



Bill CALLAHAN

HEAD COACH · 4TH YEAR · ILLINOIS BENEDICTINE (1978)

NOTING CALLAHAN

The 27th head coach in Cornhusker history, Bill Callahan is beginning his fourth season as Nebraska's head coach.

Callahan has 30 years of coaching experience, including nine years in the National Football League. He was the head coach of the Oakland Raiders in 2002-03 and guided the Raiders to the Super Bowl in his first season. He previously served as the Raiders' offensive coordinator under Jon Gruden for four seasons and was on Ray Rhodes' Philadelphia Eagles staff from 1995 to 1997.

Callahan was a full-time collegiate assistant for 15 seasons, including stints at Wisconsin (1990-94), Southern Illinois (1989), Northern Arizona (1987-88) and Illinois (1981-86).

Callahan was named head coach by Nebraska Athletic Director Steve Pederson on Jan. 9, 2004.

Playing Career:

High school—Played football at Mendel Catholic High School in Chicago.

College—Started at quarterback for three seasons (1975-77) at Illinois Benedictine (Lisle, Ill.), earning honorable-mention All-America honors in 1976 and 1977.

Education: Illinois Benedictine, 1978 (Bachelor of Arts, Physical Education)

Born: July 31, 1956, in Chicago, Ill.

Family: Wife, Valerie; Children, Brian (23), Daniel (21), Cathryn (16) and Jaclyn (14).

A championship coach at the collegiate and professional levels, Nebraska Head Coach Bill Callahan carries the responsibility of guiding one of college football's most storied programs.

Callahan's focus remains the same as the day he was hired in January of 2004, less than a year after guiding Oakland to the Super Bowl. He is striving to add to Nebraska's championship legacy on the Big 12 and national levels. At the same time, Callahan operates a program that places equal value on helping his student-athletes achieve in the classroom and developing skills needed for life after football.

During his first three years on the Husker sideline, Callahan's leadership has led to success in all areas for Nebraska. As the 2007 season begins with the disciplined and focused Callahan at the helm, it is easy to envision even greater accomplishments for the Huskers.

After finishing 2005 with three straight victories, Callahan's Huskers continued the momentum throughout the 2006 campaign. Nebraska swept the Big 12 North Division and earned a spot in the conference championship game for the first time since 1999 before receiving a bid to the Cotton Bowl. The Huskers also earned three Big 12 road victories and extended their streak of wins in November to five straight while posting the most points and total yards in a season since 2001.

The Huskers made great strides on offense in their third year under Callahan. Nebraska was one of three schools nationally to rank in the top 25 in rushing offense, passing offense, total offense and scoring offense. In the off-season, Callahan made an improved running attack a priority, and the Huskers responded by averaging better than 170 yards per game on the ground. Nebraska's passing attack continued to click with efficiency. Senior quarterback Zac Taylor established school records with 3,197 yards passing and 26 touchdowns through the air. In the process, Taylor was recognized as the Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year. On the defensive side of the ball, Nebraska ranked in the top 25 nationally in scoring defense and senior defensive end Adam Carriker was named Big 12 Defensive Lineman of the Year.

This past off-season, Callahan and his championship staff again produced a strong recruiting haul. The 2007 recruiting class was ranked among the top dozen in the nation by several recruiting services, and addressed key areas of need for the Huskers. While maintaining a commitment to keeping homegrown talent in Nebraska, Callahan and his staff also showed their ability to lure players from throughout the United States to Lincoln. Nebraska inked seven players from the state of Texas, the Huskers' largest recruiting haul from that state in two decades. NU signed five players from Arizona, the most ever in one year at Nebraska, and added

four Californians, continuing Nebraska's recent recruiting success in the Golden State.

The off-season momentum continued through the end of spring camp, as the recent tradition of large spring game crowds continued in 2007. More than 54,000 fans converged on Memorial Stadium in April, giving Nebraska a total of 236,000 fans who have attended the Red-White game in the past four seasons.

The continued development of the Nebraska program was also evident in the NFL Draft. Carriker was the 13th overall selection, Nebraska's highest pick since 1998, while three other Huskers were taken in the first 104 picks of the draft. Included in that group was I-back Brandon Jackson, who was tabbed 63rd overall by Green Bay, the highest drafted Husker offensive player since 2002.

Nebraska fans began to see the fruits of Callahan's detailed plan for success for the Husker program in 2005. Nebraska closed the regular season with victories over North Division rivals Kansas State and Colorado before knocking off a talented Michigan squad in the MasterCard Alamo Bowl. True to the hard-nosed attitude of their head coach, the Huskers rallied from a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit to post a 32-28 victory over the Wolverines.

Nebraska's 8-4 mark in 2005 came behind a determined defensive effort and increased familiarity with the West Coast Offense. The Husker special teams also gained national recognition with their marked improvement.

The Blackshirt defense recorded a nation-leading 50 sacks, the second-highest single-season total in school history. On offense, the Huskers posted a then-single-season record 2,692 passing yards, with three receivers topping 40 catches, underscoring the diversity of Callahan's offensive attack.

As a member of an elite fraternity of coaches who have led their team to a Super Bowl, Callahan's on-field coaching credentials are evident. However, since becoming the Huskers' head man, Callahan has shown all the needed qualities to develop a successful program at the collegiate level.

Under Callahan, the Huskers are continuing to build on their tradition of success in the classroom. Callahan's first three senior classes have been successful in reaching the No. 1 objective of college student-athletes. At the conclusion of the 2007 spring semester, 53 of the 64 members of Callahan's first three senior classes had their undergraduate degrees. Four fifth-year Huskers played as graduate students in 2006, including 2007 senior tight end J.B. Phillips, who hopes to earn his master's degree by the spring of 2008. A remarkable number of 23 Husker seniors are on track to graduate by the end of the fall semester.

CHAMPIONSHIP COACHING

- › GUIDED NEBRASKA TO 2006 BIG 12 NORTH CHAMPIONSHIP
- › COACHED THE OAKLAND RAIDERS TO SUPER BOWL XXXVII
- › COACHED IN 10 NFL PLAYOFF GAMES AND 7 BOWL GAMES
- › SPEARHEADED 3 STRAIGHT NU TOP-15 RECRUITING CLASSES





Callahan's Huskers have continued the Huskers' long-standing tradition of academic All-America honors. In 2006, fullback Dane Todd was a second-team ESPN the Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-Americans, helping bring Nebraska's nation-leading total of football academic All-Americans to 90. A year earlier, both Todd and center Kurt Mann were first-team academic All-America picks as juniors.

Nebraska again led the Big 12 in academic all-conference selections in 2006, with 15 Huskers tabbed as first-team picks and another seven players chosen to the second team. In May, Nebraska was one of 34 schools recognized by the American Football Coaches Association for exemplary graduation rates.

Callahan is well-respected by his peers in the coaching profession, who value his voice on numerous issues affecting the game.

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Under Callahan, the football program has stepped up its commitment to making a strong mark in the community. Husker players spend countless hours in local communities speaking with youth and visiting Nebraska fans of all ages. Under Callahan the entire Husker team has taken a half-day to visit with patients at hospitals in both Lincoln and Omaha on an annual basis. Callahan's strong belief in community outreach and character education led to his team receiving Nebraska's annual Life Skills Team Award in 2005. The football team has subsequently been a finalist for the coveted award in each of the past two seasons.

The commitment to being an active member of the community comes directly from Callahan's leadership. Shortly after being named Nebraska's head coach, Callahan established Coach Callahan Charities, Inc. The mission is to provide financial support to non-profits organized to fight breast cancer and diabetes, and provide services, support and hope to economically disadvantaged and at-risk youth and families. Past beneficiaries have included UNMC Eppley Cancer Center, Breast Cancer Foundation, Juvenile Diabetes Research Association, UNL Libraries, Special Olympics, Red Cross, Fresh Start, Make-a-Wish, and City Impact's Backpack Buddies and Child Sponsorship programs.

Callahan and his staff presented the fourth annual Football 101 for Women in early June. The event has been a rousing success each year, drawing nearly 4,500 participants and raising approximately \$190,000 for breast cancer research.

Coach Callahan Charities has presented the 5K Fun Run/Walk for Resources, and in its first three years, the event has drawn more than 1,700 combined participants and raised \$30,000 for Juvenile Diabetes and the University Libraries. Coach Callahan Charities has also hosted the Coach Callahan Golf Classic the past two years, with proceeds benefitting the general fund for Coach Callahan Charities. All told, Coach Callahan Charities has raised more than \$355,000 to charity in just over three years.

Callahan has also given his time as a guest speaker and spokesperson for several local organizations. He is the Honorary Chair of the Make-A-Wish Foundation's "Share our Magic Campaign", and has been the keynote speaker at the Omaha American Heart Association Breakfast, the Nebraska Special Olympics Breakfast of Champions and at the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Midlands.

The Husker football program under Callahan has placed a strong emphasis on developing the football talents of youth in the state of Nebraska. During the spring, the coaching staff and players conducted the Husker Youth Experience for the third straight year. The event is a free developmental clinic for 500 children from the state.

This summer the Husker coaching staff provided instruction to nearly 2,000 campers who attended the various sessions of the Big Red Football School. The camps again included the Husker Youth Camp for children ages 8 to 13. In its third year the camp drew more than 450 youth, an indication of the respect and trust Callahan and his coaching staff have earned with parents in the state of Nebraska. Callahan and his staff also presented the first Big Red Run-N-Gun camp, a 7-on-7 team passing camp designed to help the development of prep teams throughout the area.

The commitment to the youth and prep programs in the state is also evident in the Huskers' annual Spring Coaches Clinic. Callahan and his staff have opened up a weekend of spring practices to hundreds of coaches each of the past four years. Callahan has also used his vast coaching connections to enhance the coaches clinic. This year, 2006 NFL Coach of the Year Sean Payton of the New Orleans Saints was the keynote speaker. With his appearance this spring, Payton joined Tampa Bay Head Coach Jon Gruden and former NFL head coach Dick Vermeil as the lead speakers at the clinic the past three years. In addition, former Husker assistant Gene Huey, now of the Indianapolis Colts, returned to campus fresh off the Colts' Super Bowl win to take part in the 2007 Spring Coaches Clinic.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- ▶ 4 ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS AT NEBRASKA
- ▶ BIG-12 LEADING 68 ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE PICKS SINCE 2004
- ▶ 23 HUSKER SENIORS ON TRACK TO GRADUATE BEFORE BOWL GAME
- ▶ BIG-12 LEADING 94 PERCENT EXHAUSTED ELIGIBILITY GRAD RATE





During the 2006 season, Coach Bill Callahan led Nebraska to the Big 12 North Division title, the conference championship game and a New Year's Day bowl game.

Callahan has also embraced the rich traditions of the Cornhusker program. At the top of that list is an on-going commitment to Nebraska's unparalleled walk-on program. Since his hiring, Callahan has rewarded 17 players who came to Nebraska as walk-ons with scholarships, including 13 native Nebraskans. Last season, fifth-year senior and Lincoln native Brandon Rigoni, a special teams stalwart, earned a scholarship at the start of fall camp and shortly thereafter was chosen as one of three Husker team captains. Callahan hopes to continue to identify and develop the best in-state prospects and he has made that a priority by assigning a member of his coaching staff to every high school in the state.

The plan for a total football program that Callahan has implemented at Nebraska is the product of three decades of coaching experience and expertise. Having coached on every level during his career, Callahan is one of five coaches to take a collegiate head coaching job after previously guiding a team to the Super Bowl.

Callahan brought a wealth of experience to Nebraska from the National Football League and collegiate ranks. A natural leader, Callahan has also worked with young men at the beginning of their formative years, serving as a high school coach and teacher for two years.

A Chicago native, Callahan's arrival at Nebraska not only served as a return home to the Midwest, but also to his first love – college football. Callahan is in his 30th year of coaching, and his 19th at the college level, while also accumulating nine years experience in the National Football League and two seasons in high school coaching. Highly respected throughout the coaching ranks, Callahan used his ties to quickly assemble a championship coaching staff in Lincoln. The staff includes coaches who have won championships in seven major conferences.

The diverse background and strong ties to different areas of the country allowed Nebraska to attract a top-25 national recruiting class in 2004, despite Callahan being hired less than a month before National Signing Day. In their first full year together the staff showed its recruiting prowess, pulling together a group of players that was ranked No. 1 nationally by recruiting expert Tom Lemming. Each of Nebraska's past two classes have been ranked among the top 15 nationally.

CALLAHAN ENJOYS "SUPER" START TO HEAD COACHING CAREER

Callahan came to Nebraska after two years as the head coach of the Oakland Raiders in 2002 and 2003. He led the Raiders to the AFC West title and Super Bowl XXXVII in 2002 to become the fourth rookie head coach to reach the Super Bowl. He led Oakland to an 11-5 regular-season record in his first year and went 4-12 in 2003, when the Raiders were hit hard by injuries.

With their Super Bowl appearance in 2002, the Raiders set an NFL record by appearing in Super Bowls in four different decades. In the process, Callahan became the third first-year Raiders head coach to lead the team to an AFC West title and into the conference championship game, joining Art Shell (1990) and John Madden (1969).

Callahan's rookie season as head coach confirmed his leadership qualities and coaching ability and highlighted the diversity of the West Coast offensive system Callahan teaches. For the first time in franchise history, the Raiders led the NFL in passing in 2002 (279.7 ypg), and also led the league in total offense (398.8 ypg) for just the second time. Callahan was recognized for his role in the success, as he was named the NFL Coach of the Year by the Touchdown Club of Columbus and the NFL Rookie Coach of the Year by Football Digest.

Callahan's Raiders operated out of the West Coast Offense and exploited

From the Super Bowl to Campus

Five coaches have taken a collegiate head coaching job after previously guiding their team to a Super Bowl appearance. Callahan and Bobby Ross were the most recent coaches to return to the college game in 2004.

Coach	NFL Team	Super Bowls	College
Bill Callahan	Oakland	Super Bowl XXXVII	Nebraska
Bobby Ross	San Diego	Super Bowl XXIX	Army
Bill Walsh	San Francisco	Super Bowls, XVI, XIX, XXII	Stanford
Forrest Gregg	Cincinnati	Super Bowl XVI	SMU
George Allen	Washington	Super Bowl VII	Long Beach St.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

- 7 HUSKERS PICKED IN FIRST 3 ROUNDS OF NFL DRAFT SINCE 2005
- COACHED BIG 12 OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF YEAR AND DEFENSIVE LINEMAN OF YEAR
- LED HUSKERS TO RECORD-SETTING PASSING AND RECEIVING TOTALS
- GUIDED OFFENSES THAT LED NFL IN RUSHING (2000) AND PASSING (2002)



Callahan Year-by-Year Coaching Summary

Years	Team	Coaching Responsibility
<i>High School</i>		
1978	Oak Lawn (Oak Lawn, Ill.)	Assistant Coach
1979	De La Salle (Chicago, Ill.)	Assistant Coach
<i>College</i>		
1980-81	Illinois	Associate Coach
1982-83	Illinois	Special Teams, Tight Ends
1984-85	Illinois	Offensive Line
1986	Illinois	Quarterbacks
1987-88	Northern Arizona	Offensive Line
1989	Southern Illinois	Offensive Coordinator
1990-94	Wisconsin	Offensive Line
<i>National Football League</i>		
1995-97	Philadelphia Eagles	Offensive Line
1998	Oakland Raiders	Offensive Coordinator, Tight Ends
1999-2001	Oakland Raiders	Offensive Coordinator, Offensive Line
2002-03	Oakland Raiders	Head Coach
<i>College</i>		
2004-present	Nebraska	Head Coach

Callahan's Head Coaching Record

Year	Record	Pct.	Postseason
<i>Oakland Raiders</i>			
2002	13-6	.684	2-1; Won AFC Championship, lost to Tampa Bay in Super Bowl XXXVII
2003	4-12	.250	None
NFL Totals	17-18	.486	One playoff appearance
<i>Nebraska</i>			
2004	5-6	.455	None
2005	8-4	.667	defeated Michigan in Alamo Bowl
2006	9-5	.643	lost to Auburn in Cotton Bowl
NU Totals	22-15	.595	

Callahan's Coaching Honors

- NFL Rookie Coach of the Year (Football Digest, 2002)
- NFL Coach of the Year (Touchdown Club of Columbus, 2002)

Other

- Member of American Football Coaches Association Ethics Committee
- Member of Benedictine College Hall of Fame

opposing defenses with a multiple attack. In a three-season span, Oakland went from leading the NFL in rushing (2000) to placing first in the league in passing (2002). In 2002, the Raiders became the first team to win games in the same season while rushing at least 60 times (60 attempts on Dec. 28 vs. Kansas City, 24-0) and passing at least 60 times (65 attempts on Sept. 15 at Pittsburgh, 30-17).

The Raiders capped 2002 with an impressive run through the AFC playoffs. Oakland opened the postseason with a 30-10 victory over the New York Jets and captured the AFC crown with a 41-24 win over Tennessee, before losing to Tampa Bay in Super Bowl XXXVII.

Callahan joined the Raider organization in 1998, when Jon Gruden took over as head coach. Callahan served as Oakland's offensive coordinator for each of Gruden's four seasons as head coach, also tutoring the Raider tight ends in 1998 and the offensive line from 1999 to 2001.

Under Callahan, the Silver and Black offensive line allowed a team-record low 28 sacks in 2000, a mark that was bettered in 2001 with just 27 sacks allowed. In addition, the Raiders led the NFL in rushing in 2000, averaging 154.4 yards per game. The Raiders won the AFC West title in each of Callahan's final two seasons as offensive coordinator.

Callahan's offensive players at Oakland made regular Pro Bowl appearances. From 1999 to 2001, Raider offensive standouts earned eight Pro Bowl bids, while five Raiders, including four offensive standouts, were named to the Pro Bowl in Callahan's first season as head coach. Oakland quarterback Rich Gannon made four straight trips to Hawaii from 1999 to 2002. He was twice named the MVP of the Pro Bowl (2000, 2001) and also earned 2002 NFL regular-season MVP honors.

Before his six-year stint with Oakland, Callahan was an assistant for the Philadelphia Eagles under Head Coach Ray Rhodes. With Philadelphia, Callahan worked alongside Gruden, who was the Eagles' offensive coordinator. In his first two years, the Eagles ranked second in the NFC in rushing and made the playoffs both seasons. During that time, former Husker Irving Fryar made two Pro Bowl appearances.

CALLAHAN BOASTS EXTENSIVE COLLEGIATE BACKGROUND

Although he spent nearly a decade in the National Football League, Callahan had a strong college background upon his hiring at Nebraska. He spent 15 years in the college ranks from 1980 to 1994, including 12 seasons in the Big Ten at two strong academic institutions. He was regarded as one of the game's best offensive line mentors and developed a reputation as one of college football's top recruiters. Callahan was not only ranked as one of the top 10 recruiters in the country by Lemming in 1992, he was listed as one of the top 10 recruiters of all-time by Lemming

in 2001, based on Lemming's recruiting ratings over the past 20 years.

Callahan began his collegiate career as a graduate assistant at Illinois under Mike White, who later coached the Raiders. Callahan was promoted to a full-time position in 1981, coaching the tight ends, and stayed at Illinois through 1986, coaching the offensive line, quarterbacks and special teams. The Illini participated in three bowl games, including a trip to the Rose Bowl following the 1983 season when they won the Big Ten with a perfect 9-0 league mark. During his time with the Illini, Callahan worked with fellow assistants Kevin Cosgrove and Shawn Watson, who now serve as Nebraska's coordinators.

After seven years at Illinois, Callahan coached the offensive line at Northern Arizona (1987, 1988) and served as offensive coordinator at Southern Illinois in 1989. He moved to a second Big Ten school, joining former Husker Barry Alvarez at Wisconsin in 1990 to coach the offensive line. Seven Badger offensive linemen earned All-Big Ten honors under Callahan, including center Cory Raymer, who was a consensus All-American in 1994.

The 1993 Wisconsin team captured the school's first conference title in 31 years, defeated UCLA in the Rose Bowl and finished sixth in the final AP poll. In Callahan's final year in Madison, the Badgers finished 8-3-1 and defeated Duke in the Hall of Fame Bowl, marking the first time in more than a decade that UW played in bowls in consecutive years. The Wisconsin staff Callahan served on also included Cosgrove and NU safeties coach Bill Busch, who was a Badger graduate assistant.

MIDWESTERN BACKGROUND AND WORK ETHIC

Callahan grew up on the south side of Chicago playing quarterback as a prepster at Mendel Catholic High School. He was a three-year starter at quarterback at NAIA Illinois Benedictine (now Benedictine University in Lisle, Ill.) from 1975 to 1977, earning honorable-mention All-America honors his last two seasons. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Illinois Benedictine College in 1978, majoring in physical education. Callahan was inducted into his college's athletic Hall of Fame in 2005. Callahan began his coaching career in the prep ranks. He coached at Oak Lawn High School in 1978 and then moved to De La Salle in 1979, where he also served as an instructor.

Callahan and his wife, Valerie, have four children, Brian, Daniel, Cathryn and Jaclyn. Brian was a member of the UCLA football team, and is now serving as a graduate assistant coach in the Bruin program. Daniel is in his fourth year of school at Nebraska.



SEAN PAYTON, HEAD COACH, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

"BILL CALLAHAN IS ONE OF THE BEST I'VE BEEN AROUND. HE IS VERY DISCIPLINED, HE IS A TREMENDOUS WORKER, EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT, AND KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT HE'S LOOKING FOR. HE'S VERY DETAIL-ORIENTED. HE CAN EXPLAIN SOMETHING VERY EASILY. SOME GUYS JUST HAVE A KNACK FOR TEACHING WELL."

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT CALLAHAN



"The key to turning any program around is that you must have absolute, fanatical belief in the people who put the program together. Steve (Pederson) is doing a wonderful job. And I am absolutely a Bill Callahan fan. Bob Devaney was able to evoke that belief. And I believe Coach Callahan can evoke that same belief. That's why I know this program is going to be a great program for years and years."

► **Bob Brown,**

2004 Pro Football Hall of Fame Inductee, University of Nebraska 1961-63



"I learned more in my two years at Nebraska from Coach Callahan and his staff than I could have ever imagined. He knows more about the game than anyone I've ever been around. I owe him for giving me the knowledge and skills that will help me be successful in the NFL. His offense is perfect for any quarterback who wants to develop complete skills and play at the next level."

► **Zac Taylor,**

NU Quarterback, 2005-06, Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year



"In a short period of time, Coach Callahan has done a terrific job of positioning this program for long term future success. There are no short cuts to that process. The intense work ethic of Coach Callahan and his staff is enjoyable to watch. Our football team is fortunate to have a leader of character setting the course for the future of Nebraska football. This is an exciting time to be at Nebraska."

► **Steve Pederson**

University of Nebraska Athletic Director



"Bill was an original member of the staff that started here at Wisconsin in 1990. He was instrumental in helping to turn our program around as our offensive line coach in the early 1990s. Bill is tenacious, hard working and meticulous. He is a tremendous coach and recruiter."

► **Barry Alvarez,**

Wisconsin A.D. and former head coach



"Coach Callahan is a great leader and motivator. He cares about his players, and the West Coast system he has in place will prepare you for the next level. Personally, he made me a more complete back and helped me grow off the field. With Coach Callahan in charge, great things are in store for Nebraska."

► **Cory Ross,**

NU I-back, 2002-05, Member of Baltimore Ravens



"I had the privilege to coach as a graduate assistant with Coach Callahan at the University of Wisconsin. You will not find a more organized and hard working coach in all of college football. Coach Callahan was instrumental in helping turn a perennial Big Ten doormat into a Big Ten and Rose Bowl Champion. I am confident he will continue the tradition of excellence at Nebraska."

► **Dave Rimington**

Former NU Center (1979-82), College Football Hall of Fame



"Bill Callahan is an all-around football coach – an excellent teacher, motivator and moreover, a leader of men, both coaches and players. Bill will also stress character and academic excellence in his football players and his sense of standards and discipline will be very evident to the outside community. I have spent several years working side-by-side with Bill and I have tremendous confidence in his ability to succeed."

► **Mike White,**

*University of Illinois Head Coach, 1980-87
Los Angeles Raiders Head Coach, 1995-96*



"IF YOU ARE ON THE DEFENSIVE SIDE OF THE BALL RIGHT NOW, YOU ARE PLAYING A LITTLE BIT OF A GUESSING GAME WITH BILL CALLAHAN, TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT HE IS GOING TO GO TO NEXT...THE THING I THINK BILL CALLAHAN IS TRYING TO SELL TO RECRUITS IS...COME TO NEBRASKA, PLAY IN THIS OFFENSE AND GET READY FOR THE NEXT LEVEL."

► **Kirk Herbstreit**

ESPN College Football analyst during 2005 Alamo Bowl telecast



"Bill and his staff have done a great job of positioning the football program to move into a new level of greatness. They are also doing a great job of building on the strong academic reputation Nebraska has in supporting academic success for its student-athletes."

► **Harvey Perlman,**

University of Nebraska Chancellor



"Coach Callahan is very goal-oriented and knows how to achieve those goals. He is very disciplined and is a hard worker and expects the same out of his team. That should be attainable knowing how hard-working Nebraska players are. He'll do a great job with eager young men who play with passion and love for one another."

► **Adam Treu,**

Oakland Raiders Center, Nebraska 1992-96



"He's a perfect fit and I think Nebraskans ought to be flabbergasted to get him. He's energetic, enthusiastic and has a real passion for the game. His players will find out he's an unbelievable leader and a perfect fit for Nebraska."

► **Rich Gannon,**

Former Oakland QB, 2002 NFL MVP, upon Callahan's hiring



"Bill is a man of great character and strong values. He has been associated with some of the most successful franchises in NFL history and is a great addition to one of the most storied programs in all of college football."

► **Bruce Allen,**

Tampa Bay Buccaneers General Manager



"Bill fits college football, and he fits our program. I have so much respect for him. People talk a lot in this business, but I've never heard a negative thing come out about him."

► **Charlie McBride,**

University of Nebraska Assistant Coach, 1977-99

JON GRUDEN, HEAD COACH, TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

"I WOULDN'T BE WHERE I AM WITHOUT HIM AND HE KNOWS THAT. I AM PROUD OF WHAT HE IS DOING (AT NEBRASKA) AND WHERE THEY ARE GOING. HE'S GOT GREAT VERSATILITY AND HE'S HAD RESULTS EVERYWHERE HE HAS BEEN. BILL IS A VERY CREATIVE GUY, VERY DISCIPLINED AND HE'S GOT A GREAT WORK ETHIC."



A CONVERSATION WITH COACH CALLAHAN

Head Coach Bill Callahan shares his thoughts on a variety of topics regarding the Husker program, the upcoming season, and coaching philosophies of the Nebraska staff.

Q – What can Husker fans look forward to in 2007?

"We have some great challenges in front of us this fall. The schedule we face will be competitive each and every week. Our football team has put in some outstanding work in the off-season, first during winter conditioning, followed by spring football and summer conditioning. I think Nebraska fans will like the way our team plays. These are hard-working, solid kids who are focused on winning a championship."

Q – You made great progress last season—winning the Big 12 North, playing on New Year's Day, battling top-10 teams. Is this program ready for the next step in 2007?

"I think our players are hungry. They got a taste of success last year, but they were left wanting more and hopefully they have used that as motivation. The goals remain the same. Win the Big 12 North, play in the Big 12 Championship Game and go from there."

Q – What are the keys to a successful 2007 campaign?

"We have built our off-season around establishing an identity of being a football team that is tough, dependable and smart. If we can operate as a football team with those characteristics as a foundation we have the opportunity to position ourselves to achieve our team goals."

Q – Offensively, you achieved great balance and made drastic statistical improvements last season. How do you continue to make strides on offense?

"We are proud of the improvements we made on offense last season. We improved from 54th to 23rd in rushing, 96th to 14th in total offense and 67th to 17th in scoring. We led the nation in total offensive attempts and were fifth in time of possession. We were effective in the Red Zone. The next step is being more consistent from the first quarter to the fourth quarter. Ball security can always be better and we can certainly create more big plays."

Q – How important is efficient quarterback play in your offense? Are you confident in the quarterbacks you have in the system?

"Everything we do on offense is centered on the quarterback. Our objective is to give the quarterback confidence in his own decision-making ability and to give him the confidence he needs to function at a high level. Efficient quarterback play is tied to making fast, quick decisions and the discipline of progression reads. Another attribute of an efficient quarterback is a player that plays through and overcomes adversity. I want to believe that our quarterbacks have the leadership ability to inspire their teammates to reach a higher level."

Q – Defensively, you lost some talented players to the National Football League. What should we expect from the Blackshirts in 2007?

"We are proud of the success we had in the NFL Draft. Not only on defense with Adam Carriker being selected in the first round, along with Stew Bradley and Jay Moore, but also Brandon Jackson at running back. Having four players drafted that high in the Draft is a great situation and one we hope for each and every year. Getting back to defense, we will be young up front, but there are some talented football players up there. We think we can build around an experienced, battle-tested group of linebackers and we will be deeper at every position in the back end."

Q – Nebraska has a reputation of being a hard-working, physically dominating team. How does this fit with your coaching style?

"My staff and I totally embrace the traditions of Nebraska football. This team will reflect the nature of Nebraskans. We will strive to be as hard-working and humble as the many successful teams that have preceded us. This is a style that I have believed in throughout my coaching career and continue here at Nebraska. We will always work hard to be a physical football team."

Q – How important is maintaining the walk-on tradition at Nebraska?

"It is a vital part of reaching our championship aspirations. Since I took over this program, we have awarded 17 scholarships to walk-on players, most of those native Nebraskans. We will continue to do that. We understand the tradition and great legacy with the walk-on program here and plan to continue to build on that. We want to make sure that when a player comes to the University of Nebraska, he is going to have every opportunity to succeed to maximize his talents and abilities. I want them to understand that not every player can start, but we are committed to making each player become the best they can possibly be. I have admiration for walk-ons. At Nebraska, we treat our players in a first-class manner and walk-ons are no exception."



Q – Your team moved into a new facility last summer. How has the Osborne Complex impacted your program, not only in recruiting, but also in day-to-day operations?

"Steve Pederson had great vision when he put this facility together. It is a modern, state-of-the-art facility in every facet. We saw an impact in recruiting even before we moved into the facility, and now that we are in the building it has given us a greater edge. From an operations standpoint, it has improved our efficiency in every area. The cutting edge video technology, the meeting rooms for staff and players, have enhanced our daily preparation. Our student-athletes have a one-stop shop, with access to everything they need—the training table, locker room, weight room, Hewitt Center, athletic medicine, equipment, coaches' offices, you name it."

Q – What role do you feel the head coach plays in the personal development of a young man during his college years?

"As coaches, we definitely have an impact on a player's career and his life. College years are a very formative time in a young man's life. I look forward to helping each one of our players maximize their academic and athletic talent as well as character. Our goal is to have the players leave the program as better people and more prepared to live life."

Q – You and your staff have a reputation as strong recruiters. What makes a coach a great recruiter?

"Number one, we have a staff that has excellent communication skills. Secondly, they care and have a genuine concern for the players they bring to the University of Nebraska. Additionally, each individual coach must have the eagerness and the energy to seek out and recruit great players. We have always followed the philosophy that players don't really care how much you know until you show them how much you care, and this staff cares deeply about its players."

Q – What do you look for in a recruit?

"We have a specific profile that a player must meet. This profile is based on a championship formula. We evaluate each recruit on character, academics and athletic skills. We are looking for players who are committed to excellence in all aspects of their lives, who want to be a part of a team concept and genuinely care about the team. Additionally, we want players who want to compete, and at Nebraska, we attract players that love competition at the highest level."

Q – Nebraska has a strong history of academic excellence, and that success has continued under your leadership. What is the key to that success?

"Our number one goal as a coaching staff is to have a 100 percent graduation rate for each of our senior classes. One of the reasons I came here was because of Nebraska's strong support systems for the student-athlete. One of Nebraska's most impressive support units is its academic support system. The program that Dennis Leblanc and his staff have put together has historically made this athletic program one of the most successful in terms of graduation rates and academic honors. We have a strong obligation to this University to make sure that academics come first and that each of our student-athletes graduate. We have high expectations of our players both in the classroom and on the field and expect that success in both areas of student-athlete life."



CONTINUING THE WALK-ON TRADITION

SINCE TAKING THE HELM OF THE NEBRASKA FOOTBALL PROGRAM BILL CALLAHAN HAS PLACED 17 FORMER WALK-ONS ON SCHOLARSHIP. INCLUDED IN THAT GROUP ARE 13 NATIVE NEBRASKANS, INCLUDING 2006 NEBRASKA TEAM CAPTAIN BRANDON RIGONI (LEFT).