd-Down Conversion %

| 2007   | 2008   | Difference |
|--------|--------|------------|
| 50.3 % | 33.7 % | -16.6 %    |



Defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh will lead the defense after dominating in 2008. Suh was a first-team All-Big 12 pick last fall and could be poised for bigger honors as a senior.

## SUH TO CONTEND FOR NATIONAL HONORS IN 2009

Nebraska senior defensive tackle **Ndamukong Suh** has received attention throughout his career for his unique name. Last fall it was not Suh's name that received the majority of the attention—it was his game. The Portland, Ore., native earned first-team All-Big 12 honors with his dominant play. This spring he will look to build on his skills and put himself in a position to contend for higher honors as a senior.

Suh finished as NU's leader in several defensive categories. He had 7.5 sacks, including 5.5 in the final four games of the season.

His 19 tackles for loss ranked eighth on the Nebraska single-season list, with 11 of those stops coming in the final four games. The 19 tackles for loss were the third-most ever by an NU interior lineman and the most since Kenny Walker had 21 in 1990.

Suh also tied for the team lead in interceptions with two, and he returned both of those picks for touchdowns. His two interceptions tied a Nebraska season record for defensive tackles and his three career picks are a school record.

Suh did not just make stops behind the line of scrimmage. He totaled 76 tackles during the 2008 campaign, including 39 solo stops. The 76 tackles were the most by a Nebraska defensive lineman since John Parrella had 77 in 1992, and he was the first lineman to lead the team in tackles since middle guard John Bell in 1973. Overall, he had nine games with five or more tackles and his 5.8 tackles per game easily led all Big 12 defensive linemen. In Big 12 play, Suh's per-game average increased to 6.1 per game, and he ranked third among all Big 12 players regardless of position in tackles for loss per game.

Suh's top effort came against Kansas when he recorded a career-high 12 tackles, including 2.5 sacks and four tackles for loss. He also caught a two-yard touchdown pass while lining up at fullback. The performance by Suh earned him Big 12 Defensive Player-of-the-Week honors and a "Helmet Sticker" from ESPN. He capped his junior season with another four tackles for loss, two sacks and a blocked field goal in Nebraska's 26-21 Gator Bowl victory over Clemson.

### NEBRASKA CAREER TFL

| Player, Years             | TFL  |
|---------------------------|------|
| 1. Grant Wistrom, 1994-97 | 58.5 |
| 2. Barrett Ruud, 2001-04  | 50   |
| 3. Trev Alberts, 1990-93  | 45   |
| --                        | --   |
| 10. Travis Hill, 1989-92  | 37.5 |
| --                        | --   |

**Ndamukong Suh, 2005-pres. 33**

### NEBRASKA CAREER SACKS

| Player, Years             | Sacks |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 1. Trev Alberts, 1990-93  | 29.5  |
| 2. Grant Wistrom, 1994-97 | 26.5  |
| 3. Jim Skow, 1983-85      | 26    |
| --                        | --    |
| 10. Mike Rucker, 1995-98  | 15.5  |
| --                        | --    |

**Ndamukong Suh, 2005-present 12**  
**Barry Turner, 2005-present 11.5**

### NEBRASKA SEASON TFL

| Player, Year                  | TFL       |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Jim Skow, 1985             | 25        |
| 2. Corey McKeon, 2005         | 22        |
| 3. Demorrio Williams, 2003    | 21        |
| Trev Alberts, 1993            | 21        |
| Kenny Walker, 1990            | 21        |
| Derrie Nelson, 1980           | 21        |
| 7. Grant Wistrom, 1996        | 20        |
| <b>8. Ndamukong Suh, 2008</b> | <b>19</b> |
| 9. three tied with            | 18        |

## HENERY AMONG NATION'S MOST ACCURATE KICKERS

Place-kicker **Alex Henery** capped an impressive sophomore season with one of the most memorable moments in the 86-year history of Memorial Stadium, and a standout effort in the Gator Bowl victory.

Henery enters his junior year as the most accurate kicker in school history and the nation's most accurate field goal kicker over the past two seasons. The Omaha native is 26-of-29 on field goal attempts for an .897 accuracy rate, bettering the current NU career record of 75 percent.

Henery drilled a Cornhusker record 57-yard field goal with 1:43 to play against Colorado, providing the decisive points in a 40-31 victory. The field goal was Henery's fourth of the contest, and his effort earned him recognition as the Big 12 Conference Special Teams Player of the Week. He capped the season by connecting on 4-of-4 field goals in the Gator Bowl, marking Henery's third four-field goal effort of 2008.

Henery finished 2008 18-of-21 on field goals and 56-of-57 on extra-point tries. His 110 points led Nebraska and was the highest point total by a Cornhusker since Eric Crouch scored 116 points in 2001. His total ranks eighth in school history and is the second-most ever by a Nebraska kicker, trailing only Kris Brown's 116 points in 1997.

Henery's 8.5 points per game were fifth in the Big 12 and second among kickers. Henery was chosen as a second-team All-Big 12 performer by numerous sources.

Henery also connected on four field goals—each from 44 yards—in the opener against Western Michigan. That marked just the second time in school history that a kicker has connected on four field goals of 40 yards or more (NCAA record is 5).

Henery made all eight of his field goals as a redshirt freshman in 2008 and made his first 12 career field goals. This spring, Henery could also make a bid to handle the Huskers' punting chores following the graduation of Dan Titchener.

## NEBRASKA OWNS DOMINANT HOME EDGE

Nebraska will celebrate 300 consecutive sellouts in 2009, and the Cornhuskers have rewarded the loyalty of their fans with incredible success at Memorial Stadium through the years. Nebraska has won at least six home games in 19 of the past 22 seasons, including a 6-2 mark in 2008. Nebraska is 126-16 at home in the last 19 seasons (since 1989), including a pair of losses against teams that went on to win the national championship—Colorado in 1990 and Washington in 1991.

During Nebraska's run of success at home in the past 25 years, Nebraska has had three home winning streaks of 20 or more games, and has posted 40 unbeaten and untied home seasons. The Huskers are 493-135-20 (.776, 648 games, 119 years) in Lincoln, and 368-112-13 (.760, 493 games, 86 years) in Memorial Stadium (since 1923). Nebraska has had 40 straight winning home seasons.

## 800-WIN CLUB

Nebraska is one of six programs with 800 all-time victories, joining Michigan, Notre Dame, Texas, Ohio State and Penn State. NU reached the historic milestone in 2006 and now has 817 all-time victories.

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1. Michigan        | 872        |
| 2. Texas           | 832        |
| 3. Notre Dame      | 831        |
| <b>4. Nebraska</b> | <b>817</b> |
| 5. Ohio State      | 808        |
| 6. Penn State      | 800        |

Nebraska will play its 120th season of college football in 2009, and owns an 817-337-40 all-time record in 1,194 games (.701).

## NATION'S BEST SINCE 1970

Nebraska easily ranks as the nation's winningest program since the start of the 1970s, when Bob Devaney guided NU to back-to-back national titles in 1970 and 1971. During the past four decades, the Huskers have compiled a 383-96-5 record, for a .796 winning percentage in 484 games. NU's 383 wins in that time period are 27 more than Oklahoma, which has the second-most wins since 1970.

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| <b>1. Nebraska</b> | <b>383</b> |
| 2. Oklahoma        | 356        |
| 3. Ohio State      | 355        |
| 4. Michigan        | 354        |
| 5. Penn State      | 346        |

- » Nebraska has 35 nine-win seasons and 21 10-win seasons since 1970.
- » The Huskers have finished the regular season undefeated and untied seven times since 1965, and played in 13 national title games (for one of the two teams) and won five national titles since 1970.
- » Nebraska was the first team in college football history to win 100 or more games in consecutive decades, ranking first in the 1980s (103-20) and second in the 1990s (108-16-1). NU narrowly missed 100 wins in the 1970s (98).

## 2008 SEASON REVIEW

Nebraska used a late-season flurry to be one of the nation's most-improved teams in 2008 and finish with a 9-4 overall record. The Huskers won six of their final seven games, including each of the final four contests and posted a 5-3 record in Big 12 play, good for a co-championship in the league's North Division. The divisional championship marked just the second time in league history that a team improved from last in its division to a tie for first in a single season.

Nebraska opened the year with three straight victories over Western Michigan, San Jose State and New Mexico State, before the schedule toughened. Close setbacks against Virginia Tech and Texas Tech sandwiched a disappointing effort against Missouri and left Nebraska at 3-3. The Huskers then showed their resiliency with victories over Iowa State and Baylor to start the second half of the year.

After a tough outing at Oklahoma, Nebraska again showed its character down the stretch. The Huskers posted victories over Big 12 North rivals Kansas and Kansas State, before capping the year with a dramatic victory over Colorado in Lincoln. The strong finish secured the Huskers a trip to Jacksonville for a New Year's Day matchup with Clemson in the Gator Bowl.

The season came to a fitting close in the bowl game, as Nebraska battled from behind to pull out a 26-21 victory. Despite trailing by 11 points on two occasions, the Huskers rallied with 20 third-quarter points to pull out the win. The victory allowed Bo Pelini to join Bob Devaney, Tom Osborne and Frank Solich as the only Nebraska coaches to win nine games in their first season leading the program.

## SUH, SLAUSON, HENERY HONORED BY BIG 12

Three Husker players garnered first or second-team All-Big 12 honors for their efforts during the 2008 season. Defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh led the way. Suh was a first-team All-Big 12 pick by nearly every media outlet after his outstanding play, capped by a dominant performance in the Huskers' final four games. Suh led all Big 12 defensive linemen in tackles, and paced Nebraska in tackles, sacks, tackles for loss and interceptions, while scoring three touchdowns.

Henery was selected as a second-team all-conference performer by numerous media outlets. The Omaha native was the most accurate place-kicker in the Big 12 Conference in 2008, hitting 18-of-21 field goals. Henery has made 26-of-29 field goals in his career entering his junior year.

Slauson earned first-team All-Big 12 honors by one newspaper, while the Associated Press and Big 12 Coaches each named him a second-team performer. Slauson was the steadiest player on an offensive line that provided the push for Nebraska to rank among the top 20 nationally in scoring, passing and total offense.

## WORTMAN, PETERSON EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

Nebraska 2008 seniors Todd Peterson and Tyler Wortman continued the Huskers' academic tradition, as both were selected second-team ESPN the Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-Americans in December. The selection of Peterson and Wortman gave NU a nation-leading total of 98 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans in football. Nebraska also leads the nation in academic All-Americans across all teams and sports.

Peterson graduated with a 3.76 cumulative grade-point average in nutritional science and dietetics. In addition to his national honor, he also became just the eighth Nebraska player to earn first-team academic All-Big 12 honors four times.

Wortman will earn his degree in mechanical engineering this May and he carries a 3.96 cumulative grade-point average. Wortman was a two-time first-team academic All-Big 12 pick in addition to his national honor.

Senior punter Dan Titchener was an academic All-District pick and 16 other Nebraska players earned academic all-conference accolades in 2008.

## SCHOOL RECORDS FALL IN 2008

Senior quarterback Joe Ganz and senior receiver Nate Swift led an assault on the Nebraska record book in 2008. Records broken or tied last fall included:

- Pass Completions, Game...Joe Ganz, 36 at Texas Tech (tied)*
- Pass Completions, Season...Joe Ganz, 285*
- Completion Percentage, Season...Joe Ganz, 67.9% (285-420)*
- Passing Yards, Season...Joe Ganz, 3,568*
- 300-Yard Passing Games, Season and Career...Joe Ganz, 5, 8*
- Total Offense, Season...Joe Ganz, 3,826*
- Pass Receptions, Career...Nate Swift, 166*
- Pass Receptions by a Tight End, Season...Mike McNeill, 32*

Swift also finished second at Nebraska in season and career receiving yards, season and career receiving touchdowns, and career 100-yard receiving games. Fellow receiver Todd Peterson and running back Marlon Lucky both finished in the top five in NU history in pass receptions.

## A LOOK AHEAD TO 2009

### THE SCHEDULE

Nebraska's 2009 schedule will feature contests against eight teams that finished with a .500 or better record in 2008 and six teams that appeared in bowl games. Included in that group are games against BCS bowl participants Oklahoma (BCS Championship Game) and Virginia Tech (Orange), along with other bowl teams Texas Tech (Cotton), Missouri (Alamo), Kansas (Insight) and Florida Atlantic (Motor City).

The remainder of Nebraska's non-conference schedule includes matchups in Lincoln with Arkansas State and Louisiana-Lafayette, which each finished 6-6 in 2008. In Big 12 action, Nebraska will face OU, Texas Tech and visit Baylor from the South Division, along with its full slate of North Division games.

Nebraska's Big 12 opener at Missouri has been moved to Thursday, Oct. 8 to accommodate an ESPN national telecast. The Huskers' regular-season finale at Colorado returns to its traditional post-Thanksgiving Friday date and will be televised to a national audience on ABC.

### TEAM OVERVIEW

Nebraska lost 12 starters from its 9-4 Gator Bowl champion squad, including six on offense, five on defense and its starting punter. Eight members of that group were four-year letterwinners during their Cornhusker careers. The Huskers return 13 starters for the 2009 campaign, including five on offense, seven on defense and the starting place-kicker. Several other returnees have extensive starting experience during their NU careers.

Below is a quick breakdown of NU's returning starting experience for 2009.

### THE OFFENSE

Nebraska returns a good mix of skill position talent along with three starters up front on the offensive line from a unit that finished among the top 20 nationally in scoring, passing and total offense. At the same time, Nebraska must replace a record-setting quarterback, two of the top five receivers in school history, a running back who ranks in the top five in NU history in all-purpose yards and a three four-year letterwinners on the offensive line. The following is a position-by-position look at the offense heading into spring practice.

#### OFFENSIVE LINE

##### Returning:

**Jaivorio Burkes\*\***, Jr., OT—Started four games at tackle during sophomore season  
**Mike Caputo\***, So., C—Walk-on provided reliable backup to Jacob Hickman  
**Andy Christensen\*\***, Sr., OG—Awaiting word on possible sixth season of eligibility  
**Jacob Hickman\*\*\***, Sr., C—Nebraska's most game-tested offensive player  
**D.J. Jones\***, Jr., OG—Omaha native has ability to play guard or tackle  
**Marcel Jones\***, So., OT—In regular rotation as redshirt frosh, will battle for starting spot  
**Mike Smith\*\***, Jr., OT—Returns to starting left tackle spot for second season  
**Keith Williams\*\***, Jr., OG—Teams with Smith to give NU a veteran left side of line

##### Lost:

**Mike Huff\*\*\*\***, OG—Nebraska native started 23 games in his career  
**Matt Slauson\*\*\*\***, OG—Second-team All-Big 12; Made 35 starts in his NU career  
**Lydon Murtha\*\*\*\***, OT—Battled injuries nearly every year, but made 23 starts

Nebraska returns a good nucleus of talent on the offensive line, while also replacing three players with a great deal of experience. Senior Jacob Hickman returns for his third season as a starter, including his second year as the starting center. Keith Williams and Mike Smith return to the left side of the offensive line after each had breakthrough sophomore campaigns. On the right side, Nebraska will work hard this spring to replace Matt Slauson and Lydon Murtha who each lettered four times, and made starts in four straight seasons. Among the candidates to take over at right guard are juniors D.J. Jones and Ricky Henry. Jones has been a solid backup throughout his career, while Henry sat out as a redshirt a year ago in his first season in the program. Junior Jaivorio Burkes and sophomore Marcel Jones each have starting experience and appear to be among the leading contenders to start at right tackle. Mike Caputo returns to bolster the center position, while Andy Christensen is hopeful of being granted a sixth year of eligibility, and his return would bring additional experience to the guard spot. Senior transfer Derek Meyer and redshirt freshman Brandon Thompson could also be a factor after impressing the coaching staff on the scout team.

### RECEIVERS

#### Returning:

**Chris Brooks\***, Sr.—Continued to gain more playing time late in the 2008 season  
**Wes Cammack\*\*\***, Sr.—Special teams contributor looks to break into receiving rotation  
**Curenski Gilleylen\***, So.—Speedster expected to step into more significant role in '09  
**Will Henry\*\***, Jr.—Tallest of Husker receivers looks to break through this spring  
**Menelik Holt\*\*\***, Sr.—One of four Huskers to catch at least 30 passes last season  
**Niles Paul\*\***, Jr.—Omaha native is dual threat as receiver and return man

#### Lost:

**Todd Peterson\*\*\*\***—Finished in the top five in both receiving yards and receptions  
**Nate Swift\*\*\*\***—NU's all-time receptions leaders; No. 2 in rec. yards and TDs

The Nebraska receiving corps will be closely watched during spring practice. For the second straight season, the Huskers lose extensive production from the wideout corps. This spring Nebraska must replace Nate Swift and Todd Peterson, who both finished among the top five receivers in school history, including Swift who is No. 1 in career receptions and second in receiving yards. Several returnees have gained experience during their Husker careers, but will be expected to take the next step in 2009. Both senior Menelik Holt and junior Niles Paul started multiple games last season and were in the regular receiving rotation. Holt was one of four players with at least 30 receptions last season and was a reliable third option in the passing game. At 6-4 and 220 pounds, he has the physical tools to become a go-to-player this fall. Paul caught 23 passes last season and brings good size and speed to the spot. He has shown in the kick return game that he has the ability to be a game-breaking threat.

A number of other players will have the opportunity to step up during spring practice. Senior Chris Brooks gained playing time as the 2008 season progressed and hopes to stake his claim to playing time with a strong effort during spring ball. Fellow senior Wes Cammack has been a special teams contributor and reserve receiver, but will look to use his experience to make a move this spring. Junior Will Henry brings great size (6-5, 215) to the position and will look to move into the rotation this spring. Also looking to increase his role at the spot is sophomore Curenski Gilleylen who saw spot duty a year ago and has the ability to make big plays after the catch. Other young players could factor into the mix this spring. Redshirt freshmen Khiry Cooper, Tim Marlowe and Steven Osborne all were impressive while working on the scout team last season and could push for playing time in the fall. Cooper will spend his spring playing for the Husker baseball squad, but figures to battle for time in the fall. Antonio Bell joined the program at the semester and could also push for immediate playing time.



Center Jacob Hickman is the most experienced returning starter on offense. Hickman has started 23 games the past three seasons, and last season helped Nebraska rank among the top 20 nationally in passing, scoring and total offense.

**TIGHT ENDS****Returning:**

Ryan Hill\*, So.—Drew significant playing time as third tight end in 2008

**Mike McNeill\*\*, Jr.—Set tight end record for receptions and also had six TDs**

**Dreu Young\*\*, Jr.—Made four starts when NU opened in double tight-end sets**

**Lost:**

**Hunter Teafatiller\*\*\*\*—Split time between fullback and tight end as a senior**

Tight end is among Nebraska's most settled positions heading into spring ball. The Huskers return their top three players at the position from the 2008 team, with only Hunter Teafatiller, a part-time tight end in 2008 lost to graduation. Leading the way is junior Mike McNeill who caught an NU tight end season record 32 passes last season, with six of those going for touchdowns. McNeill continues to add muscle to his 6-4 frame and he averaged 13.8 yards per catch as a sophomore. Fellow junior Dreu Young returns as Nebraska's second option at tight end. The Nebraska native saw extensive action and caught nine passes, including a touchdown. Ryan Hill played in all 13 games as a redshirt freshman and should continue to grow into a larger role this spring. Redshirt freshmen Ben Cotton and Kyler Reed will look to make a strong impression this spring, with Jay Martin, Damon Bechtold and Mychael McClure among other contenders.

**RUNNING BACKS****Returning:**

Mike Hays\*, So., FB—Special teams contributor will bid for time at fullback

Roy Helu Jr.\*\*\*, Jr., IB—Nebraska's leading rusher in 2008; averaged 6.4 per carry

Quentin Castille\*\*, Jr., IB—Coming off outstanding effort in Gator Bowl win

**Lost:**

Thomas Lawson\*\*\*, FB—Developed into receiving threat and solid blocker

**Marlon Lucky\*\*\*\*, IB—Finished among top five in all-purpose yards and receptions**

Nebraska regularly utilized three I-backs last season and two of those players return in 2009, along with several young players who will make a push for action. Marlon Lucky was a four-year letterwinner who used his all-around skills to rush for more than 2,000 career yards and finish among the top five at Nebraska in career all-purpose yards. He split time last year with Roy Helu Jr. and Quentin Castille, who head into spring looking to solidify their spots at the top of the depth chart. Helu Jr. led Nebraska in rushing with 803 yards and seven touchdowns and played his best football in November. Helu's average of 6.4 yards per carry was the best by a Husker in seven seasons. Castille produced six rushing touchdowns of his own and gained 467 yards as a sophomore. He finished the season with a career-high 125 rushing yards in the Huskers' Gator Bowl victory. Speedster Marcus Mendoza produced 103 rushing yards in limited action in 2008 and should move into a more prominent role this spring. Austin Jones provided a backup presence last season and will look to move up the charts this spring, while Collins Okafor and Lester Ward are redshirt freshmen who will enter the fray. Fullbacks Thomas Lawson is gone after graduation, leaving that spot wide open. Junior Justin Makovicka and sophomore Mike Hays are among the top contenders at that spot.

**QUARTERBACKS****Lost:**

Beau Davis\*—Provided depth at quarterback throughout five-year career

**Joe Ganz\*\*\*—Set Nebraska records for passing yards and total offense in 2008**

Joe Ganz had a record-setting campaign in his only full season as a starter in 2008 and will be difficult to replace. Nebraska does not return a letterwinner at the quarterback spot, but does have talent at the position. Junior Zac Lee heads into spring as the frontrunner at the position. The 6-2, 210-pound Lee has similar size and skills as Ganz. Lee brings good mobility to the position and also possesses a strong arm, making him a good fit in Nebraska's balanced attack. Lee played in two games last season. Kody Spano joined the Nebraska program a year ago in January and sat out the fall as a redshirt, but he will move into the mix for playing time this spring. Highly touted prep prospect Cody Green joined the Huskers at the semester and is a strong candidate for playing time as a freshman. The 6-4, 215-pounder was regarded as one of the top dual threat signal callers in the country.

**THE DEFENSE**

Although Nebraska must replace key players at each level of the defense, the Huskers return a strong nucleus for 2009 as they hope to continue to make great strides on defense. Three players with extensive starting experience return up front, while the secondary enters spring ball with much more depth and experience than a year ago. A young group of players will battle for playing time at linebacker.

**DEFENSIVE LINE****Returning:**

**Pierre Allen\*\*, Jr., DE—Ranked among team leaders in sacks and TFL in 2008**

Jared Crick\*, So., DT—Key backup in 2008 will make push for starting job in spring

Ben Martin\*, Jr., DT—Provided depth on defensive front past two seasons

Terrence Moore\*, So., DT—Likely to battle for significant playing time in 2009

**Ndamukong Suh\*\*\*, Sr., DT—Anchor of defense should contend for major honors**

Barry Turner\*\*\*, Sr., DE—Returns after sitting out most of 2008 with broken leg

**Lost:**

Shukree Barfield\*\*, DE/DT—Versatile player was key reserve each of past two years

**Zach Potter\*\*\*\*, DE—Completed NU career with outstanding senior season**

Clayton Sievers\*\*\*\*, DE—Backed up both defensive ends during senior year

**Ty Steinkuhler\*\*\*\*, DT—Four-year letterman produced big numbers in 2008**

Nebraska must replace a pair of players who produced outstanding numbers during their senior season. Zach Potter ranked second on the team in tackles for loss and sacks and has also made an impact on special teams throughout his career. Ty Steinkuhler may have been Nebraska's most-improved player last season and helped give the Huskers one of the top defensive tackle tandems in the Big 12 Conference. Shukree Barfield and Clayton Sievers were key reserves. Leading the way among returnees is senior tackle Ndamukong Suh, who could be poised to contend for All-America honors this season. Suh earned first-team All-Big 12 honors last season after leading Nebraska in tackles, tackles for loss, sacks and interceptions. He led all Big 12 defensive linemen in tackles and was the first interior lineman to lead Nebraska in total tackles since 1973. The battle for the starting job alongside Suh will likely be highly contested in the spring. Sophomores Jared Crick and Terrence Moore each were solid reserves last season, but must take the next step in order to complement Suh this fall. Redshirt freshmen Baker Steinkuhler, Quentin Toailoa and Justin Jackson could also figure into the picture, along with junior Ben Martin. Despite the loss of Potter, the end position appears to be in good hands heading into spring practice. Barry Turner appeared to be poised for a strong 2008, before suffering a broken leg in the second game of the season. Turner, who has 11.5 career sacks, has had a successful rehabilitation and received a medical hardship and should return to put pressure on quarterbacks this fall. In his absence last fall, Pierre Allen stepped up and performed at a high level. Allen compiled 10 tackles for loss and he and Turner figure to form one of the top end duos in the Big 12. The competition for playing time behind Allen and Turner figures to be wide open this spring. Redshirt freshmen Cameron Meredith and Josh Williams brought impressive credentials to the NU program a year ago and will look to make their first impact in 2009 as will sophomore-to-be Will Yancy.

**LINEBACKERS****Returning:**

**Phillip Dillard\*\*\*, Sr.—Injuries limited him to just nine games during his junior year**

Thomas Grove\*\*, Jr.—Special teams player looks to break into linebacker rotation

Matt Holt\*, So.—Converted safety excelled against spread offensive attacks

Colton Koehler\*, Sr.—Played best football late in season in place of Dillard

Blake Lawrence\*\*, Jr.—Emerged at WILL 'backer spot in final three games of 2008

Mathew May\*, So.—Moved from safety late in season and contributed immediately

Latravis Washington\*\*, Jr.—Contributed primarily on special teams in two years at NU

**Lost:**

Cody Glenn\*\*\*\*—Converted running back was productive in one season on defense

**Tyler Wortman\*\*—Capped career with strong effort in final third of season**

The battle for playing time at linebacker will be one of the top storylines of the spring season. Nebraska had very little continuity at the position in 2008, in large part because of a number of injuries, leaving the starting spots wide open heading into the 2009 campaign. Nebraska lost a pair of seniors in converted running back Cody Glenn and two-year letterwinner Tyler Wortman. Glenn was strong in nine games last season before he was suspended, while Wortman keyed the position late in the year with steady play. The only returnee with extensive experience is senior MIKE linebacker Phillip Dillard. The 6-1, 240-pounder has 90 career tackles, but missed the last third of 2008 with an injury. He will be in a battle at the middle position this spring with fellow senior Colton Koehler, who filled in well late in the season, and redshirt freshman

Will Compton, who drew strong reviews on the scout team last fall. The outside spots are also wide open. Blake Lawrence is the most game-tested of the group, having appeared in 18 games over the past two seasons. Lawrence finished strong last year with 12 tackles and an interception in the final three games. Converted safeties Mathew May and Matt Holt also got a taste of action last season and with another year under their belt could be a factor this spring. Juniors Thomas Grove and Latravis Washington have seen the majority of their work on special teams, but will look to bid for additional playing time in 2009. In addition to Compton, three other talented redshirt freshmen figure to bolster the linebacking corps. Omaha native Sean Fisher played in one game before being injured and is expected to be a strong contender for playing time. Alonzo Whaley was impressive on the scout team last year and could factor into the mix, while Micah Kreikemeier should be fully recovered from knee surgery and ready to contend for playing time. Nebraska also has a large group of walk-on redshirt freshmen who will look to make a strong impression this spring.

## SECONDARY

### Returning:

Prince Amukamara\*\*, Jr., CB—Saw extensive action in nickel and dime package in '08  
**Larry Asante\*\***, Sr., SS—Has ranked among Nebraska's tackle leaders past two years  
 Anthony Blue\*, So., CB—Returns after sitting out last season with knee injury  
 Alfonzo Dennard\*, So., CB—One of just three true freshmen to play in 2008  
**Eric Hagg\*\***, So., S/CB—Made strong impact as starting nickel back in 2008  
**Matt O'Hanlon\*\*\***, Sr., FS—Shared starting role at free safety in 2008; 52 tackles  
**Rickey Thenarse\*\*\***, Sr., FS—Started final four games of season and had 24 tackles  
 Lance Thorell\*, So., CB—Made five starts as part of dime package in 2008  
 Mason Wald\*, So., S—Played key role on special teams as a true freshman  
**Anthony West\*\***, Jr., CB—Tied for team lead in interceptions and pass breakups

### Lost:

**Armando Murillo\*\***, CB—Started all but one game at corner over past two seasons  
 Major Culbert\*\*\*, S—Reserve played both offense and defense during career

Nebraska returns a much more experienced group of defensive backs this spring than a year ago. Overall, the Huskers return 10 letterwinners in the secondary, including eight players who have made starts during their careers. The only significant loss in the defensive backfield is cornerback Armando Murillo who ranked among the team leaders in pass breakups the past two seasons. Leading the list of returning starters is senior strong safety Larry Asante who has started 22 games the past two years and racked up 145 tackles. The 6-1, 215-pounder has the strength to hold up against the run and the speed to be effective in coverage. A pair of tested seniors return at free safety. Matt O'Hanlon emerged in 2008 as a solid performer and finished third on the team with 52 tackles, while making nine starts. Fellow senior Rickey Thenarse battled injuries early in the season, but made five starts in the latter half of the year and counted six tackles for loss among his 24 total stops. Junior Eric Hagg served as the starting nickel back last season and was a play-maker throughout the fall. He has the ability to play both cornerback or safety and figures prominently into the plans again. Mason Wald saw extensive special teams action as a freshman and will also be in the mix for playing time at safety. Like safety, the cornerback position should also see a spirited battle for playing time this spring. Junior Anthony West returns after starting 11 games last season. West was a steady performer opposite Murillo and totaled nine breakups and a pair of interceptions. Prince Amukamara saw significant playing time as the top reserve at corner and in the nickel and dime packages and is poised for a bigger role in 2009. Lance Thorell served as Nebraska's top dime back for most of the year and saw plenty of action against spread offenses and finished with 24 tackles. The Huskers also welcome back sophomore Alfonzo Dennard, who saw the majority of his action as a true frosh on special teams, but he figures to join the cornerback battle in the spring. Anthony Blue started two games late in the 2007 season, but missed all of 2008 following knee surgery, but should compete this spring. In addition to 10 returning letterwinners, sophomore Austin Cassidy and junior Adam Watson have playing experience at safety. Nebraska's depth is also bolstered by talented redshirt freshmen P.J. Smith, Courtney Osborne and Jase Dean and mid-year addition Dejon Gomes, who figure to get extensive looks during spring ball.

## THE SPECIAL TEAMS

### KICKERS/PUNTERS

#### Returning:

**Alex Henery\*\***, Jr., PK—Enters junior season as most accurate kicker in NU history  
**Adi Kunalic\*\***, Jr., PK—Has excelled as kickoff specialist the past two years

#### Lost:

**Dan Titchener\*\*\***, P—Three-year starter at punter placed 55 punts inside 20  
 Jake Wesch\*\*\*\*, PK/P—Backed up both punter and place-kicker during career

### SPECIALISTS

#### Returning: None

#### Lost:

Justin Baumgartner\*, LS—Served as backup long snapper past two years  
**T.J. O'Leary\*\*\***, LS—Nearly flawless in three seasons as long snapper  
 Jake Wesch\*\*\*\*, H—Handled starting holder responsibilities three straight years

### RETURNERS

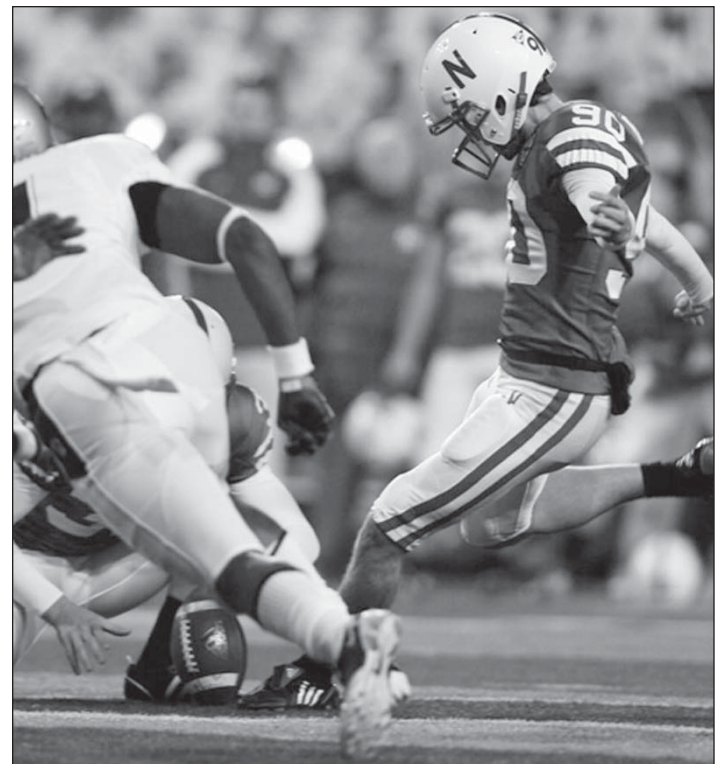
#### Returning:

**Alfonzo Dennard\***, KOR, So.—Averaged nearly 19 yards on eight returns last season  
**Niles Paul\*\***, KOR, Jr.—Ranked among league leaders in KOR average in 2008

#### Lost:

**Nate Swift\*\*\*\***, PR—All-time leading receiver also provided threat as punt returner

Spring practice will be a key time in beginning to find a number of answers in the special teams department. Dan Titchener held down the starting punter spot for three seasons and his departure leaves that spot wide open. Returning kicker Alex Henery and redshirts Jonathon Damkroger and Brett Maher would figure to be the leading candidates heading into spring ball. T.J. O'Leary and Jake Wesch handled the chores as Nebraska's long snapper and holder, respectively, for the past three years and must be replaced. The kicking game is in great shape with the return of Henery and kickoff specialist Adi Kunalic. Henery has connected on 26-of-29 career field goals and figures to be a leading contender for Big 12 and national honors in 2009. Kunalic has been a dependable weapon on kickoffs, booting more than 50 touchbacks over the past two seasons. In the return game, Nebraska returns its kickoff return tandem from 2008. Niles Paul ranked among the conference leaders by averaging 23.6 yards per return as a sophomore, while Alfonzo Dennard provided an explosive complement to Paul. Nate Swift's graduation leaves the punt return spot wide open, with Paul the only player with experience in that department.



Place-kicker Alex Henery connected on 18-of-21 field goals as a sophomore. He had three games with four field goals and made a school-record 57-yard field goal against Colorado.