

Giving Back Drives Adams to Succeed

By Sarah Sherman, NU Media Relations

As senior defensive tackle Titus Adams jogs off the football field at Memorial Stadium, his football cleats clicking through a path of onlookers that part like the red sea, it is easy to be intimidated by his daunting 6-3, 300-pound frame.



Titus Adams
Defensive Tackle

However, Adams' wide grin quickly reveals his easy, outgoing personality, as well as a drive to use his talents to give back to the state of Nebraska.

"I've always felt personally, you want to try to give back to the community and the people around you," Adams said. "Those people out there care so much about you and the things you do. We (the Huskers) can touch so many people, and the gift that God has given us, we can share with others. That's what it's all about."

Adams' generosity of time resulted in being named to the 2004 Brook Berringer Citizenship Team for his outreach activities, which include American Education Week, School is Cool Week, and volunteer speaking engagements at Omaha's St. James School and the Quality Living Program in Omaha.

"When I was younger, I remember (former Husker quarterback) Brook Berringer playing on the team, and I think it's a really big and important award," Adams said. "I'm so honored to be a part of that. (Berringer) was always giving back to the community, and sharing his gift with people. You don't want to be selfish with it, because it's a gift, and you have the opportunity to give to others."

The Omaha native's relationship with Husker fans across Nebraska is not his only gift. For Adams' senior day against Kansas State, he will be making his 47th appearance in a game and is coming off his best game as he had a career-high 11 tackles, including nine solos, last week at Kansas.

With his sophomore career split between defensive end and tackle, Adams displayed a specific talent for pass rushing aided by his size and athletic ability.

"Two years ago I played defensive end and then last year I played a lot (on the interior defensive line)," Adams said. "I didn't mind, I just had to be more focused and concentrated in the things I had to do. I just had to be able to show my versatility and ability to be able to do things. (Switching positions) didn't matter; I just cared about the team."

During his junior campaign, in which he played in 11 games including 10 starting assignments, Adams snagged 37 tackles, including eight for loss, and added nine quarterback hurries. In addition, his role in the interior defense led to an No. 11 national ranking against the rush, allowing 104.0 yards per game.

While his career has seen a transition within many different positions in the interior defense, the veteran Blackshirt is willing to do whatever it takes to help the team.

"Now I'm in (position) three (on the defensive line), and I like playing it a lot," Adams said. "I think it's my natural position. I just go out every day and try to do my best. Whatever I can do to motivate in a positive way, I try to keep everybody focused and keep their hopes high so they don't get down and just keep playing hard."

As one of three returning Blackshirts, two of which are on the defensive line, Adams utilizes his expertise to motivate others.

"There are still important games left, and you never know, so we've just got to keep playing every game like it's our last and keep our heads up," Adams said. "You always can get better. We're just going to keep driving and pushing, and hopefully it will turn out for the best. With the younger guys, I just try to communicate to them to play their hardest and just have fun and enjoy what they're able to do every day."

After being recruited by both Tennessee and Iowa State, Adams visited only Nebraska and proudly became a Husker following years of dreaming of playing at Memorial Stadium. However, as the second of six children, Adams finds his largest hurdle in trying to find a way for everyone to attend the Husker games.

"I try to get them to the game as much as I can, but we only get four tickets, so it's kind of hard," Adams said. "I hate to pick and choose, because if it was up to me I'd have everybody come to the games. They call and ask me if they can come all the time, and I always try to get them here, but it's pretty difficult."

Adams, set to graduate in December with a degree in business administration, has appeared on the Big 12 Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll twice and in 2003 was named to the academic All-Big 12 first team.

While Adams' family may have battled for tickets over the years, it is sure to be an emotional time for all when he steps on the field for the last time against Kansas State today.

"My family is always here, and I think it's going to be really special for them also," Adams said. "It's been so fun here, but it all happened so fast. I'm just trying to enjoy it, the whole situation right now, as much as I can. I've got a lot of options wide open (for the future), but I'm just trying to enjoy it right now."

"To the seniors, I just say try to enjoy our last game here at Memorial Stadium. It'll be so exciting with our family and everyone here. It probably won't hit me then, but later on it will be so exciting to look back."

