

NEBRASKA'S NATIONAL POWER

One of the nation's premier athletic programs, Nebraska is dedicated to and successful in all 23 of its varsity sports. Nebraska has won a total of 24 team national championships since 1970, including five football titles, eight men's gymnastics championships, five bowling crowns, three volleyball titles and three women's track and field championships. In 2011-12, 10 Husker teams finished among the top 25 in their respective sports, including the Nebraska football team which posted its fourth straight nine-win season.

The Husker football team also led a list of 14 Husker squads that advanced to NCAA postseason competition in 2011-12, as Bo Pelini's team made a New Year's Day appearance in the 2012 Capital One Bowl. The national power Husker bowling team took third at the 2012 NCAA Championships. The NU women's gymnastics team finished eighth nationally for its third straight top-10 NCAA finish after claiming its first Big Ten title. The men's gymnasts added a No. 10 NCAA finish. The NU men's track and field team contributed a tie for 11th at the NCAA Outdoor Championships - the team's best finish since 2003. The Husker men also tied for 23rd at the NCAA Indoor Championships, while the Husker women's indoor team won the program's first Big Ten crown. The tradition-rich volleyball program won the school's first-ever Big Ten title in any sport while finishing 12th nationally and advancing to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

The NU women's tennis team produced the best season in school history in 2012,

posting a school-record 24 wins and No. 16 final ITA ranking. The Huskers produced their third straight trip to the NCAA Tournament, where they came up just short of their first NCAA Sweet 16 trip. The Husker women's basketball team ran to the second-highest win total in school history with 24 victories, while adding a runner-up finish in their first Big Ten Tournament. NU posted their second-highest final Associated Press national ranking by finishing the year at No. 17. The NU wrestling team tied for 21st at the NCAA Championships, despite a young roster that was supposed to be in rebuilding mode.

While Nebraska's teams performed at the high levels, individual Husker athletes also earned national honors. On the gridiron, linebacker Lavonte David claimed All-America honors while being named the Big Ten's Butkus-Fitzgerald Linebacker of the Year. Alfonzo Dennard was named the Tatum-Woodson Defensive Back of the Year, while Brett Maher became the first player to win the conference's punter and place-kicker of the year awards in the same season since 2001. Chad Wright claimed a national championship in the men's discus. Overall in 2011-12, 30 Husker student-athletes combined to capture 40 All-America awards across all sports. As a testament to Nebraska's national recruiting prowess, the All-Americans came to NU from 12 states and five foreign countries. The Cornhusker state showed its success in keeping the best and brightest of its future leaders at home, as nine All-Americans came from the state of Nebraska.



Outside hitter Gina Mancuso captured first-team AVCA All-America honors while helping the Nebraska volleyball team to the school's first-ever Big Ten Conference championship in 2011. The tradition-rich Nebraska volleyball team has won three NCAA titles in its history, while capturing four conference titles in the past five seasons.



Top: Chad Wright claimed the national title in the men's discus at the 2012 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships. The sophomore from Kingston, Jamaica earned his second All-America award while becoming the 77th NCAA individual champion in the history of the Husker track and field program.

Bottom: The Nebraska women's track and field team captured the 2012 Big Ten Indoor title. It was NU's 104th track and field conference crown in history. The Husker men added a pair of top-25 NCAA team finishes in 2012, including a tie for 11th at the NCAA outdoor meet.

NEBRASKA'S TOP 25 NATIONAL FINISHES IN 2011-12

Bowling	3rd
Women's Gymnastics	8th
Men's Gymnastics	10th
Men's Outdoor Track & Field	11th (Tie)
Volleyball	12th
Women's Tennis	16th
Women's Basketball	17th
Wrestling	21st (Tie)
Men's Indoor Track & Field	23rd (Tie)
Football	24th

Top left: The Nebraska women's gymnastics team captured its first Big Ten title while finishing eighth at the 2012 NCAA Championships. Sophomore Emily Wong was the Big Ten all-around champion, while Jessie DeZiel was the Big Ten Freshman of the Year. Dan Kendig added Big Ten Coach-of-the-Year honors to the Husker hardware haul, which included eight NCAA All-America awards in 2012.



Middle left: Mary Weatherholt powered Nebraska to the best women's tennis season in school history in 2012. The All-Big Ten pick from Prairie Village, Kan., earned a trip to the NCAA Singles Championship, after leading NU to the second round of the NCAA Tournament and a final No. 16 national ranking.

Bottom left: James Green captured All-America honors for the Nebraska wrestling team in 2012. The 157-pound freshman from New Jersey helped the Huskers to a tie for 21st at the NCAA Championships.

Top right: Jordan Hooper became the first sophomore in Nebraska women's basketball history to earn AP All-America honors after claiming a first-team All-Big Ten award for the Huskers in 2012. Hooper, an Alliance, Neb., native became the first sophomore in Husker history to reach 1,000 career points.

Bottom right: Lavonte David captured first-team All-America honors after claiming the Big Ten's Butkus-Fitzgerald Linebacker-of-the-Year award in 2011. The native of Miami, Fla., was chosen by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the second round of the 2012 NFL Draft.