

SENIOR FEATURE: CHRIS BROOKS



**6-2 | 215 | WR
ST. LOUIS, MO.**

Chris Brooks is in his fifth and final season at Nebraska. Brooks entered this season with three career catches for 31 yards and one touchdown. Brooks has played a prominent role in the Huskers' passing attack in 2009, as he boasts 13 catches for 177 yards and one touchdown. He is averaging nearly 14 yards per reception. Brooks was born on Feb. 5, 1987. He is majoring in economics.

QUICK HITTERS

What's on your iPod?

I like a lot of stuff, but mostly Lil Wayne and Gucci Mane.

Pregame meal?

Steak.

Thing you miss most from home?

My son and chinese food.

Favorite TV show?

The Game.

Madden 2010 team?

My favorite team, the Indianapolis Colts.

What other sport would you have played in college?

Basketball - I'm a shooter. I keep telling Doc (Sadler) to let me try out.

Favorite basketball player?

Michael Jordan overall, but right now, LeBron James.

By Jeremy Foote, Nebraska Media Relations

Chris Brooks' journey at Nebraska hasn't exactly gone as planned from when he joined the Huskers as a highly touted receiver out of St. Louis' Hazelwood East High School. But now in his senior year, Brooks is reaping the rewards his hard work as an integral part of the Husker offense, while also becoming a team leader.

After hauling in 66 balls for 1,200 yards and 14 touchdowns as a senior in Missouri's Class A, the state's largest classification, Brooks played in four games as a true freshman in 2005, including three conference games, but did not record a reception. Following a redshirt year in 2006, Brooks recorded his first collegiate catch in a season-opening 52-10 win over Nevada.

"The first few years here were hard - we had a lot of good receivers ahead of me," Brooks said. "There were a lot of things to adjust to. It was just college life in general, the playbook, living in the dorms and the speed of the game."

Brooks never quit working though and continued to learn all he could from Nebraska receivers coach Ted Gilmore.

"Chris had to learn that he couldn't just show up and things would happen," Gilmore said. "He is very mature for his age and he is someone I can trust to work hard and make plays."

"Coach Gilmore has never lied to me, he's always been straight up with me on where I stand," Brooks said. "In the offseason I asked him what I needed to do to be one of the guys on the field, and I knew he was going to be truthful with me."

Even with two of Nebraska's top-five all-time receivers - Nate Swift and Todd Peterson - returning last season, Brooks started to see his role grow as he played in 11 games and was also a key member of the Huskers' special teams. He was named the special teams captain against Missouri and Oklahoma. His biggest moment of 2008 came in a crucial 45-35 win over Kansas, when he caught his first career touchdown pass, a 25-yard strike from Joe Ganz.

Now as a senior and nicknamed "one of the old-timers" by his younger teammates, Brooks has become a major receiving threat in the Husker passing attack. He ranks second among NU receivers with 29.5 yards per game, is one of six Huskers with at least 100 yards receiving and is one of eight Huskers with a touchdown through seven games.

"It's been great this year," Brooks said. "I just want to go out there and contribute to help the team win."

Along with his success on the field, Brooks also tries to be a leader off the field, as he helps younger players make the adjustments from high school to college football early in their careers.

"The No. 1 thing I tell guys is to not take coaching personally," Brooks said. "It's all out of love. Take in everything like a sponge because the coaches are here to make you a better football player. Meno (Menelik Holt), Wes (Cammack) and I want to leave the team in better shape than it was when we came here."

COACHES' TAKE: TED GILMORE

"Chris has never shied away from working hard, and he is always trying to better himself. Being around Chris for five years, I trust him and I know that whenever and whatever situation I put him in, he's going to go out and do his job."