

RETURNING STARTERS—OFFENSE

**#67 JACOB HICKMAN**

CENTER ▶ 6-4 ▶ 295 ▶ SR. ▶ 3 LETTERS
BAKERSFIELD, CALIF. (CENTENNIAL)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2008 Honorable-Mention All-Big 12 (Coaches)
- » 2007 Honorable-Mention All-Big 12 (Coaches)

Center Jacob Hickman will enter spring practice as the most game-tested veteran on the Nebraska offense. A two-time honorable-mention All-Big 12 pick, Hickman has started 23 games in his career including all 13 contests at center in 2008. This spring he is one of three returning starters on the Husker offensive front and will look to provide leadership to a youthful offense.

After switching from guard during spring ball, Hickman was one of only two linemen to start every game last fall. Hickman was the anchor for the Cornhuskers' 2008 offensive line that powered the unit to top-20 national rankings in scoring, rushing and total offense. The Huskers finished the year averaging 450.8 yards per game to rank 12th nationally and topped 30 points in 10 of 13 games.

The offensive line made steady progress throughout the year, helping make Nebraska one of the Big 12's top rushing teams. Nebraska finished third in the league in rushing in conference games and averaged better than 210 yards per game over the final half of the regular season. Nebraska rushed for at least 160 yards in each of the final six games of the regular season, including 340 yards at Kansas State, the most by Nebraska in a Big 12 game in six seasons.

Hickman and his line mates also allowed senior quarterback Joe Ganz to set season school records for passing yards and total offense. The continuity Hickman provided for Ganz helped the signal caller complete better than 67 percent of his passes and post five 300-yard passing days. Both of those marks were Nebraska season records.

Hickman played in all 12 games in 2007, including starts in the final nine games at left guard. He was a key cog in a line that helped Nebraska set single-game and season passing records, averaging better than 323 passing yards per game to finish seventh nationally, while NU also finished ninth nationally in total offense.

Hickman played in five games in 2006, including a start against Missouri. Hickman became just the second true freshman offensive lineman to start a game for Nebraska since 1972, joining former teammate Matt Slauson who started the final three games at offensive tackle as a true frosh in 2005. Hickman also served on NU's PAT and field goal units. Hickman missed the Cotton Bowl after suffering a knee injury in December.

CAREER NUMBERS

- » Games Played—30 (5 in 2006, 12 in 2007, 13 in 2008)
- » Games Started—23 (1 in 2006, 9 in 2007, 13 in 2008)

**#18 MENELIK HOLT**

WIDE RECEIVER ▶ 6-4 ▶ 220 ▶ SR. ▶ 3 LETTERS
SAN DIEGO, CALIF. (ST. AUGUSTINE)

Wide receiver Menelik (pronounced men-uh-Leak) Holt is expected to step into a leading role in the Nebraska receiving corps as a senior. A three-year letterwinner, the 6-4, 220-pound Holt will be asked to help fill a large void left by the graduation of 2008 senior receivers Nate Swift and Todd Peterson. Holt and junior Niles Paul are the most experienced Nebraska receivers heading into spring practice.

Holt has seen extensive action over the past three seasons, including a strong 2008 campaign when he emerged as a reliable receiving threat in the Husker offense. One of a school-record seven players with at least 20 catches, the San Diego native was fourth on the team with 30 receptions for 355 yards and a touchdown. His numbers came despite being slowed for much of the latter part of the season by a knee injury.

Overall, Holt played in 12 games in 2008, missing only the Oklahoma game following a knee injury. Nebraska regularly utilized three or more receivers and Holt was in the starting lineup against Virginia Tech, Texas Tech, Iowa State and Colorado. He had four games with five or more catches and snagged a 20-yard touchdown reception against Missouri.

He opened the year with five catches for 59 yards against Western Michigan, and had five catches for a career-high 67 yards against Missouri. Holt grabbed a career-high six catches for 55 yards in a near-miss at Texas Tech, then added five catches for 45 yards at Iowa State. Holt was injured after one catch vs. Baylor and did not have a catch for the next three games. He closed the regular season with three catches for 42 yards against Colorado and added two against Clemson in the Gator Bowl.

Holt played in all 12 games in 2007, both as a reserve receiver and on special teams. His playing time increased late in the season, and he caught four passes for 97 yards in the season's final four games, the first catches of his career, including a career-long 35-yard catch against Kansas State.

He appeared in eight games in 2006, including duty on the punt block and kickoff coverage squads. He saw action at receiver, but did not have a catch. Holt helped Nebraska rank among the national leaders in kickoff return defense.

CAREER STATISTICS**Receiving**

Year	G/S	No.	Yds.	Y/R	Y/G	Long	TDs
2006	8/0	0	0	0.0	0.0	—	0
2007	12/0	4	97	24.2	8.1	35 vs. Kansas State	0
2008	12/4	30	355	11.8	29.6	25 vs. Western Michigan	1
Totals	32/4	34	452	13.3	14.1	35 vs. Kansas State	1

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » Receptions—6 at Texas Tech, 2008
- » Receiving Yards—67 vs. Missouri, 2008
- » Long Reception—35 yards vs. Kansas State, 2007

**#44 MIKE MCNEILL**

TIGHT END ▶ 6-4 ▶ 240 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
KIRKWOOD, MO.

Tight end Mike McNeill was one of Nebraska's breakout players in 2008, and is expected to continue to develop into a go-to-player in his junior season. McNeill finished as Nebraska's third-leading receiver as a sophomore and set a Husker season record for receptions by a tight end.

With a young receiving corps entering 2009, McNeill could play an even more prominent role in the Husker passing game. The 6-4, 240-pounder could also be a factor in all-conference and other award conversations in the fall.

McNeill finished the season with 32 receptions for 442 yards and six touchdowns. His receptions total bettered the 31 catches by Johnny Mitchell in 1991, and his six touchdowns were just one shy of Mitchell's season tight end record. McNeill was one of seven Huskers who caught at least 20 passes, helping Nebraska finish 14th nationally in passing offense and 12th in total offense.

McNeill was in the starting lineup for all 12 regular-season games. He averaged 13.8 yards on his 32 catches and had eight games with three or more receptions, including the final four games of the season. He also caught seven passes of 20 yards or more in 2008, including a career-long 53-yard touchdown grab against Colorado.

McNeill had just one catch in the first two games, but had two catches for 57 yards and a 32-yard touchdown against New Mexico State. He then added three catches for 66 yards and a touchdown against Virginia Tech. McNeill set a career high with four catches against Baylor, then had four catches for 37 yards and a touchdown against Kansas. He added three catches against K-State and had a career-high 70 yards on three receptions against Colorado. McNeill was also on Nebraska's kickoff return unit.

McNeill played in eight games as a redshirt freshman and was a reserve behind three senior tight ends. He caught a 25-yard pass in the season opener against Nevada. McNeill redshirted in his first season in Lincoln.

CAREER STATISTICS**Receiving**

Year	G/S	No.	Yds.	Y/R	Y/G	Long	TDs
2006							
2007	8/0	1	25	25.0	3.2	25 vs. Nevada	0
2008	13/12	32	442	13.8	34.0	53 vs. Colorado	6
Totals	21/12	33	467	14.2	22.2	53 vs. Colorado	6

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » Receptions—4 vs. Baylor, Kansas, 2008
- » Receiving Yards—70 vs. Colorado, 2008
- » Long Reception—53 yards vs. Colorado, 2008

CAREER NUMBERS

- » Receptions of More than 20 Yards—8 (1 in 2007, 7 in 2008)



#24 NILES PAUL

WIDE RECEIVER ▶ 6-1 ▶ 215 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
OMAHA, NEB. (NORTH)

PAUL'S HONORS & AWARDS

- » Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Week (San Jose State)
- » 2008 Second-Team Academic All-Big 12
- » 2008 Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll

Omaha native Niles Paul became a vital member of the Nebraska receiving corps in 2008, and was also a dynamic special teams performer. This spring, the 6-1, 215-pound Paul will be asked to assume a leading role in a Nebraska receiving corps that lost two of the top five receivers in school history.

Paul played in all 13 games last season with four starts. He finished the year as one of seven Huskers with at least 20 receptions. Paul totaled 23 receptions for 214 yards and had six games with multiple catches. Paul had four catches for 25 yards at Texas Tech and posted career highs with five receptions for 34 yards against Baylor.

Blessed with outstanding speed, Paul also played a significant role on the Husker special teams unit, serving as Nebraska's primary kickoff return man. Paul averaged 23.6 yards on 41 kickoff returns to rank 11th in the Big 12 Conference. He supplied a highlight early in the season, returning a kickoff 85 yards for a touchdown against San Jose State to earn Big 12 Special Teams Player-of-the-Week honors. The score extended NU's lead to 21-12 early in the fourth quarter and Nebraska went on to win by a 35-12 margin.

The San Jose State game was the first of four games with 100-plus kickoff return yards, including a season-high 156 yards on five returns at Texas Tech, when he added a 69-yard return. Paul also returned seven punts for 77 yards, including a season-long 28-yarder vs. Western Michigan. Paul played on NU's coverage units and made eight tackles, including three against Kansas. He also recovered fumbles on punt coverage at Iowa State and at Kansas State. Both recoveries led to Nebraska touchdowns.

Paul played in seven games as a reserve receiver in 2007, and made a six-yard catch against Nevada. He added one kickoff return and a pair of tackles on kickoff coverage.

CAREER STATISTICS

Receiving

Year	G/S	No.	Yds.	Y/R	Y/G	Long	TDs
2007	7/0	1	6	6.0	0.9	6 vs. Nevada	0
2008	13/4	23	214	9.3	16.5	21, twice	0
Totals	20/4	24	220	9.2	11.0	21, twice	0

Kickoff Returns: 42-977-1 total, 1-8-0 in 2007; 41-969-1, long-85 vs. San Jose State in 2008

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » **Receptions**—5 vs. Baylor, 2008
- » **Receiving Yards**—34 vs. Baylor, 2008
- » **Long Reception**—21 yards vs. Virginia Tech, at Iowa State, 2008
- » **Long Kickoff Return**—85 yards vs. San Jose State, 2008 (TD)
- » **Most Kickoff Return Yards**—156 yards at Texas Tech, 2008
- » **Kickoff Returns of More than 30 Yards**—6



Tight end Mike McNeill hauled in a Nebraska tight end record 32 passes last season, including six touchdown receptions.



#65 MIKE SMITH

OFFENSIVE TACKLE ▶ 6-6 ▶ 290 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
LAS VEGAS, NEV. (PALO VERDE)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2006 Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll

Mike Smith earned a starting spot at offensive tackle during fall camp and was a fixture in the lineup throughout the 2008 season. Smith started 12 games at left tackle during

his sophomore season and will be counted on for leadership in a Nebraska offensive line that returns three starters for 2009.

The 6-6, 290-pound Smith and fellow junior Keith Williams return to man the left side of the offensive front. A converted defensive end, Smith has the agility needed to man the critical left tackle spot.

Smith helped Nebraska rank as one of the nation's most complete offenses last fall. The offensive line powered the way for Nebraska to rank in the top 20 nationally in passing, scoring and total offense. Smith and his fellow offensive linemen provided the power for Nebraska to score at least 30 points 10 times, while topping 400 yards nine times. The Huskers passed for at least 200 yards in all 12 games and the running game averaged 4.5 yards per attempt.

Smith protected the blindside of quarterback Joe Ganz, who threw for a school record 3,568 yards and 25 touchdowns, while also producing a season record in total offense. The line became a strong run-blocking unit in the second half of the year, as NU averaged better than 210 rushing yards per game in the second half of the regular season.

Smith began his career at defensive end, but moved to offense in the spring of 2007. He played in all 12 games as a reserve tackle, while also serving on the PAT and field-goal units. He redshirted in 2006 and worked on the scout team defense.

CAREER NUMBERS

- » **Games Played**—25 (12 in 2007, 13 in 2008)
- » **Games Started**—12 (12 in 2008)



#68 KEITH WILLIAMS

OFFENSIVE GUARD ▶ 6-5 ▶ 320 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
FLORISSANT, MO. (McCLURE NORTH)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2007 Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll

Offensive guard Keith Williams emerged as a starter during Big 12 Conference play in 2008. The junior will be counted on to provide leadership on a talented Nebraska offensive line

that returns three starters heading into spring practice. The 6-5, 320-pound Williams is expected to team with tackle Mike Smith to give Nebraska a talented and experienced duo on the left side of the line.

Williams started the final nine games of the 2008 season and was a key part of an offensive line that continued to improve throughout the year. The line helped Nebraska score at least 30 points 10 times, while topping 400 yards of total offense in nine of 13 games. Nebraska finished 12th nationally in total offense at 450.8 yards per game.

Behind Williams and his line mates, the Husker running game made great strides in the second half of the year. Nebraska averaged better than 210 rushing yards in the final six regular-season games, including a 340-yard effort at Kansas State, NU's most rushing yards in a Big 12 game in six years. Quarterback Joe Ganz also enjoyed great protection that allowed him to set NU season records for passing yards, total offense and completion percentage. Williams also continued as a blocker on the Huskers' outstanding PAT and field-goal units.

Williams played in 10 games at guard in 2007, and also saw action as a blocker on PAT and field-goal units. The offensive line was the driving force behind NU finishing in the top 10 nationally in both passing offense and total offense. Williams redshirted in 2006.

CAREER NUMBERS

- » **Games Played**—23 (10 in 2007, 13 in 2008)
- » **Games Started**—9 (9 in 2008)



#49 DREU YOUNG
TIGHT END ▶ 6-4 ▶ 245 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
COZAD, NEB.

Dreu Young joins fellow junior Mike McNeill as part of a talented and experienced 1-2 punch at tight end for Nebraska. Like McNeill, Young has the speed to stretch the field and his ability could help take some pressure off a young receiver corps in 2009.

The 6-4, 245-pound Young was a regular in the lineup throughout the 2008 season, playing in all 13 games, including four starts when NU opened in multiple tight-end sets. Young played a key role in Nebraska ranking among the top 20 nationally in total offense, scoring offense and passing offense. Nebraska threw for at least 200 yards in every game, and Young's improved blocking skills helped NU average better than 200 rushing yards per game over the second half of the year.

Young caught nine balls for 140 yards and one touchdown. He averaged 15.6 yards per catch, the most among all receivers with at least two receptions. He opened the season in dramatic fashion with a career-long 55-yard catch against Western Michigan. He caught a career-best two passes each against Texas Tech and Kansas State, and scored a nine-yard touchdown against the Red Raiders to tie the score at 24 in the fourth quarter. His two catches at K-State covered 42 yards. Young added single receptions against Virginia Tech, Missouri, Baylor and Oklahoma.

Young earned his way into the tight end rotation behind three seniors in 2007, and played in eight games. He had a 14-yard catch against Nevada. A walk-on performer, Young sat out the 2006 season as a redshirt.

CAREER STATISTICS

Receiving

Year	G/S	No.	Yds.	Y/R	Y/G	Long	TDs
2006							
Redshirt							
2007	8/0	1	14	14.0	1.8	14 vs. Nevada	0
2008	13/4	9	140	15.6	10.8	55 vs. Western Michigan	1
Totals	21/4	10	154	15.4	7.3	55 vs. Western Michigan	1

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » **Receptions**—2 at Texas Tech, at Kansas State, 2008
- » **Receiving Yards**—55 vs. Western Michigan, 2008
- » **Long Reception**—55 yards vs. Western Michigan, 2008

RETURNING STARTERS—DEFENSE



#95 PIERRE ALLEN
DEFENSIVE END ▶ 6-5 ▶ 265 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
DENVER, COLO. (THOMAS JEFFERSON)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » **2007 Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll**

Defensive end Pierre Allen was one of Nebraska's breakout performers in 2008, and he will be expected to help anchor the Nebraska defense this season. Allen assumed a starting

role early in the season and became a key part of a front four that was the strength of one of the nation's most improved defenses. He enters this spring as one of nine defenders with extensive starting experience.

The 6-5, 265-pound Allen was pushed into a starting role when Barry Turner suffered a season-ending injury in game two against San Jose State. Allen went on to start the final 11 games opposite senior Zach Potter, and Allen finished the year fourth on the team in tackles with 52, including 21 solo stops. He also ranked third in tackles for loss (10) and sacks (5). Allen had four games with five or more tackles, and his average of 4.0 tackles per game ranked fourth among Big 12 defensive linemen.

Allen's play helped the Nebraska defense allow 126 fewer yards per game than 2008 and finished second in the Big 12 in total defense. The defensive line provided the push for Nebraska to record 35 sacks, up from just 13 a year earlier.

Allen wasted no time in showing his ability after Turner's first-quarter injury against San Jose State. Allen made a career-high 10 tackles in the game, including three tackles for loss, and a pass breakup. He added three tackles the following week against New Mexico State, then tallied nine tackles, including his first career sack against Virginia Tech.

Allen produced his second sack for seven yards against Baylor, then had a standout effort with seven tackles and a 15-yard sack in NU's win over Kansas. He capped the regular season with his fourth sack of the season in the Husker victory over Colorado,

Allen's homestate school. He had a one-yard sack against Clemson in the Gator Bowl, one of five Blackshirt sacks in the game.

Allen played in 11 games in 2007 and finished with 16 total tackles, with 15 of those in the season's final six games. He had a season-high six tackles against Kansas and finished the year with three tackles for loss totaling five yards. Allen redshirted in his first season at Nebraska in 2006 and added about 40 pounds of muscle.

CAREER STATISTICS

Defense Year	G/S	Tackles				TFL	Sacks	Fum.				QB Hry.
		UT	AT	TT				C-R	BK	PBU	PI	
2006												
Redshirt												
2007	11/0	6	10	16	3-5	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	2
2008	13/11	21	31	52	10-37	5.0-27	1-0	0	1	0	2	2
Totals	24/11	27	41	68	13-42	5.0-27	1-0	0	2	0	4	4

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » **Tackles**—10, vs. San Jose State, 2008
- » **Solo Tackles**—3, vs. San Jose State, Virginia Tech, 2008
- » **Tackles for Loss**—3 vs. San Jose State, 2008
- » **Sacks**—1, five times in 2008



#4 LARRY ASANTE
SAFETY ▶ 6-1 ▶ 215 ▶ SR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
ALEXANDRIA, VA. (HAYFIELD/COFFEYVILLE CC)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » **2008 Honorable-Mention All-Big 12 (AP, Coaches)**
- » **2007 Honorable-Mention All-Big 12 (Coaches)**
- » **2007 Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll**

Safety Larry Asante returns for his senior season as one of the most experienced players on the Huskers' 2009 roster. Asante has held down the starting role at strong safety for each of the past two seasons and last fall he was a key component in one of the nation's most improved defenses. This spring Asante will be a lead player in a Husker secondary that is much more game-tested than Nebraska's 2008 defensive backfield.

Asante has the all-around ability to be a difference-maker in both pass defense and run support. Asante's play has earned him honorable-mention All-Big 12 honors each of the past two seasons.

The Virginia native started 12 games and finished the 2008 season as NU's second-leading tackler with 67 stops, including 45 solo tackles. Asante added two tackles for loss, including a sack, four pass breakups and grabbed his first career interception against Colorado. He helped Nebraska rank second in the Big 12 in total defense, while also finishing second in passing yards allowed. The 2008 Huskers allowed 126 fewer yards per game than the 2007 unit.

Asante made at least five tackles in eight games, led by a career-high 13 stops at Oklahoma. He added nine tackles and a pass breakup in the Huskers' narrow overtime loss at Texas Tech. Asante recorded seven tackles in the victory over Baylor and had his first career sack (four yards) and a pair of tackles for loss in the contest.

Asante made the transition to safety after playing linebacker at Coffeyville Community College. He won the starting strong safety job during spring ball and his 78 tackles in 2007 ranked second on the team. Asante had 40 solo stops, and made at least two tackles in every game, and recorded at least eight tackles six times, including a season-high 10 stops against Texas A&M. He had nine tackles in four games (Wake Forest, Iowa State, Texas and Kansas) and made eight tackles against top-ranked USC. Asante also forced a fumble against the Trojans and finished the year with four pass breakups, including two at Texas.

CAREER STATISTICS

Defense Year	G/S	Tackles				TFL	Sacks	Fum.				QB Hry.
		UT	AT	TT				C-R	BK	PBU	PI	
2007	12/10	40	38	78	0-0	0.0-0	1-0	0	4	0	1	
2008	13/12	45	22	67	2-4	1.0-4	0-0	0	4	1	1	
Totals	25/22	85	60	145	2-4	1.0-4	1-0	0	8	1	2	

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » **Tackles**—13, at Oklahoma, 2008
- » **Solo Tackles**—9, at Oklahoma, 2008
- » **Tackles for Loss**—2-4 vs. Baylor, 2008
- » **Sacks**—1.0-4 vs. Baylor, 2008
- » **Pass Breakups**—2 at Texas, 2007



#52 PHILLIP DILLARD

LINEBACKER ▶ 6-1 ▶ 240 ▶ SR. ▶ 3 LETTERS
TULSA, OKLA. (JENKS)

Linebacker Phillip Dillard fought his way through an injury-plagued 2008 season to contribute to Nebraska's major defensive improvements. This spring the 6-1, 240-pound Dillard returns as the most experienced member of a linebacking corps that saw a number of players step forward late last season. Dillard has 33 games of playing experience

under his belt heading into the 2009 season and is a leading contender to once again hold down the starting job at Mike linebacker.

Before missing the final four games of the regular season, Dillard emerged as a leader in the linebacking corps and ranked among the team leaders in tackles. His play assisted an NU defense that finished second in the Big 12 in total defense and improved its per game average by 126 yards per game. Dillard returned for limited action in the Gator Bowl.

Dillard started five of the first eight games before suffering his injury against Baylor. He made 38 tackles, including 28 in the first four games of the season while fully healthy. He added two tackles for loss and shared a sack against San Jose State. Dillard made four tackles in the opener against Western Michigan, then had eight stops against San Jose State. He had a career-high 11 tackles against Virginia Tech, and made four stops against Missouri before being injured. He was limited the following two games, then made four unassisted tackles against Baylor before suffering another injury.

Dillard played in all 12 games in 2007 and had 37 tackles, including 22 solo stops. He had five games with four or more tackles, including a season-high six each against Wake Forest and Ball State, and had a tackle for loss against Oklahoma State. Dillard made four tackles in the 2006 opener against Louisiana Tech, before suffering a knee injury and receiving a medical redshirt. He made 11 tackles as a true freshman in 2005, and started against Missouri, and finished with 11 tackles. Dillard was strong at the close of the year, compiling seven tackles in the final four games.

CAREER STATISTICS

Defense Year	G/S	Tackles				TFL	Fum.			QB	
		UT	AT	TT	Sacks		C-R	BK	PBU	PI	Hry.
2005	11/1	7	4	11	1-2	0.0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
2006*	1/0	3	1	4	0-0	0.0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
2007	12/2	22	15	37	1-1	0.0-0	0-0	0	2	0	1
2008	9/5	13	25	38	2-9	0.5-6	0-0	0	1	0	1
Totals	33/8	45	45	90	4-12	0.5-6	0-0	0	3	0	2

*-Medical redshirt

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » Tackles—11, vs. Virginia Tech, 2008
- » Solo Tackles—4 vs. Ball State, 2007, vs. Baylor, 2008
- » Tackles for Loss—1, four times



#28 ERIC HAGG

CORNERBACK ▶ 6-2 ▶ 205 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
PEORIA, ARIZ. (IRONWOOD)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2008 Second-Team Academic All-Big 12

Eric Hagg became an important ingredient in the secondary during his sophomore season and figures to again play a large role in 2009. Hagg established himself as a regular starter at

nickel back, and his speed and athleticism were keys to the Huskers being successful against the high-powered offenses in the Big 12. The 6-2, 205-pounder is part of a Nebraska secondary that enters the spring with much more depth and experience than a year ago. Hagg has the ability to push for time at both cornerback and safety this fall.

Hagg played in all 13 games with 10 starts and was among the select group of defenders to be awarded a Blackshirt late in the season. Hagg finished the year with 39 tackles, including 29 solo stops, and added five tackles for loss, a sack and seven pass breakups.

He opened 2008 in strong fashion with five tackles, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery against Western Michigan. Hagg recorded a career-high 10 tackles, including nine solo stops against New Mexico State, then made his first career tackle for loss against Virginia Tech. He added four tackles each against Baylor and Oklahoma, and had tackles for loss against Kansas and Colorado. Hagg had two pass breakups against both San Jose State and Kansas.

Hagg saved his biggest plays for the Gator Bowl win over Clemson. With the Tigers threatening for the go-ahead score late in the contest, Hagg had a key pass breakup on a first-and-goal play, then threw Clemson quarterback Cullen Harper for a 16-yard sack on second down, allowing NU to preserve the 26-21 victory.

Hagg played in seven games as a true freshman, both on kickoff coverage and as a reserve in the secondary. He made a pair of tackles in the win over Kansas State.

CAREER STATISTICS

Defense Year	G/S	Tackles				TFL	Fum.			QB	
		UT	AT	TT	Sacks		C-R	BK	PBU	PI	Hry.
2007	7/0	0	2	2	0-0	0.0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
2008	13/10	29	10	39	5-28	1.0-16	1-1	0	7	0	2
Totals	20/10	29	12	41	5-28	1.0-16	1-1	0	7	0	2

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » Tackles—10, vs. New Mexico State, 2008
- » Solo Tackles—9, vs. New Mexico State, 2008
- » Tackles for Loss—2-18 vs. Clemson, 2009 Gator Bowl
- » Sacks—1-16 vs. Clemson, 2009 Gator Bowl
- » Pass Breakups—2, vs. San Jose State, Kansas, 2008



#33 MATT O'HANLON

SAFETY ▶ 5-11 ▶ 200 ▶ SR. ▶ 3 LETTERS
BELLEVUE, NEB. (EAST)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2007 Second-Team Academic All-Big 12
- » 2006 First-Team Academic All-Big 12
- » Three-Time Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Honor Roll (2005, 2007, 2008)
- » Two-Time Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Honor Roll (2005, 2008)

Safety Matt O'Hanlon emerged as a key player in the Nebraska secondary during his junior season and will once again compete for major playing time in 2009. The 5-11, 200-pound O'Hanlon started nine games in 2008, helping a Nebraska defense that was among the nation's most improved units.

The former walk-on worked his way into the rotation with a strong spring, and was rewarded by being placed on scholarship in September. He started the first nine games of the season at safety, then split time with Rickey Thenarse over the final few games of the season. In addition to his work in the secondary, O'Hanlon continued to play a major role on special teams.

O'Hanlon finished third among all Nebraska tacklers with 52, including 33 solo stops. O'Hanlon added two tackles for loss, an interception and five pass breakups on the season. The Bellevue native notched five tackles in each of the first two games and went on to record five or more tackles seven times. He snared his first career interception against New Mexico State, returning the fourth-quarter pick 21 yards. He added two breakups in the game.

O'Hanlon had a career-high eight tackles against Virginia Tech, including his first career tackle for loss. He notched seven tackles against Kansas, including a season-high five solo stops. In the Gator Bowl victory over Clemson, O'Hanlon played a key role with six tackles, including five solo stops. He helped preserve the win with a critical pass breakup on a Clemson third-and-goal play in the final two minutes.

O'Hanlon played in 10 games in 2007, primarily working on special teams. He finished with three tackles. He played in all 14 games as a redshirt freshman in 2006, and made eight tackles. He had a season-high three tackles against Louisiana Tech, and his play on kickoff coverage helped Nebraska rank among the nation's best in that category. O'Hanlon redshirted in his first season after joining the program in January of 2005.

CAREER STATISTICS

Defense Year	G/S	Tackles				TFL	Fum.			QB	
		UT	AT	TT	Sacks		C-R	BK	PBU	PI	Hry.
2005		Redshirt				0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
2006	14/0	1	7	8	0-0	0.0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
2007	10/0	2	1	3	0-0	0.0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
2008	13/9	33	19	52	2-5	0.0-0	0-0	0	5	1	1
Totals	37/9	36	27	63	2-5	0.0-0	0-0	0	5	1	1

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » Tackles—8 vs. Virginia Tech, 2008
- » Solo Tackles—5 vs. Kansas, 2008, vs. Clemson, 2009 Gator Bowl
- » Interceptions—1-21 vs. New Mexico State, 2008



#93 NDAMUKONG SUH

DEFENSIVE TACKLE ▶ 6-4 ▶ 300 ▶ SR. ▶ 3 LETTERS
PORTLAND, ORE. (GRANT)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2008 First-Team All-Big 12 (Associated Press, Dallas Morning News, Kansas City Star, San Antonio Express-News)
- » 2008 Second-Team All-Big 12 (Coaches)
- » 2008 Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week (vs. Kansas)
- » 2008 Nebraska Defensive MVP

- » Nebraska Season Record for Interceptions by a Defensive Tackle (2)
- » Nebraska Season Record for Interception Returns for Touchdowns by a Defensive Tackle (2)
- » Nebraska Career Record for Interceptions by a Defensive Tackle (3)
- » 2006 First-Team Freshman All-Big 12 (Sporting News)

Defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh (pronounced En-dom-ah-ken Soo) emerged as one of the Big 12's most dominant defensive forces during his junior season and will anchor the Nebraska defense in 2009. The 6-4, 300-pound Suh possesses a rare combination of power and athleticism and regularly demonstrated the ability to control the line of scrimmage from his interior position. He was among the leading reasons Nebraska fielded one of the nation's most-improved defenses last fall.

Suh will enter his senior season as a leading contender for numerous honors and awards, and he is likely to leave his name in a prominent position in the Cornhusker record book. He earned first-team All-Big 12 honors in 2008, the first Nebraska interior defensive lineman to earn first-team all-league honors since Steve Warren in 1999. Suh should be considered a strong contender for higher honors as a senior.

Suh enters his senior year with 33 career tackles for loss—just five tackles for loss from the Nebraska career top 10 and within striking distance of second on the list. He also has 12 career sacks, and could make a push for the top five on that chart.

In 2008, Suh was the first Nebraska defensive lineman to lead the team in tackles since 1973, and his 76 total tackles were the most by a Husker lineman since 1992. He posted 7.5 sacks and his 19 tackles for loss were the eighth-best total in school history.

The play of the Portland, Ore., native helped Nebraska finish second in the Big 12 in total defense at 349.8 yards per game, an improvement of 126 yards per game from the 2007 campaign. Suh also helped Nebraska record 35 sacks on the season, 22 more than its 2007 total.

While controlling the center of the line is Suh's primary job, he also used his athleticism to provide several game-changing plays during his junior season. Suh intercepted a pair of passes and returned both of them for touchdowns, including a dramatic game-clinching score in the regular-season finale against Colorado. He had a career game against Kansas that earned him Big 12 Defensive Player-of-the-Week honors. Suh also became a fixture as a fullback in short-yardage situations late in the season, and against the Jayhawks he showed his athletic ability when he caught a two-yard touchdown pass.

Suh showed no ill effects from knee surgery that kept him out of spring practice, starting all 13 games in 2008 and making 39 solo stops among his tackle total. His sack and tackle for loss numbers led the team, and he added a forced fumble, six quarterback hurries, three breakups and two blocked kicks.

Suh finished the season with nine games of five or more tackles, including six times in Big 12 Conference play, and had at least one tackle for loss in 11 of 13 games. His 5.8 tackles per game led all Big 12 defensive linemen by 1.4 tackles per game.

Suh recorded his first major highlight against San Jose State when he picked off a first-quarter Spartan pass and returned it 49 yards for a touchdown to give NU a 14-6 lead. A week later, Suh registered his first two sacks of the season and forced a fumble in a 38-7 victory over New Mexico State. Suh made seven tackles, including two tackles for loss against Missouri, and also made seven tackles each against Baylor and at Oklahoma. Against the Bears, Suh added his second career blocked kick.

He exploded for a career game against Kansas, finishing with 12 total tackles, including five solo stops. He had 2.5 sacks for 18 yards in losses and four tackles for loss totaling 19 yards. His 12 tackles were the most by a defensive lineman in three seasons while the 2.5 sacks were the most by any Husker since 2003 and the four tackles for loss were the most by an NU defender in 38 games.

Suh made five tackles, including two tackles for loss and a sack at Kansas State, then capped the regular season with three tackles and the crucial touchdown against Colorado. He closed his season in style in the Gator Bowl victory over Clemson. Suh made eight total tackles, including six solo stops. He tied his career high with four tackles for loss and had two sacks for 19 yards. Suh also blocked a second-quarter Tiger field-goal attempt, his second blocked kick of 2008.

Suh played in all 12 games with 11 starts in 2007. He produced four games with four or more tackles and had 34 tackles. All six of his tackles for loss came in a four-game stretch early in the season. Against Wake Forest, he had a pair of tackles for loss in a

20-17 NU win. Suh had a season-high six tackles, including a tackle for loss and a fumble recovery against Ball State.

Suh played in all 14 games as a backup defensive lineman in 2006 and earned freshman all-conference honors from The Sporting News. Despite coming off the bench he finished the year with 19 total tackles, and ranked among the team leaders in tackles for loss (8) and sacks (3.5). He had at least one tackle for loss in five of seven games to start the year, including a three-TFL effort featuring 1.5 sacks against Troy. He had a big game at Kansas State with three tackles, two tackles for loss, a sack, a fumble caused and an interception. Suh played as a true freshman in 2005, but was sidelined with a knee injury after two games and received a medical redshirt.

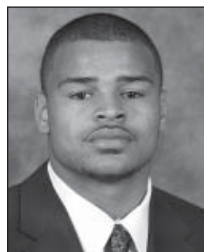
CAREER STATISTICS

Defense	(-----Tackles-----)						Fum.			QB	
Year	G/S	UT	AT	TT	TFL	Sacks	C-R	BK	PBU	PI	Hry.
2005*	2/0	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
2006	14/0	12	7	19	8-45	3.5-37	1-0	0	0	1	2
2007	12/11	22	12	34	6-29	1.0-6	0-1	1	2	0	4
2008	13/13	39	37	76	19-85	7.5-67	1-0	2	3	2	6
Totals	41/24	73	57	130	33-159	12.0-110	2-1	3	5	3	12

*-Received medical redshirt

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » Tackles—12 vs. Kansas, 2008
- » Solo Tackles—6 vs. Clemson, 2009 Gator Bowl
- » Sacks—2.5-18 vs. Kansas, 2008
- » Tackles for Loss—4-19 vs. Kansas, 2008, 4-24 vs. Clemson, 2009 Gator Bowl
- » Interceptions—1, three times, 2 in 2008



#3 RICKEY THENARSE

SAFETY ▶ 6-0 ▶ 205 ▶ SR. ▶ 3 LETTERS
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. (JORDAN)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » Two-Time Nebraska Special Teams MVP (2006, 2007)

Rickey Thenarse (pronounced tuh-NARSE) has been a special teams standout throughout his Nebraska career and emerged late in his junior season as a key player in the Husker secondary. The Los Angeles native split time at free safety with fellow senior-to-be Matt O'Hanlon, and Thenarse was in the starting lineup during the final four games. Thenarse will enter the spring ready to battle for playing time in a secondary that is much deeper and more experienced than a year ago.

Thenarse played in 11 games with five starts. He finished the year with 24 total tackles, including 17 solo stops, had six tackles for loss and a pair of sacks. A shoulder injury in the season opener forced Thenarse to miss the next two games, but he returned with three tackles and two tackles for loss against Virginia Tech. He made his first career start against Missouri and had three tackles and a TFL. He made two tackles and forced a key fumble on punt coverage at Iowa State.

After his second career interception at Oklahoma, Thenarse moved into the starting lineup. He had four solo tackles, including a 14-yard sack at Kansas State, and led the team against Colorado with a career-high eight tackles with two tackles for loss and a sack. Thenarse continued to be a major player on Nebraska's special teams in 2008.

Thenarse earned a reputation as a fearless special teams performer during his first two seasons at Nebraska, being named Special Teams MVP in both 2006 and 2007. He played in all 12 games as a sophomore, both on special teams and as a backup safety. Thenarse made 28 total tackles in 2007, including 18 solo, with many of his tackles on coverage units. He made a season-high five tackles at Texas and Kansas late in the season.

Thenarse was the only true freshman to play in all 14 games in 2006. He saw limited action in the secondary, but made an immediate impact on NU's coverage units. He had nine tackles, including five solo stops and a season-high four tackles against Colorado. He grabbed his first career interception at Kansas State.

CAREER STATISTICS

Defense	(-----Tackles-----)						Fum.			QB	
Year	G/S	UT	AT	TT	TFL	Sacks	C-R	BK	PBU	PI	Hry.
2006	14/0	5	4	9	0-0	0-0	1-0	0	1	1	0
2007	12/0	18	10	28	0-0	0-0	2-0	0	0	0	0
2008	11/5	17	7	24	6-25	2.0-21	1-0	0	1	1	0
Totals	37/5	40	21	61	6-25	2.0-21	4-0	0	2	2	0

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » Tackles—8 vs. Colorado, 2008
- » Solo Tackles—5 vs. Colorado, 2008
- » Tackles for Loss—2 vs. Colorado, 2008



#99 BARRY TURNER

DEFENSIVE END ▶ 6-3 ▶ 265 ▶ SR. ▶ 3 LETTERS
ANTIOCH, TENN. (BRENTWOOD ACADEMY)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2005 First-Team Freshman All-American (Football Writers, ESPN.com, Rivals.com)
- » Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Week (11/24/06)

Defensive end Barry Turner returns to action this spring after missing the majority of the 2008 campaign with a broken leg. Turner went down for the season in game two against San Jose State, but has received a medical hardship and is back for his fifth season in the Nebraska program.

The 6-3, 265-pound Turner brings experience and play-making ability to a defensive front that also returns All-Big 12 tackle Ndamukong Suh. In addition, the Huskers return junior end Pierre Allen who performed admirably as Turner's replacement in 2008.

Turner has been a regular in Nebraska's defensive end rotation since he burst onto the scene as a true freshman in 2005. He enters his senior season with 11.5 career sacks and 18 career tackles for loss. His sack total leaves Turner just four sacks from cracking the career top 10 list at Nebraska.

Turner opened 2008 with three tackles, including two tackles for loss and a 14-yard sack against Western Michigan. However, he suffered the leg injury in the first quarter against San Jose State, underwent subsequent surgery and was lost for the year.

Turner played in all 12 games with 11 starts at the open end spot in 2007. He made 29 total tackles, including five tackles for loss and a team-high three sacks for 33 yards. Turner had five games with three or more tackles and his seven quarterback hurries ranked second on the team. He opened the year by sharing a sack and adding two quarterback hurries against Nevada. He produced his most complete game against Iowa State with three tackles, all for loss, 1.5 sacks for nine yards and two hurries. He had three tackles, including a 19-yard sack of Josh Freeman against Kansas State, then matched his season high with five tackles at Colorado.

He played in all 14 games as a reserve end in 2006, and finished with 18 tackles, including 11 solo stops, four tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks. He registered multiple stops in six games and ranked among the team leaders in quarterback hurries with six. Turner played a key role in NU's Big 12 North-clinching win at Texas A&M. He had three tackles and was in on a pair of sacks, and also blocked an Aggie field goal with less than two minutes remaining that set up the Huskers' winning drive in a 28-27 victory. Turner was in on another big special-teams play against Colorado, as he scored his only career touchdown on a pass from backup quarterback Joe Ganz during a fake field-goal attempt. The reception marked Turner's first career catch and helped him earn Big 12 Special Teams Player-of-the-Week honors.

Turner made his mark as a true freshman in 2005, notching a Husker freshman record six sacks and earning first-team freshman All-America honors. A key factor in NU ranking first nationally in both sacks and tackles for loss, Turner tied for the national sack lead among freshmen. He tied for third on the team in sacks, and made 14 total tackles, with six hurries and two blocked field goals.

Turner's best statistical performance came at Baylor, as he set season highs in tackles (four), tackles for loss (three) and sacks (two). He had blocked field goals against Oklahoma and Kansas State.

CAREER STATISTICS

Defense	(-----Tackles-----)					Fum.				QB	
Year	G/S	UT	AT	TT	TFL	Sacks	C-R	BK	PBU	PI	Hry.
2005	12/0	13	1	14	7-48	6.0-46	1-0	2	0	0	6
2006	14/0	11	7	18	4-12	1.5-11	0-1	1	2	0	6
2007	12/11	12	17	29	5-34	3.0-33	0-0	0	2	0	7
2008*	2/2	1	2	3	2-15	1.0-14	0-0	0	0	0	0
Totals	40/13	37	27	64	18-109	11.5-104	1-1	3	4	0	19

*-Received medical redshirt

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » Tackles—5 vs. Ball State, at Colorado, 2007
- » Solo Tackles—4 vs. Baylor, 2005
- » Tackles for Loss—3 vs. Baylor, 2005, vs. Iowa State, 2007
- » Sacks—2-15 vs. Baylor, 2005



#5 ANTHONY WEST

CORNERBACK ▶ 6-0 ▶ 205 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
SAN DIEGO, CALIF. (POINT LOMA)

Cornerback Anthony West emerged as a reliable player in the Nebraska secondary as a sophomore in 2008. West started 11 games and helped the Nebraska defense rank second in the Big 12 Conference in total defense and passing yards allowed. This spring, the 6-0, 205-pounder will compete for playing time in a Nebraska secondary that returns seven

players who started games in 2008.

West held down the right cornerback spot opposite senior Armando Murillo and played in 12 games while missing one contest because of injury. He finished the year with 29 tackles, including 23 solo stops and tied Murillo for the team lead with nine breakups. The San Diego native had six games with at least three tackles. West also continued to excel on Nebraska's kickoff coverage team in 2008.

West recorded his first career interception in the season opener against Western Michigan, returning the pick 26 yards. He also had two breakups in the 47-24 victory. West posted the second sack of his career against San Jose State, while adding three solo stops. He had four tackles at Oklahoma, then had a career day at home against Kansas, breaking up three passes while adding six tackles, including five solo stops, all career highs. He added two pass breakups at Kansas State. In the Gator Bowl win over Clemson, West had his second interception in the second quarter.

West served as a reserve cornerback in 2007. He also saw time on special teams and had six tackles. His most extensive action came when Nebraska went to its nickel and dime packages. He had a season-high three tackles against Missouri, and had two tackles for 11 yards in losses against Texas A&M, including a nine-yard sack. West redshirted in his first season in the program.

CAREER STATISTICS

Defense	(-----Tackles-----)					Fum.				QB	
Year	G/S	UT	AT	TT	TFL	Sacks	C-R	BK	PBU	PI	Hry
2006											
2007	11/0	4	2	6	2-11	1.0-9	0-0	0	0	0	2
2008	12/11	23	6	29	1-2	1.0-2	0-0	0	9	2-26	0
Totals	23/11	27	8	35	3-13	2.0-11	0-0	0	9	2-26	2

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » Tackles—6 vs. Kansas, 2008
- » Solo Tackles—5 vs. Kansas, 2008
- » Tackles for Loss—2-11 vs. Texas A&M, 2007
- » Pass Breakups—3 vs. Kansas, 2008
- » Interception—1-26 vs. Western Michigan, 2008; 1-0 vs. Clemson, 2009 Gator Bowl



Cornerback Anthony West is one of 10 returning letterwinners in the secondary. West started 11 games last season and tied for the team lead in interceptions and breakups.

RETURNING STARTERS—KICKERS



#90 ALEX HENERY

PLACE-KICKER ▶ 6-2 ▶ 175 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
OMAHA, NEB. (BURKE)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2008 Second-Team All-Big 12 (AP, Kansas City Star, Dallas Morning News, San Antonio Express-News)
- » 2008 Honorable-Mention All-Big 12 (Coaches)
- » Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Week (vs. Colorado)
- » Nebraska & Memorial Stadium Record Holder for

Longest Field Goal (57 yards)

- » Nebraska Record Holder for Season Field Goal Percentage (1.000 in 2007)

Alex Henery returns for his junior season after putting together two of the finest seasons for a place-kicker in Nebraska school history. Henery was perfect on field goal and extra-point attempts as a freshman in 2007, then proved to be one of the nation's top kickers as a sophomore. This spring Henery could also factor into the competition for the starting punting chores.

The Omaha native ranked among the Big 12 leaders in scoring and field-goal accuracy in 2008, and figures to be a strong contender for conference and national honors this fall. Henery earned second-team All-Big 12 honors last fall after connecting on 18-of-21 field goals and 56-of-57 extra points on the year. His 110 points were the most by a Husker since 2001, and his 8.5 points per game ranked fifth overall in the Big 12 and second among kickers. His 85.7 percent field goal accuracy was tops in the league and among the top 12 nationally. Henery also ranked in the top 25 nationally in scoring and field goals per game.

Henery enters his junior season as the most accurate kicker in school history at 26-of-29 on field-goal attempts, for an 89.7 percent accuracy rate. He is the most accurate returning kicker in the country.

Henery capped his standout 2008 season with a signature moment in the regular-season finale against Colorado. He connected on a school-record 57-yard field goal to provide the decisive points in the final minutes of the Huskers' 40-31 victory over Colorado. The record-setting 57-yard kick against Colorado was two yards longer than the previous record held by three players. The 57-yarder came after Henery made kicks of 35, 27 and 37 yards earlier in the game.

The kick against Colorado was not his final success in 2008, as Henery connected on all four field goal attempts in a 26-21 Gator Bowl victory over Clemson. The game marked his third contest in 2008 with four field goals.

Henery also started the year with a bang. In the opener against Western Michigan, Henery made four field goals, all from 44 yards, marking just the second time in school history a player made four field goals from 40-plus yards in the same game. Henery's four field goals tied the Memorial Stadium record and extended the perfect start to his career to 12 straight field goals, the most ever to start a Husker career.

Henery had his first career miss against New Mexico State (35 yards), but also made a field goal, starting a streak of four straight games with a field goal. Henery's only other misses of the season each came from beyond 50 yards (vs. Texas Tech, Baylor). On the season he made all seven field goals from 40-49 yards, including a 48-yarder against Virginia Tech. Henery's missed extra point against Baylor ended a streak of 77 straight made PATs to start his career, but he enters 2009 101-of-102 in his career, the most accurate career mark for an NU kicker.

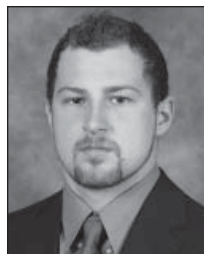
Henery connected on all eight of his field goal attempts and was perfect on 45 PAT tries as a redshirt freshman. Henery's effort was the ninth perfect PAT season in school history, and he became the first player in school history with at least five field goal attempts in a season without a miss. His performance earned Henery first-team freshman All-Big 12 honors from The Sporting News. He redshirted in 2006.

CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Scoring						Field Goal Range					
	G/S	PAT	FG	Pct.	TP	PPG	0-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+ Lg	
2007	12/12	45-45	8-8	1.000	69	5.75	0-0	5-5	3-3	0-0	0-0	39
2008	13/13	56-57	18-21	.857	110	8.46	1-1	7-7	3-4	6-6	1-3	57
Totals	25/25	101-102	26-29	.897	179	7.16	1-1	12-12	6-7	6-6	1-3	57

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » **Field Goals**—4 vs. Western Michigan, Colorado, 2008, vs. Clemson, 2009 Gator Bowl
- » **Long Field Goal**—57 yards vs. Colorado, 2008 (school record)
- » **PAT Made**—10 vs. Kansas State, 2007
- » **Consecutive FG Made**—12, Entire 2007 season thru New Mexico State, 2008



#20 ADI KUNALIC

PLACE-KICKER ▶ 6-0 ▶ 190 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
FORT WORTH, TEXAS (NORTH CROWLEY)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2008 First-Team Academic All-Big 12
- » 2008 Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll
- » Two-Time Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll (2007, 2008)

Place-kicker Adi Kunalic (pronounced ah-dee kun-ALEK) continued to provide a strong weapon on Nebraska's kickoff unit as a sophomore in 2008. This spring he will look to solidify his role as the Huskers' kickoff specialist, while also continuing to push fellow junior Alex Henery in the place-kicking department.

Kunalic's strong leg resulted in Nebraska ranking among the nation's leaders in touchbacks for the second straight season in 2008. Kunalic's booming kicks over the past two seasons have essentially negated the effects of kickoffs moving back to the 30-yard line. In his career, Kunalic has produced touchbacks on 39 percent of his kickoffs.

Kunalic continued to impress as a sophomore, doing a standout job of handling kickoff duties. Kunalic posted 28 touchbacks in 81 attempts, and Nebraska was fifth in the country in touchbacks. Kunalic had at least three touchbacks in five games in 2008, including a season-high five in the opener against Western Michigan and four against San Jose State. Kunalic also backed up Alex Henery as the place-kicker, but did not attempt a kick.

Kunalic delivered 28 touchbacks in 66 attempts as a true freshman and his 42.4 percent touchback rate was the best of any kicker in the country. He had at least one touchback in 10 of 12 games, including six in the opener against Nevada. He also connected on a 46-yard field goal against the Wolf Pack in his only attempt of the year.

OTHER OFFENSIVE RETURNING LETTERMEN



#1 CHRIS BROOKS

WIDE RECEIVER ▶ 6-2 ▶ 215 ▶ SR. ▶ 1 LETTER
ST. LOUIS, MO. (HAZELWOOD EAST)

Senior receiver Chris Brooks enters spring practice with his sights set on earning significant playing time in his final season at Nebraska. Brooks saw limited action as a reserve receiver last fall, but playing time is available at the position after the graduation of Todd Peterson and Nate Swift, who finished as two of the top five receivers in school history.

The 6-2, 215-pound Brooks has the size and athleticism to make an impact in the Nebraska offense this fall. Brooks saw increased time late last season. He played in 11 games and made two catches for 27 yards. He did not have a reception in the first eight games, before catching a two-yard pass at Oklahoma. A week later, Brooks caught a 25-yard TD pass from Joe Ganz in the second quarter of Nebraska's 45-35 win over Kansas. The reception came on a third-and-10 play and tied the game at 14. Brooks missed the Gator Bowl matchup against Clemson with a sprained ankle.

In addition to his role in the Husker offense, Brooks was also a member of Nebraska's punt and kickoff return units on special teams. Nebraska coaches noticed Brooks' contributions in that department, naming him the special teams captain against Missouri and Oklahoma. Brooks made an unassisted tackle at Oklahoma.

Brooks played in one game in 2007 and had a four-yard catch against Nevada. He played in four games as a true freshman in 2005 without a reception, then redshirted in 2006.

CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Receiving						
	G/S	No.	Yds.	Y/R	Y/G	Long	TDs
2005	4/0	0	0	0.0	0.0	—	0
2006	Redshirt						
2007	1/0	1	4	4.0	4.0	4 vs. Nevada	0
2008	11/0	2	27	13.5	2.5	25 vs. Kansas	1
Totals	16/0	3	31	10.3	1.9	25 vs. Kansas	1



#72 JAIVORIO BURKES

OFFENSIVE TACKLE ▶ 6-5 ▶ 295 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
PHOENIX, ARIZ. (MOON VALLEY)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2008 Athlon Magazine "Rising Star"
- » 2007 First-Team Freshman All-Big 12 (Sporting News)

Offensive tackle Jaivorio Burkes has been a key component of the Nebraska offensive line each of the past two seasons.

He filled a key role as a true freshman by starting late in the season, then in 2008 he was a part of Nebraska's regular offensive tackle rotation. The 6-5, 295-pound Burkes should play an even more extensive role this fall as one of the leading contenders to take over the right tackle spot after the graduation of Lydon Murtha.

Burkes was slowed by an illness that forced him to miss the majority of fall camp, but he returned in time for the season opener and played in all 13 games, with four starts. Burkes started at right tackle against San Jose State, Kansas and Kansas State, while lining up on the left side at Iowa State.

The Husker offensive line allowed quarterback Joe Ganz to set season records for passing yards, completion percentage and total offense. Nebraska also ranked among the top 20 nationally in passing offense, scoring offense and total offense. The Huskers reached 400 yards in nine of 13 games and topped 30 points 10 times. Nebraska also averaged better than 200 rushing yards per game over the second half of the regular season and ranked second nationally in time of possession.

Burkes sat out the first eight games of 2007, but was pressed into duty as the starting right tackle when injuries depleted the offensive line. He earned three starts and helped the NU offense average 560.8 yards over the final four games, while Joe Ganz produced three of the top five passing days in school history. Burkes earned first-team freshman All-Big 12 honors from The Sporting News.

CAREER NUMBERS

- » Games Played—17 (4 in 2007, 13 in 2008)
- » Games Started—7 (3 in 2007, 4 in 2008)



#82 WES CAMMACK

WIDE RECEIVER ▶ 5-11 ▶ 200 ▶ SR. ▶ 3 LETTERS
DeWITT, NEB. (TRI-COUNTY)

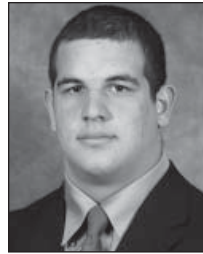
HONORS & AWARDS

- » Two-Time First-Team Academic All-Big 12 (2007, 2008)
- » Four-Time Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008)
- » Three-Time Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll (2006, 2007, 2008)

Senior Wes Cammack has supplied depth in the Nebraska receiving corps each of the past three seasons. This spring the Nebraska native will try to make a push for playing time in a receiving corps that lost two of the top five receivers in school history in Todd Peterson and Nate Swift.

Cammack played in all 13 games as a junior, and had a five-yard catch in the 38-7 win over New Mexico State. While he saw limited time as a receiver, Cammack was among Nebraska's leaders on special teams, primarily on kickoff coverage. He made nine tackles on special teams, including eight solo stops. He had solo tackles in five games, before making a career-high two tackles against both Colorado and Clemson.

A walk-on performer, Cammack played in 11 games in 2007 and made three tackles on special teams, while serving as a reserve receiver. He played in two games in 2006 after redshirting in his first season in the program. Cammack is a two-time first-team academic All-Big 12 selection.



#58 MIKE CAPUTO

CENTER ▶ 6-1 ▶ 275 ▶ SO. ▶ 1 LETTER
OMAHA, NEB. (MILLARD NORTH)

Sophomore Mike Caputo enters spring practice looking to continue to push for playing time on a deep Nebraska offensive line. A year ago, the Omaha native emerged during spring ball and earned the backup role at center with a strong effort.

The 6-1, 275-pound Caputo is undersized for an offensive lineman, but uses outstanding technique to compensate. He returns to an offensive line that has three returning starters for 2009.

Caputo served as a reliable backup to starter Jacob Hickman throughout the season. Caputo played in seven games and helped the Nebraska offense rank among the top 20 nationally in scoring, passing and total offense.

A walk-on, Caputo redshirted in his first season in the program in 2007.



#19 QUENTIN CASTILLE

I-BACK ▶ 6-1 ▶ 235 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
LaPORTE, TEXAS

Quentin Castille has been a vital part of the Nebraska running game in each of his first two seasons in the program. This spring the 6-1, 235-pound Castille will look to continue to solidify his role in the Nebraska offense, as he and fellow junior Roy Helu Jr., figure to get the majority of the work at I-back in 2009.

Castille first aided Nebraska as a true freshman as a power back in short-yardage situations. However, he dropped more than 15 pounds before his sophomore season which allowed him to refine his all-around skills and show the ability to be an every-down back in the Husker offense.

After rotating at I-back with Helu and senior Marlon Lucky throughout 2008, Castille produced his top career game against Clemson in the Gator Bowl. With both Helu and Lucky slowed by injury, Castille was a workhorse for the Huskers. He gained 125 yards on 18 carries and caught one pass for 20 yards in the contest. His effort included second-half runs of 58 and 40 yards, and allowed Nebraska to rally from a pair of 11-point deficits for the victory. The runs were the two longest rushes of Castille's two-year career.

The Clemson game capped a solid season for Castille. The Texas native played in all 13 games and rushed 106 times for 467 yards and six touchdowns. He also caught nine passes for 109 yards. Castille carried six times in each of the first two games, with a touchdown against San Jose State. In the opener against Western Michigan, he had a career-high 38 receiving yards on three catches, including a career-long 31-yard catch.

He rushed 10 times for 75 yards in a 38-7 win over New Mexico State. Castille bulled his way to 70 yards and a touchdown on 11 carries at Iowa State. He added 49 yards on five carries against Kansas and six carries for 51 yards and a score at Kansas State. Included in his effort at KSU was a then-career-long 37-yard touchdown run on a 4th-and-1 play in the first quarter. He capped the regular season with 12 carries and his sixth touchdown in the 40-31 victory over Colorado.

The play of Castille and his fellow I-backs helped the Husker running game flourish in the second half of the season. In Big 12 Conference games, Nebraska ranked third in the conference in rushing, with more than 180 yards per game, including better than 210 yards per contest in the final six games of Big 12 play.

One of 11 true freshmen to play in 2007, Castille was Nebraska's second-leading rusher with 343 yards and four touchdowns. He rushed for a season-high 102 yards against Oklahoma State and had four games with 50 or more rushing yards. He got his NU career off to a strong start with 78 yards and two touchdowns in his debut against Nevada.

CAREER STATISTICS

Rushing

Year	G/S	Att.	Gain	Loss	Net	Y/A	Y/G	Long	TDs
2007	12/0	76	347	4	343	4.9	28.6	23 vs. Okla. St.	4
2008	13/1	106	505	38	467	4.4	35.9	58 vs. Clemson	6
Totals	25/1	182	852	42	810	4.5	32.4	58 vs. Clemson	10

Receiving: 12-142-0 total; 3-33-0, long-15 vs. Ball State in 2007; 9-109-0, long-31 vs. Western Michigan in 2008

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » Rushes—20 vs. Oklahoma State, 2007
- » Rushing Yards—125 vs. Clemson, 2009 Gator Bowl
- » Long Rush—58 vs. Clemson, 2009 Gator Bowl
- » Touchdowns—2 vs. Nevada, 2007



#62 ANDY CHRISTENSEN

OFFENSIVE GUARD ▶ 6-3 ▶ 310 ▶ SR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
BENNINGTON, NEB.

HONORS & AWARDS

- » CoSIDA Second-Team Academic All-District VII (2006)
- » First-Team Academic All-Big 12 (2006)
- » Five-Time Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008)
- » Three-Time Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll (2005, 2006, 2007)

Offensive guard Andy Christensen is hopeful of returning to the Nebraska line in the 2009 season. Christensen is currently awaiting word on his application to the NCAA for a sixth season of eligibility. Christensen has missed the majority of two seasons because of injury, but the 6-3, 310-pounder has the power and ability to make an impact on a deep Nebraska offensive line that will be looking to replace three-year starter Matt Slauson at right guard.

Christensen returned to the Nebraska roster in September of 2008, following a suspension, and was a reserve throughout the season. He did not see game action. In 2007, Christensen was entrenched as a starting guard before he went down with a season-ending knee injury in the third game against USC.

Christensen was one of four sophomores or freshmen to start games for the offensive line in 2006. He played in all 14 games and started six of the final eight games to help Nebraska become one of just three teams to rank in the top 25 nationally in rushing, passing, scoring and total offense. The offensive line also helped four Nebraska running backs combine for 2,400 rushing yards and 26 touchdowns.

Christensen was expected to earn significant playing time as a redshirt freshman in 2005, but suffered a shoulder injury during fall camp and was sidelined for the season. He redshirted in his first season in the program in 2004.

The Bennington, Neb., native, earned his degree in construction management in August of 2008. He was a second-team CoSIDA Academic All-District pick in 2006 and is an eight-time Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll selection.

CAREER NUMBERS

- » Games Played—17 (3 in 2007, 14 in 2006)
- » Games Started—9 (3 in 2007, 6 in 2006)



#11 CURENSKI GILLEYLEN

WIDE RECEIVER ▶ 6-0 ▶ 220 ▶ SO. ▶ 1 LETTER
LEANDER, TEXAS

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2008 Second-Team Academic All-Big 12

Sophomore receiver Curenski Gilleylen (pronounced kuren-ski gilley-yen) could be a player to watch during spring practice. The graduation of 2008 senior receivers Todd

Peterson and Nate Swift left a large void in the Nebraska receiving corps, and the 6-0, 220-pound Gilleylen is among the players who will have the opportunity to earn playing time. Gilleylen brings a good blend of size and speed to the Husker offense, and could also play a role in the NU return game.

Gilleylen had an outstanding spring practice session a year ago, capped by a long touchdown reception in the spring game. He saw limited time as a reserve receiver during the year, playing in 11 games. He finished the year with two receptions for 11 yards, including a five-yard catch against Virginia Tech and a six-yarder at Oklahoma. He also returned two kickoffs for 48 yards—a 26-yarder vs. the Hokies and a 22-yard return vs. Western Michigan.

Gilleylen redshirted in his first season in the program in 2007.



#30 MIKE HAYS

FULLBACK ▶ 6-1 ▶ 240 ▶ SO. ▶ 1 LETTER
PAPILLION, NEB. (PAPILLION-LAVISTA)

Fullback Mike Hays developed into one of Nebraska's most dependable special teams players as a redshirt freshman in 2008. The Papillion native is likely to continue in that role again this season, while also making a bid for playing time at the fullback position. At 6-1 and 240 pounds, Hays has the size to make an impact as a lead blocker for the Huskers.

Hays played in all 13 games in 2008 as part of the Huskers' kickoff, kickoff return and punt teams, while also supplying depth behind senior fullbacks Thomas Lawson and Hunter Teafatiller. Hays finished the season with three tackles on special teams. He made unassisted tackles against Kansas and Colorado, and had an assist against San Jose State. A walk-on performer, Hays redshirted in his first year in the program.



#10 ROY HELU JR.

I-BACK ▶ 6-0 ▶ 215 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
DANVILLE, CALIF. (SAN RAMON VALLEY)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2008 Honorable-Mention All-Big 12 (Coaches)

Roy Helu Jr. (pronounced HELL-ue) was a key part of a three-man rotation at I-back in 2008, and the California native emerged as a go-to back in November. Helu Jr. and fellow junior

Quentin Castille will go into spring practice as proven commodities at I-back, and the duo should give Nebraska one of the top rushing tandems in the Big 12 Conference.

Helu's play late in the 2008 season earned him honorable-mention All-Big 12 honors from the league coaches. The 6-0, 215-pounder has all the tools needed to be a complete back and could contend for bigger honors in his junior season.

Helu played in all 13 games in 2008, with a pair of starts. He had 803 rushing yards on 125 carries, an average of 6.4 yards per attempt, the best average by a Husker in seven years. He was the first Husker with at least 100 carries to average better than six yards per rush since 2000. He also showed his ability as a receiver, with 25 catches for 266 yards.

Helu topped 50 yards on the ground seven times during the season, including 100-yard games against Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado. He ranked 10th in the Big 12 in rushing and his 80.0 rushing yards per contest in league games ranked fifth in the conference.

Helu opened the year with 52 yards against Western Michigan, and added 59 yards and a touchdown on nine carries in the win over San Jose State. Helu had 47 yards on 10 carries on the road at Texas Tech, then had 66 yards on just six carries at Iowa State. His effort against the Cyclones included a 50-yard run and a career-long 27-yard catch.

Helu then rushed for 510 yards in the final four games of the regular season, topping the century mark three times. His play led a rejuvenated Nebraska running game that averaged 211.6 yards in the final half of the regular season.

His first 100-yard outing came at Oklahoma when Helu ran for 157 yards and a touchdown on 16 carries, including a career-long 57-yard run. He added 115 yards and two touchdowns against Kansas, while setting career bests with eight catches for 61 yards in the 45-35 win. The back-to-back 100-yard rushing outings marked the first time a Husker back had accomplished that feat in Big 12 play since 2006.

Helu added 72 yards and a pair of touchdowns on 13 carries at Kansas State and capped the year with a great effort against Colorado. He carried 25 times for 166 yards, the second-highest rushing total in a Big 12 game in 2008. In the contest, Helu surpassed 1,000 career rushing yards and also caught five passes for 49 yards to total a career-high 215 all-purpose yards. Helu was slowed by a minor leg injury in the Gator Bowl and had just five first-half carries.

Helu played in only two games in the first half of 2007, but finished the year as the third-leading rusher with 209 yards on 45 carries. He had 55 yards against Oklahoma State and a season-high 56 yards on nine carries at Kansas, including a season-long 24-yard run. He also caught five passes for 40 yards in 2007.

CAREER STATISTICS

Rushing

Year	G/S	Att.	Gain	Loss	Net	Y/A	Y/G	Long	TDs
2007	7/0	45	212	3	209	4.6	29.9	24 at Kansas	0
2008	13/2	125	839	36	803	6.4	61.8	57 at Oklahoma	7
Totals	20/2	170	1,051	39	1,012	6.0	50.6	57 at Oklahoma	7

Receiving: 30-306-0 total; 25-266-0, long-27 in 2008; 5-40-0, long-21 vs. Oklahoma St. in 2007

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » **Rushes**—25 vs. Colorado, 2008
- » **Rushing Yards**—166 vs. Colorado, 2008
- » **Long Rush**—57, at Oklahoma, 2008
- » **Rushing Touchdowns**—2, vs. Kansas, Kansas State, 2008
- » **Receptions**—8 vs. Kansas, 2008
- » **Receiving Yards**—61 vs. Kansas, 2008



#8 WILL HENRY

WIDE RECEIVER ▶ 6-5 ▶ 215 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
EL PASO, TEXAS (J.M. HANKS)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2008 Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll

Will Henry has provided depth at receiver throughout his Nebraska career, but this spring he will look for a more prominent role in the offense. The Nebraska receiving corps

possesses outstanding talent, but must overcome the loss of Todd Peterson and Nate Swift who finished their careers as two of the top five receivers in school history.

The 6-5, 215-pound Henry is the tallest of Nebraska's receivers, and in addition to his receiving work, he also played on special teams in 2008. Henry played in nine games, primarily on the punt return unit, while seeing a few snaps at receiver. He did not have a reception on the season.

Henry played in two games as a redshirt freshman in 2007. He redshirted in his first year on the Nebraska campus.



#80 RYAN HILL

TIGHT END ▶ 6-3 ▶ 250 ▶ SO. ▶ 1 LETTER
ARVADA, COLO. (WEST)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2008 First-Team Academic All-Big 12
- » Two-Time Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll (2007, 2008)
- » 2008 Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll

Tight end Ryan Hill emerged as a contributor on the Nebraska offense during his redshirt freshman campaign in 2008. The 6-3, 250-pound Hill was utilized as a third tight end behind Mike McNeill and Dreu Young and provided the Huskers with another receiving threat at the spot. This spring the Colorado native will look to solidify his role in the Nebraska offense.

Hill saw action in all 13 games and finished the year with three receptions for nine yards. He had two catches for three yards against Missouri, then hauled in a six-yard touchdown catch to open the scoring against Baylor. Hill was one of 13 Huskers named to the first-team academic all-conference squad in 2008. Hill redshirted in his first season in the program in 2007.

CAREER STATISTICS

Receiving

Year	G/S	No.	Yds.	Y/R	Y/G	Long	TDs
2007							Redshirt
2008	13/0	3	9	3.0	0.7	6 vs. Baylor	1
Totals	13/0	3	9	3.0	0.7	6 vs. Baylor	1



#73 D.J. JONES

OFFENSIVE LINE ▶ 6-5 ▶ 315 ▶ JR. ▶ 1 LETTER
OMAHA, NEB. (CENTRAL)

Junior D.J. Jones is part of a talented and experienced group of offensive linemen returning for the 2009 season. Jones is one of eight returning lettermen on the offensive line and the Omaha native is expected to make a push for significant playing time this fall.

The 6-5, 315-pounder has the ability to play both guard and tackle and will bid for a starting role on the right side of the line, where both Matt Slauson and Lydon Murtha graduated. Jones was Slauson's top backup at right guard in 2008, but saw action in just a pair of games as Nebraska ranked among the top 20 nationally in passing, scoring and total offense.

Jones saw extensive action as a redshirt freshman in 2007, appearing in nine games in 2007 as a reserve guard behind Matt Slauson, Mike Huff and Jacob Hickman. He also saw snaps at tackle and helped Nebraska rank in the top 10 nationally in both passing offense and total offense.

Jones sat out his first season in Lincoln as a redshirt, and helped form an impressive scout team offensive line.



#78 MARCEL JONES

OFFENSIVE TACKLE ▶ 6-7 ▶ 310 ▶ SO. ▶ 1 LETTER
PHOENIX, ARIZ. (TREVOR BROWNE)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2008 First-Team Academic All-Big 12
- » Two-Time Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll (2007, 2008)
- » 2008 Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll

Sophomore Marcel Jones earned significant playing time in 2008 and this spring he is likely to contend for the starting right tackle spot vacated by the graduation of Lydon Murtha. Jones has worked diligently to add muscle to his 6-7 frame and the Phoenix native will enter spring practice at 310 pounds.

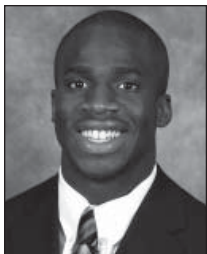
Jones emerged during spring practice last season and went on to play in all 13 games of the 2008 season, helping the Nebraska offense rank in the top 20 nationally in total offense, scoring offense and passing offense. Jones drew a start at right tackle against Western Michigan in place of an injured Murtha. He also played nearly the entire game at Kansas State with Murtha and Jaivorio Burkes sidelined. In that contest, Jones helped Nebraska to season highs in points (56), rushing yards (340) and total offense (610). The 340 rushing yards were the most in a Big 12 game for Nebraska in six seasons. Jones also served on the Huskers' top PAT and field goal unit throughout the season.

Jones has also excelled off the field during his time in Lincoln, and earned first-team academic All-Big 12 honors in 2008. He redshirted in his first year at Nebraska.



Roy Helu Jr. led Nebraska in rushing last season with 803 yards and seven touchdowns while averaging better than six yards per carry.

OTHER DEFENSIVE RETURNING LETTERMEN



#21 PRINCE AMUKAMARA
CORNERBACK ▶ 6-1 ▶ 200 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
GLENDALE, ARIZ. (APOLLO)

HONORS & AWARDS

» 2007 Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll

Prince Amukamara (pronounced ah-moo-kuh-mara) emerged as a key player in the Nebraska secondary in 2008, and will push for a more extensive role as a junior. Amukamara

was Nebraska's top reserve cornerback in 2008 and saw extensive action when the Huskers used nickel and dime packages.

This spring the 6-1, 200-pound Amukamara will look to make his bid for the cornerback spot left open by the graduation of Armando Murillo. The high school running back is also likely to continue to play a key role on special teams.

Amukamara played in all 13 games in 2008, including starts against Western Michigan, New Mexico State and Virginia Tech. He started the opener with Murillo slowed by injury, then replaced an injured Anthony West against the Aggies. He made 34 tackles, including 21 solo stops, ranking as one of the leading tackles among non-starters. Amukamara added three pass breakups and caused a pair of fumbles on punt coverage at Kansas State. He also had two tackles for loss and had an 11-yard sack against Baylor.

Amukamara made a career-high eight tackles in the opener against Western Michigan, and added six tackles in the Huskers' 38-7 win over New Mexico State. He had four other games with at least three tackles, and in addition to his sack against Baylor he added a tackle for loss vs. Oklahoma.

Amukamara did not play in the first three games of 2007, but saw action in eight of the final nine games. Amukamara was a regular on Nebraska's kickoff coverage unit, and finished the year with four tackles, including two against Kansas State.

CAREER STATISTICS

Defense	(-----Tackles-----)						Fum.				QB
Year	G/S	UT	AT	TT	TFL	Sacks	C-R	BK	PBU	PI	Hry.
2007	8/0	2	2	4	0-0	0.0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
2008	13/3	21	13	34	2-12	1.0-11	2-0	0	3	0	1
Totals	21/3	23	15	38	2-12	1.0-11	2-0	0	3	0	1

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » Tackles—8, vs. Western Michigan, 2008
- » Solo Tackles—5 vs. Western Michigan, 2008
- » Tackles for Loss—1, twice in 2008
- » Sacks—1.0-11 vs. Baylor, 2008



#14 ANTHONY BLUE
CORNERBACK ▶ 5-10 ▶ 185 ▶ SO. ▶ 1 LETTER
CEDAR HILL, TEXAS

HONORS & AWARDS

» 2007 First-Team Freshman All-Big 12 (The Sporting News)

Cornerback Anthony Blue returns to the Nebraska secondary this spring after missing the entire 2008 campaign with a knee injury. Blue injured his knee in early March of

2008 in winter conditioning, and returned to the practice field midway through the fall campaign, but the Husker coaching staff made the decision to redshirt Blue. The 5-10, 185-pound Blue is expected to be at full strength during spring practice and he adds another talented young player to a Nebraska secondary that returns 10 letterwinners.

Blue quickly established himself as a difference-maker in the Nebraska secondary in his first season in Lincoln. Blue earned playing time from the start of the 2007 season and went on to start the final two games against Kansas State and Colorado.

He finished the year with 18 tackles, including nine solo stops. Blue opened the year as a reserve behind four veteran cornerbacks and saw his most extensive action on special teams. He made a single tackle in five of the first nine games, before recording 13 tackles in the final three games. Blue made three tackles at Kansas, then had a season-high five tackles against both KSU and Colorado. He added a breakup against the Wildcats.

Blue's play was recognized when The Sporting News named him a first-team freshman all-conference player.

CAREER STATISTICS

Defense	(-----Tackles-----)						Fum.				QB
Year	G/S	UT	AT	TT	TFL	Sacks	C-R	BK	PBU	PI	Hry.
2007	12/2	9	9	18	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0
2008											Injured--Redshirt

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles—5, vs. Kansas State, at Colorado, 2007

Solo Tackles—4, at Colorado, 2007

Pass Breakups—1, vs. Kansas State, 2007



#94 JARED CRICK
DEFENSIVE TACKLE ▶ 6-6 ▶ 285 ▶ SO. ▶ 1 LETTER
COZAD, NEB.

Sophomore defensive lineman Jared Crick emerged as a reliable reserve for the Husker defense in 2008. This spring Crick will get an opportunity to fill a much bigger role, as he competes for the open starting defensive tackle spot alongside All-Big 12 performer Ndamukong Suh.

Crick and fellow redshirt freshman Terrence Moore supplied depth behind Suh and senior Ty Steinkuhler on the defensive front last season. Crick played in nine games and made a pair of tackles, with a solo stop against New Mexico State and an assisted tackle at Oklahoma. Crick added a pass breakup against Western Michigan.

The play of the front four keyed a Nebraska defense that ranked second in the Big 12 in total defense. The Huskers also improved their sack total from 13 in 2007 to 35 last fall. Crick redshirted in 2007, then moved from defensive end to the inside during spring practice.

CAREER STATISTICS

Defense	(-----Tackles-----)						Fum.				QB
Year	G/S	UT	AT	TT	TFL	Sacks	C-R	BK	PBU	PI	Hry.
2007											Redshirted
2008	9/0	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0



#15 ALFONZO DENNARD
CORNERBACK ▶ 5-10 ▶ 190 ▶ SO. ▶ 1 LETTER
ROCHELLE, GA. (WILCOX COUNTY)

Alfonzo Dennard (pronounced DEN-ard) earned immediate playing time as a true freshman for Nebraska, contributing on both defense and special teams. This spring the 5-10, 190-pound Dennard will look to continue to expand his role in both areas for the Huskers.

Dennard was one of just three true freshmen to see extensive action for Nebraska in 2008, appearing in each of the final 12 games. His time in the secondary was limited, but he figures to bid for much more significant playing action in the defensive backfield in 2009.

Dennard has seen the majority of his action on special teams, as he and Niles Paul formed an explosive kickoff return combination. Dennard returned eight kickoffs for 150 yards, an average of 18.8 yards per return. He closed the year in with a 29-yard return against Colorado, then had a season-long 31-yard return in the Gator Bowl victory over Clemson.

Dennard also saw action on the kickoff coverage and punt return units, and had five tackles, including four solo stops. He had a season-high two tackles at Kansas State.

CAREER STATISTICS

Defense	(-----Tackles-----)						Fum.				QB
Year	G/S	UT	AT	TT	TFL	Sacks	C-R	BK	PBU	PI	Hry.
2008	12/0	4	1	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0

Kickoff Returns: 8-150-0, 18.8 average, long-31 vs. Clemson



#41 THOMAS GROVE

LINEBACKER ▶ 6-2 ▶ 225 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
ARLINGTON, NEB.

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2008 First-Team Academic All-Big 12
- » Two-Time Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll (2007, 2008)
- » 2008 Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll

Thomas Grove has been a key contributor on special teams during his first two seasons in the Nebraska program. The walk-on linebacker first served on Nebraska's kickoff coverage unit in three games as a true freshman in 2007, then played in all 12 games last year. In addition to his role as a key special teams player, the 6-2, 225-pound Grove hopes to battle for playing time at linebacker this spring.

Grove appeared in all 13 games in 2008 as a regular on the kickoff coverage unit. He had an assisted tackle against Western Michigan and an unassisted stop against Clemson in the Gator Bowl. Grove did not have a tackle in his three games in 2007.

The Arlington, Neb., native is one of Nebraska's top scholar-athletes. He was among a group of six Big 12 players on the first-team academic all-conference team who were recognized for having a 4.0 grade-point average.



#35 MATT HOLT

LINEBACKER ▶ 6-0 ▶ 200 ▶ SO. ▶ 1 LETTER
LEE'S SUMMITT, MO. (WEST)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2008 Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll

Matt Holt was thrust into the spotlight as a true freshman in 2008, playing a key role at linebacker. After stepping into a leading role at mid-season, Holt missed the final month of 2008 with a shoulder injury. The 6-0, 200-pound Holt is back to full speed and this spring the walk-on from the Kansas City area will make his bid for extensive playing time in Nebraska's linebacking corps.

Holt played in nine games overall last season, beginning the year as a contributor on Nebraska's kickoff coverage unit. After injuries shuffled the lineup at linebacker, Holt was forced into action at the start of Big 12 play.

Holt's speed was an asset against wide-open attacks in the league, and he responded with three unassisted tackles against Missouri and eight tackles, including seven solo stops, in NU's overtime loss at No. 7 Texas Tech. Holt finished the year with 14 total tackles, including 11 solos. He did not play in Nebraska's final three games.

CAREER STATISTICS

Year	G/S	-----Tackles-----				TFL	Sacks	Fum.				QB Hry.
		UT	AT	TT	C-R			BK	PBU	PI		
2008	9/0	11	3	14	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » Tackles—8 at Texas Tech, 2008
- » Solo Tackles—7 at Texas Tech, 2008



#54 COLTON KOEHLER

LINEBACKER ▶ 6-1 ▶ 230 ▶ SR. ▶ 1 LETTER
HARVARD, NEB. (NEBRASKA WESLEYAN)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2008 Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll
- » 2006 Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll

Colton Koehler (pronounced CO-ler) stepped into a prominent role in a thin Nebraska corps of linebackers in the latter stages of the 2008 season. The walk-on was up to the challenge of filling in for the injured Phillip Dillard at Mike linebacker. The 6-1, 230-pound Koehler earned his first career start in the Gator Bowl and this spring he will make a push for increased playing time during his senior season.

Koehler played in seven games, including five of the final six games. He had 16 tackles, including seven solo stops. Koehler had a key tackle for loss of Baylor's Jay Finley in the end zone for a fourth-quarter safety, supplying the final points in a 32-20 victory. Koehler had four tackles, including three solo stops at Oklahoma, before recording a team-high eight tackles in a win at Kansas State. He added one tackle in the Gator Bowl.

Koehler transferred to Nebraska from Nebraska Wesleyan in January of 2006. He redshirted in his first year, before filling a reserve role in 2007.

CAREER STATISTICS

Year	G/S	-----Tackles-----				TFL	Sacks	Fum.				QB Hry.
		UT	AT	TT	C-R			BK	PBU	PI		
2006		Redshirted										
2007		Did Not Play										
2008	7/1	7	9	16	1-2	0.0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » Tackles—8 at Kansas State, 2008
- » Solo Tackles—3 at Oklahoma, Kansas State, 2008
- » Tackles for Loss—1 vs. Baylor, 2008



#40 BLAKE LAWRENCE

LINEBACKER ▶ 6-3 ▶ 220 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
SHAWNEE MISSION, KAN. (WEST)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2008 First-Team Academic All-Big 12
- » Two-Time Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll (2007, 2008)
- » 2008 Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll
- » 2008 Brook Berringer Citizenship Team

Blake Lawrence has been a contributor at linebacker in each of his first two seasons at Nebraska and is poised for a more prominent role in 2009. The 6-3, 220-pound junior moved into the top Will linebacker spot late in the 2008 season, and his play indicated that he has the ability to be a key performer in the 2009 campaign.

Lawrence played in 10 games in 2008, but saw his most extensive action in the season's final three games, including starts against Kansas State and Clemson. His play down the stretch helped a defense that finished second in the Big 12 in total defense and limited the Tigers to just 210 yards in the Gator Bowl.

Lawrence finished the year with 21 total tackles, including 12 in the final three games. He had five tackles at Kansas State, and added three against Colorado in the regular season finale. In the Gator Bowl, Lawrence had four tackles and intercepted a third-quarter pass that set up a field goal to help Nebraska's comeback.

Lawrence played in eight games during his first season, serving as a backup linebacker, along with regular action on NU's kickoff coverage unit. He finished with two unassisted tackles. Lawrence is also among Nebraska's top scholar-athletes. He was one of 13 Huskers named to the 2008 first-team academic All-Big 12 squad.

CAREER STATISTICS

Year	G/S	-----Tackles-----				TFL	Sacks	Fum.				QB Hry.
		UT	AT	TT	C-R			BK	PBU	PI		
2006		Redshirted										
2007	8/0	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	10/2	8	13	21	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0
Totals	18/2	10	13	23	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » Tackles—5 at Kansas State, 2008
- » Solo Tackles—3 at Kansas State, 2008
- » Tackles for Loss—1 vs. Baylor, 2008



#63 BEN MARTIN

DEFENSIVE TACKLE ▶ 6-4 ▶ 260 ▶ JR. ▶ 1 LETTER
LINCOLN, NEB. (SOUTHWEST)

HONORS & AWARDS

- » 2008 Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll

Lincoln native Ben Martin has earned limited playing time on the defensive line each of the past two seasons. One of four returning letterwinners in the interior defensive line, Martin hopes to make a push for playing time this spring as NU replaces departed senior defensive tackle Ty Steinkuhler.

The 6-4, 260-pound Martin has the ability to play both end or tackle, but will enter spring on the inside. Martin played against New Mexico State last season, but did not have a tackle. He played in seven games in 2007, serving as a backup defensive tackle. Martin finished the year with three tackles, including two stops against Iowa State and an assisted tackle at Kansas. Martin spent his redshirt season on the scout team at defensive end before moving to the interior during spring ball in 2007.



#36 MATHEW MAY
LINEBACKER ▶ 6-1 ▶ 210 ▶ SO. ▶ 1 LETTER
IMPERIAL, NEB. (CHASE COUNTY)

- HONORS & AWARDS**
 » 2008 Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll
 » 2008 Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll

Mathew May is one of several players who stepped up at linebacker late in the 2008 season, and will look to play a more significant role this fall. The 6-1, 210-pound May moved from the defensive backfield to linebacker for the final three games, and the walk-on performed admirably when called upon.

May appeared in eight games, including the final seven contests when Nebraska posted a 6-1 record. In addition to reserve work first at safety then linebacker, May was a contributor on Nebraska's kickoff and punt return units. He finished the year with six tackles, including three at Kansas State. He was credited with a forced fumble and a sack of KSU quarterback Josh Freeman in the game. His performance at Kansas State came after moving to linebacker earlier that week. He also had a fumble recovery against Colorado. May redshirted in his first season at Nebraska in 2007.

CAREER STATISTICS

Year	G/S	Tackles				TFL	Sacks	Fum.			QB Hry.
		UT	AT	TT	C-R			BK	PBU	PI	
2007		Redshirted									
2008	8/0	5	1	6	1-8	1-8	1-1	0	0	0	0



#90 TERENCE MOORE
DEFENSIVE TACKLE ▶ 6-3 ▶ 285 ▶ SO. ▶ 1 LETTER
NEW ORLEANS, LA. (McDONOGH 35)

Terrence Moore was a reliable reserve on the Nebraska defensive front during the 2008 campaign. This spring the New Orleans native will have the opportunity to expand his role following the graduation of 2008 senior tackle Ty Steinkuhler.

Moore appeared in seven games and contributed to a Nebraska defense that finished second in the Big 12 in total defense and nearly tripled its sack total from 2007. Moore made eight tackles, including six in the season's first three games. He had three tackles and two sacks for 11 yards in Nebraska's season-opening 47-24 victory over Western Michigan. He added two tackles against San Jose State and registered single tackles vs. New Mexico State, Missouri and Iowa State.

Moore redshirted in his first season in the program.

CAREER STATISTICS

Year	G/S	Tackles				TFL	Sacks	Fum.			QB Hry.
		UT	AT	TT	C-R			BK	PBU	PI	
2007		Redshirted									
2008	7/0	3	5	8	2-11	2-0-11	0-0	0	0	0	0



#23 LANCE THORELL
CORNERBACK ▶ 6-1 ▶ 195 ▶ SO. ▶ 1 LETTER
LOOMIS, NEB.

- HONORS & AWARDS**
 » 2008 First-Team Academic All-Big 12
 » Two-Time Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll (2007, 2008)
 » 2008 Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll

Lance Thorell emerged as a key player in the Nebraska secondary as a redshirt freshman in 2008. With Nebraska facing a spread-style offense nearly every week, Thorell settled into a role as the Huskers' starting dime back and was up to the task. This spring, Thorell will battle for playing time in a Husker secondary that returns 10 letterwinners for the 2009 campaign.

The 6-1, 195-pound Thorell played in 11 games, including five starts when Nebraska opened in its dime package. Thorell finished the year with 24 tackles, including 15 solo stops. He was second on the team with a career-high eight tackles against New Mexico State, and recorded a career-high five solo stops against Texas Tech. He had five tackles against Missouri and finished the year with three stops against Colorado.

Thorell's first career pass breakup came in the final minutes of the fourth quarter against the Buffs, and one play later Ndamukong Suh intercepted a pass to secure the NU win. Thorell also earned first-team academic All-Big 12 honors in 2008. A walk-on, Thorell redshirted in his first season in the program.

CAREER STATISTICS

Year	G/S	Tackles				TFL	Sacks	Fum.			QB Hry.
		UT	AT	TT	C-R			BK	PBU	PI	
2007		Redshirt									
2008	11/5	15	9	24	0-0	0-0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

- » Tackles—8 vs. New Mexico State, 2008
 » Solo Tackles—5 at Texas Tech, 2008



#22 MASON WALD
SAFETY ▶ 5-11 ▶ 195 ▶ SO. ▶ 1 LETTER
BIRMINGHAM, ALA. (VESTAVIA HILLS)

Mason Wald was one of just three true freshmen to see extensive action in 2008. The hard-hitting safety played in all 13 games, primarily as a member of Nebraska's special teams units. With a year in the Husker program under his belt, Wald will look to battle for playing time in the secondary during spring practice.

Wald was a regular on the Huskers' punt return and kickoff coverage units. His play helped NU rank in the top 25 nationally in punt returns. Wald finished with six tackles, including four solo stops. Wald recorded the first tackle of his career at home against Virginia Tech, while posting a career-high two tackles against Kansas. He had five of his six tackles in the final five games of the season.

CAREER STATISTICS

Year	G/S	Tackles				TFL	Sacks	Fum.			QB Hry.
		UT	AT	TT	C-R			BK	PBU	PI	
2008	13/0	4	2	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0



#23 LATRAVIS WASHINGTON
LINEBACKER ▶ 6-3 ▶ 225 ▶ JR. ▶ 2 LETTERS
BRADENTON, FLA. (BAYSHORE)

- HONORS & AWARDS**
 » 2008 Second-Team Academic All-Big 12
 » 2008 Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll
 » 2007 Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll

Junior Latravis Washington will enter spring practice with a goal of pushing for playing time on the Nebraska defense. Washington has provided depth at linebacker and served in a special teams role each of the past two seasons, but he will make a bid for an expanded role this spring.

The 6-3, 225-pound Washington was slowed by injury early in his sophomore season, but returned to provide depth at Buck linebacker and played in 10 games, primarily on special teams. His play on the punt return unit helped Nebraska rank 21st nationally in that category.

Washington played in six games as a true freshman, both on kickoff coverage and as a reserve linebacker. He finished with two tackles, both coming against Kansas State.

Washington was honored for his work in the classroom in 2008 with second-team academic All-Big 12 honors.