

OVERVIEW

Head Coach Bo Pelini welcomes back 13 starters for the 2009 season, including five on offense, seven on defense and the starting place-kicker. Numerous other returnees have extensive starting experience during their Nebraska careers.

The Husker offense lost several key players from last fall, including starting quarterback Joe Ganz and four-year letterwinners Nate Swift, Todd Peterson, Marlon Lucky, Matt Slauson and Lydon Murtha among others. However, three starters return along the offensive line, as well as a pair of talented I-backs. Overall, Nebraska has the talent in place to make a push to rank among the top 20 offenses in the country for the third consecutive season.

Although Nebraska must replace key players at each level of the defense, the Huskers return a strong nucleus for 2009 as they hope to continue to make great strides on defense. Three players with extensive starting experience return up front, led by All-America candidate Ndamukong Suh. The secondary enters the fall with much more depth and experience than a year ago. A young group of players will battle for playing time at linebacker. A year ago Nebraska improved its total defensive average more than 125 yards per game and the combination of key returnees and experience gives the Huskers reason to expect even better things in 2009.

Place-kicker Alex Henery returns to pace a special teams group that should again be very solid in 2009.

Below is a look at returning letterwinners at each position and notes on the grouping as a whole.

OFFENSE



The O-line has a strong returning core led by Jacob Hickman (67), Keith Williams (68) and Mike Smith (65).

OFFENSIVE LINE

Returning Letterwinners

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
72	Jaivorio Burkes**	OT	Jr.	6-5	295
58	Mike Caputo*	C	So.	6-1	275
62	Andy Christensen**	OG	Sr.	6-3	305
67	Jacob Hickman***	C	Sr.	6-4	290
73	D.J. Jones*	OG/OT	Jr.	6-5	315
78	Marcel Jones*	OT	So.	6-7	310
65	Mike Smith**	OT	Jr.	6-6	295
68	Keith Williams**	OG	Jr.	6-5	315

WHAT RETURNS FOR THE HUSKERS

OFFENSE

Category	Pct. of 2008 Total
Rushing Yards.....	63 percent
Passing Yards.....	0.1 percent
Receiving Yards.....	43 percent
Total Offense Yards.....	24 percent
All-Purpose Yards.....	57 percent
Scoring.....	61 percent

DEFENSE

Category	Pct. of 2008 Total
Tackles.....	66 percent
Tackles for Loss.....	55 percent
Sacks.....	66 percent
Interceptions.....	67 percent
Pass Break-ups.....	64 percent
Fumble Recoveries.....	80 percent
Fumbles Forced.....	64 percent

SPECIAL TEAMS

Category	Pct. of 2008 Total
Field Goals.....	100 percent
Extra Points.....	100 percent
Punt Return Yards.....	21 percent
Kickoff Return Yards.....	96 percent
Punting Yards.....	0 percent

- Center Jacob Hickman is listed on the 2009 Rimington Trophy Watch List. The 6-4, 290-pound Hickman is a two-year starter for the Huskers and has the ability to play both guard and center. He started nine games at guard as a sophomore, before anchoring the line at center in 2008.

- The left side of the offensive line returns intact in the form of Keith Williams at guard and Mike Smith at tackle. The talented junior duo made great strides in 2008. Both players earned starting roles and helped Nebraska rank among the nation's top 15 offenses for the second straight season.

- Juniors Jaivorio Burkes and D.J. Jones, sophomore Marcel Jones and senior Andy Christensen all have valuable playing experience entering the 2009 campaign.

- Talented transfers Ricky Henry and Derek Meyer could both figure prominently into Nebraska's plans this fall.

- The 2009 scholarship signee class included four offensive linemen, each checking in at 6-5 or taller and 270 pounds or heavier.



Dreu Young (49) will be part of one of the offense's strongest units -- Tight End.

TIGHT ENDS

Returning Letterwinners

No.	Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
80	Ryan Hill*	So.	6-3	250
44	Mike McNeill**	Jr.	6-4	240
49	Dreu Young**	Jr.	6-4	250

- Mike McNeill set a Nebraska position record with 32 receptions last season, and had at least three receptions in eight games. His six touchdown receptions were just one shy of the school tight end record.

- Junior Dreu Young was a steady complement to McNeill and finished the year with nine receptions, including a touchdown grab.

- Sophomore Ryan Hill earned significant playing experience as the Huskers' No. 3 tight end in 2008. He will battle with redshirt freshmen Ben Cotton and Kyler Reed for playing time behind McNeill and Young.

RECEIVERS

Returning Letterwinners

No.	Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
1	Chris Brooks*	Sr.	6-2	215
82	Wes Cammack***	Sr.	5-11	200
11	Curenski Gilleylen*	So.	6-0	215
8	Will Henry**	Jr.	6-5	215
18	Menelik Holt***	Sr.	6-4	220
24	Niles Paul**	Jr.	6-1	215

- Departed 2008 seniors Nate Swift and Todd Peterson finished first and fourth, respectively, on Nebraska's all-time receptions list.

- Nebraska had a school-record seven players catch at least 20 passes last season, and 18 different players caught at least one pass.

- Senior Menelik Holt caught 30 passes last season and was a reliable third wideout for the Husker offense.

- Junior Niles Paul caught 23 passes and was a standout in the kickoff return department.

- Seniors Chris Brooks and Wes Cammack, junior Will Henry and sophomore Curenski Gilleylen will all have the opportunity to earn more prominent roles in 2009.

- Sophomore Marcus Mendoza has moved to receiver after lining up at I-back during his first two seasons in the program.

- The receiving corps includes several freshmen, redshirt freshmen or transfers who could be called on to make an impact in 2009, including Antonio Bell, Khiry Cooper, Brandon Kinnie, Tim Marlowe and Steven Osborne.

RUNNING BACKS

Returning Letterwinners

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
30	Mike Hays*	FB	So.	6-1	235
10	Roy Helu Jr.**	IB	Jr.	6-0	215
19	Quentin Castille**	IB	Jr.	6-1	235

• Nebraska's three-man I-back committee from last season is less one member after the graduation of Marlon Lucky who finished in the Nebraska career top five in all-purpose yards and receptions. He also totaled more than 2,000 career rushing yards.

• Junior Roy Helu Jr. earned honorable-mention All-Big 12 honors after a strong second half to the 2008 season. His 6.4 yards per carry was the best average by a Husker in seven seasons. Helu was also one of seven Huskers to catch at least 20 passes in 2008.

• Quentin Castille was an excellent No. 3 rushing option for Nebraska last season, gaining more than 450 yards. He closed his sophomore year with a career-best effort (125 yards) against Clemson in the Gator Bowl.

• Sophomore Austin Jones and redshirt freshmen Collins Okafor and Lester Ward will try to position themselves for playing time behind Helu Jr. and Castille.

• The fullback job is wide open, including sophomores Mike Hays and Kevin Thomsen and redshirt freshman Tyler Legate.

• Nebraska signed two I-backs and a fullback in its 2009 scholarship class.

QUARTERBACKS

Returning Letterwinners

No.	Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
15	#Latravis Washington**	Jr.	6-3	225

#-Has earned two letters as a linebacker

• Record-setting quarterback Joe Ganz graduated after leading Nebraska's prolific offense late in the 2007 season and during the entire 2008 campaign.

• Nebraska quarterbacks have produced eight passing games of 389 yards or more since the start of the 2005 season.

• Junior Zac Lee established himself as the clear front-runner for the starting job during spring practice. Lee has a strong arm and good mobility and capped his spring practice by completing 15-of-18 passes for 214 yards and three touchdowns in the spring game. Lee has been in the Nebraska program for two full seasons.

• The race for the No. 2 quarterback job remains wide open heading into the fall. Converted linebacker Latravis Washington made a smooth transition to the signal caller role this spring. Redshirt freshman Kody Spano had a setback when he suffered a knee injury late in spring practice. True freshman Cody Green graduated high school early and participated in spring drills. He was regarded as one of the nation's top dual threat quarterbacks.

DEFENSE



Defensive end Pierre Allen (95) returns after posting 52 tackles and 5.0 sacks in 2009.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Returning Letterwinners

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
95	Pierre Allen**	DE	Jr.	6-5	265
94	Jared Crick*	DT	So.	6-6	285
63	Ben Martin*	DT	Jr.	6-4	260
90	Terrence Moore*	DT	So.	6-3	285
93	Ndamukong Suh***	DT	Sr.	6-4	300
99	Barry Turner***	DE	Sr.	6-3	265

EXPERIENCE RETURNING AND LOST

Total Starters Returning: 13 (5 offense, 7 defense, 1 kicker)

Total Starters Lost: 12 (6 offense, 5 defense, 1 kicker)

Total Lettermen Returning: 44 (21 offense, 21 defense, 2 specialists)

Total Lettermen Lost: 23 (10 offense, 9 defense, 4 specialists)

Offensive Starters Returning (No. of 2008 starts): 5-C Jacob Hickman (13); TE Mike McNeill (12); OT Mike Smith (12); OG Keith Williams (9); WR/TE Menelik Holt (4)/Niles Paul (4)/Dreu Young (4)

Other Offensive Players with 2008 Starting Experience (No. of starts): OT Javorio Burkes (4); IB Quentin Castille (1); IB Roy Helu Jr. (2); OT Marcel Jones (1)

Offensive Starters Lost: 6-QB Joe Ganz (13); IB Marlon Lucky (11); OT Lydon Murtha (9); WR Todd Peterson (12); OG Matt Slauson (13); WR Nate Swift (13)

Defensive Starters Returning (No. of 2008 starts): 7-DE Pierre Allen (11); SS Larry Asante (12); LB Phillip Dillard (5); DB Eric Hagg (10); SS Matt O'Hanlon (9)/Rickey Thenarse (5); DT Ndamukong Suh (13); CB Anthony West (11)

Other Defensive Players with 2008 Starting Experience (No. of starts): CB Prince Amukamara (3); LB Matt Holt (1); LB Colton Koehler (1); LB Blake Lawrence (2); DB Lance Thorell (5); DE Barry Turner (2)

Defensive Starters Lost: 5-LB Cody Glenn (9); CB Armando Murillo (12); DE Zach Potter (13); DT Ty Steinkuhler (13); LB Tyler Wortman (6)

Starting Kickers Returning: 1-PK Alex Henery

Starting Kickers Lost: 1-P Dan Titchener

Starting Specialists Returning: KOR Alfonso Dennard; KO Adi Kunalic; PR/KOR Niles Paul

Other Starting Specialists Lost: LS T.J. O'Leary; PR Nate Swift; H Jake Wesch

• Ndamukong Suh is expected to be a leading contender for conference and national honors during his senior season.

• The fifth-year senior led all Big 12 defensive linemen in tackles per game last season and he was the first interior lineman to lead Nebraska in tackles since 1973. His 19 tackles for loss ranked eighth in school history. Suh is in position to move into the top five at Nebraska in career tackles for loss and sacks.

• Sophomores Jared Crick and Terrence Moore each earned valuable reserve time in 2008 and will be counted on to step into a more prominent role alongside Suh this fall. Redshirt freshman Baker Steinkuhler, senior David Harvey and junior Ben Martin could also see action on the interior.

• Senior defensive end Barry Turner returns for a fifth season after suffering a broken leg last fall that forced him to miss the last 11 games of the season. A freshman All-American in 2005, Turner has 11.5 career sacks.

• Junior Pierre Allen stepped into a starting role with the loss of Turner last fall and performed well. The 6-5, 265-pounder finished third on the team in tackles for loss, sacks and total tackles and is poised for a big junior campaign.

• Redshirt freshman Cameron Meredith has made excellent progress in the weight room since his arrival in Lincoln and figures to play a prominent role in 2009.

• Nebraska's class of signees included defensive linemen Jason Ankrah, Cole Pensick and Thaddeus Randle.

LINEBACKERS

Returning Letterwinners

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
52	Phillip Dillard***	MIKE	Sr.	6-1	240
41	Thomas Grove**	WILL	Jr.	6-2	225
35	Matt Holt*	WILL	So.	6-0	200
54	Colton Koehler*	MIKE	Sr.	6-1	230
40	Blake Lawrence**	WILL	Jr.	6-3	225
36	Mathew May*	WILL	So.	6-1	215

• Senior MIKE linebacker Phillip Dillard is the most experienced of Nebraska's returning linebackers. Dillard is a three-year letterwinner with 90 career tackles, but has battled injuries throughout his career and will hope to contend for the starting middle linebacker spot.

• Senior Colton Koehler played a key role late in the season at the MIKE spot and he and highly regarded redshirt freshman Will Compton also figure prominently into the battle for playing time at that position.

• The WILL linebacker spot appears to be a wide open race heading into fall camp. Junior Blake Lawrence has the most experience and performed well in the final three games of the

2008 campaign. Converted safeties Mathew May and Matt Holt also got a taste of action last season, and continued to emerge as key contributors during spring practice.

- At 6-6 and 230 pounds, Omaha native Sean Fisher brings outstanding physical tools to the SAM linebacker spot and after a strong spring he heads into fall camp as the leader at that position.

- Redshirt freshmen Micah Kreikemeier, Alonzo Whaley and Graham Stoddard have each impressed the coaching staff and will push for playing time. Nebraska also signed a pair of highly regarded linebackers in their 2009 recruiting class—Eric Martin from California and Chris Williams from Texas.



Cornerback Anthony West (5) returns after leading NU with nine PBUs last year.

SECONDARY

Returning Letterwinners

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
21	Prince Amukamara**	CB	Jr.	6-1	200
4	Larry Asante**	S	Sr.	6-1	215
14	Anthony Blue*	CB	So.	5-10	185
15	Alfonzo Dennard*	CB	So.	5-10	190
28	Eric Hagg**	S	Jr.	6-2	205
33	Matt O'Hanlon***	S	Sr.	5-11	200
3	Rickey Thenarse***	S	Sr.	6-0	205
23	Lance Thorell*	CB	So.	6-1	195
5	Anthony West**	CB	Jr.	6-0	200

- After being a youthful group in 2008, Nebraska returns much more experience in the secondary this fall. The Huskers return nine letterwinners in the secondary, including eight players who have made starts during their careers.

- Senior safety Larry Asante is the most game-tested player in the secondary. A two-time honorable-mention All-Big 12 pick, Asante has started 22 games at strong safety the past two seasons and racked up 145 total tackles.

- Senior free safeties Matt O'Hanlon and Rickey Thenarse both return after sharing the position in 2008. O'Hanlon emerged as a junior and finished third on the team with 52 tackles, while making nine starts. Thenarse battled injuries early in the season, but started five games and had six tackles for loss and 24 total tackles.

- Junior Eric Hagg was Nebraska's starting nickel back last season and is essentially a returning starter. Hagg can back up either safety position in addition to his nickel role.

- Anthony West returns at cornerback after starting 11 games last fall. He registered nine pass breakups and a pair of interceptions.

- Junior Prince Amukamara is the leading contender for the starting spot opposite West. Amukamara saw extensive action in the nickel and dime packages last season and performed well.

- Lance Thorell served as Nebraska's top dime back for most of 2008. He made five starts and saw extensive action against spread offenses. He figures to play a similar role as a sophomore in 2009.

- Sophomores Anthony Blue and Alfonzo Dennard figure prominently into the cornerback plans. Blue returns to action after missing the 2008 campaign with a knee injury, while Dennard saw reserve action in the secondary and excelled on special teams.

- Talented redshirt freshmen P.J. Smith and Courtney Osborne and mid-year addition Dejon Gomes also figure to push for playing time.

SPECIAL TEAMS



Place-kicker Alex Henery (90) led the Huskers in scoring in 2008.

KICKERS/PUNTERS

Returning Letterwinners

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
90	Alex Henery**	PK/P	Jr.	6-2	175
1	Adi Kunalic**	PK/KO	Jr.	6-0	190

- Alex Henery is one of the nation's top returning place-kickers. He is the most accurate kicker in the country over the past two seasons and his 110 points last fall were the most by a Husker in seven seasons. Henery will also battle for the starting punting job during fall camp.

- Kunalic has been Nebraska's kickoff specialist the past two seasons, allowing the Huskers to be among the nation's best in kickoff return defense. He is expected to continue in that role this fall.

- Jonathon Damkroger and Brett Maher are other contenders for the punting job along with Henery. The position is open after the graduation of Dan Titchener who filled the role the past three seasons.

SPECIALISTS

- Nebraska must replace its starting long snapper T.J. O'Leary and its starting holder in Jake Wesch. Both players held those duties the past three years and those positions will be settled during fall camp.

RETURNERS

- Niles Paul and Alfonzo Dennard formed a solid kickoff return tandem in 2008 and both are likely to continue in that role this fall.

- Several other players have shown the ability to provide a punch in the return game, including redshirt freshman Tim Marlowe and true freshman Antonio Bell.

- Nebraska will also be looking for a punt returner to replace Nate Swift who handled those duties in 2008.

CAREER STARTS - OFFENSE

Jacob Hickman, Sr., C.....	23
Mike McNeill, Jr., TE.....	12
Mike Smith, Jr., OT.....	11
Keith Williams, Jr., OG.....	9
Jaivorio Burkes, Jr., OT.....	7
Dreu Young, Jr., TE.....	4
Menelik Holt, Sr., WR.....	4
Niles Paul, Jr., WR.....	4
Roy Helu Jr., Jr, IB.....	2
Marcel Jones, Soph., OT.....	1
Quentin Castille, Jr., IB.....	1

CAREER STARTS - DEFENSE

Ndamukong Suh, Sr., NT.....	24
Larry Asante, Sr., SS.....	22
Barry Turner, Sr., DE.....	13
Anthony West, Jr., CB.....	11
Pierre Allen, Jr., DE.....	11
Eric Hagg, Jr., CB.....	10
Matt O'Hanlon, Sr., S.....	9
Phillip Dillard, Sr., LB.....	8
Lance Thorell, Soph., CB.....	5
Rickey Thenarse, Sr., S.....	5
Prince Amukamara, Jr., CB.....	3
Anthony Blue, Soph., CB.....	2
Blake Lawrence, Jr., LB.....	2
Matt Holt, Soph., LB.....	1
Colton Koehler, Sr., LB.....	1

CAREER STARTS - SPECIAL TEAMS

Alex Henery, Jr., PK.....	25
Adi Kunalic, Jr., KO.....	25



NCAA-RECORD SELLOUT STREAK TO REACH 300 IN 2009

One of the most remarkable streaks in collegiate sports will reach another milestone this fall when Nebraska celebrates the 300th consecutive sellout at Memorial Stadium. The NCAA-record streak stands at 297 games entering the 2009 season and will hit 300 games when the Cornhuskers take on Louisiana-Lafayette on Sept. 26.

- The sellout streak dates back to Hall of Fame Coach Bob Devaney's first year in 1962 (vs. Missouri on Nov. 3). Notre Dame is second in all-time consecutive sellouts with 205, 92 fewer than Nebraska.
- The Huskers are 258-39 during the 297 sellouts. The mark includes a 39-24 record against ranked teams. Nebraska is 5-0 in the five milestone sellouts during that period (50th, 100th, 150th, 200th and 250th sellouts), including a 24-7 win over No. 2 Colorado on Oct. 29, 1994 (No. 200) and a 44-13 victory over Utah State on Sept. 7, 2002 (No. 250).
- When the Huskers take on Louisiana-Lafayette in the 300th sellout it will mark the 75th opponent that Nebraska will have played during the streak. The opponents in the 300-sellout streak have come from 35 different states.

NEBRASKA OWNS DOMINANT HOME EDGE

Nebraska will celebrate 300 consecutive sellouts in 2009, and the Cornhuskers have rewarded the loyalty of their fans with incredible success at Memorial Stadium through the years.

- Nebraska has won at least six home games in 19 of the past 22 seasons, including a 6-2 mark in 2008. Nebraska is 126-16 at home in the last 19 seasons (since 1989), including a pair of losses against teams that went on to win the national championship—Colorado in 1990 and Washington in 1991.
- During Nebraska's run of success at home in the past 25 years, Nebraska has had three home winning streaks of 20 or more games, and has posted 40 unbeaten and untied home seasons.
- The Huskers are 493-135-20 (.776, 648 games, 119 years) in Lincoln, and 368-112-13 (.760, 493 games, 86 years) in Memorial Stadium (since 1923). Nebraska has had 40 straight winning home seasons.

NEBRASKA CARRIES WIN STREAK INTO 2009

Nebraska finished 5-1 in the second half of the 2008 regular season, a vast improvement over a 1-5 record in the final six games of 2007. Nebraska's only loss in the second half of last season was on the road against BCS Championship game participant Oklahoma. Nebraska added a 26-21 victory over Clemson in the Gator Bowl to secure a 6-1 finish to the 2008 season.

- NU's second-half record in 2008 was the best seven-game finish to a season for Nebraska since 1999, when NU was also 6-1. Nebraska was one of only 16 teams in the Football Bowl Subdivision to win six of its final seven games last season.
- Just 12 teams carry a winning streak of at least four games into the 2009 season, including only seven with winning streaks longer than NU's four-game streak.

NU'S RECORD IN FINAL SEVEN GAMES

2008.....	6-1
2007.....	1-6
2006.....	3-4
2005.....	4-3
2004.....	2-5
2003.....	5-2
2002.....	2-5
2001.....	5-2
2000.....	5-2
1999.....	6-1
1998.....	4-3
1997.....	7-0

- Nebraska's season-opening opponent—Florida Atlantic—also won six of its last seven games last season, while non-conference foe Virginia Tech carries a four-game winning streak into the 2009 season.

SEASON OPENING WIN STREAK

Nebraska will look to continue a nation-leading streak when it opens the 2009 season against Florida Atlantic at Memorial Stadium on Sept. 5. Last year's 47-24 victory over Western Michigan in the season opener marked the Huskers' 23rd straight victory in a season opener. The streak leads the nation, bettering Florida's 19 straight season-opening wins.

- The Huskers have won each of their last 23 season openers by 10 or more points, and have scored 40 or more points in the opener 16 of the past 23 seasons.
- In the win streak, NU has limited opponents to 14 points or less 15 times.

PELINI'S STAFF RETURNS INTACT FOR 2009

Head Coach Bo Pelini returns his entire coaching staff for the 2009 season. That may not seem like news at Nebraska where coaching continuity has been a key to success over the years, but it is noteworthy when considering the past few years.

The last time Nebraska had its full coaching staff remain the same from one season to the next was from 2001 to 2002 when Frank Solich's staff was unchanged. Since that year, Nebraska has had two head coaching changes and at least one assistant coach change each season.



From left: Assistant coaches Ted Gilmore and Ron Brown with head coach Bo Pelini.

PELINI PUTS TOGETHER IMPRESSIVE FIRST-YEAR RECORDS

In guiding Nebraska to a 9-4 record in his first season in charge of the Nebraska program, Head Coach Bo Pelini measured up well with first-year coaches around the country. He also put himself in some impressive company at Nebraska.

- Pelini is the fourth Nebraska head coach to win nine games in his first season with the Cornhuskers. The others to reach that win plateau were Bob Devaney, Tom Osborne and Frank Solich.
- Pelini's nine victories last season tied for the most among 18 coaches in their first season at their respective school in 2008. Among first-time head coaches, Pelini's victory total was the best in the nation.
- Pelini became just the eighth BCS Conference (since 1998) first-time head coach to post nine or more victories in his first season. He is just the second first-year head coach in that span to win nine games after inheriting a team with a losing record the previous season.
- Nebraska shared the Big 12 North crown with Missouri, and Pelini became the first coach in Big 12 history to lead his team to at least a share of a division championship in his first season.
- Nebraska became just the second team in the 13-year history of the Big 12 to finish last in its division one season and earn at least a share of the division title the following year.

NU OFFENSE TO CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR BALANCE

The Nebraska offense became one of the nation's most balanced attacks during the second half of the 2008 campaign. The Huskers will be looking to strive for the same type of balance in 2009 after the offense began to take shape during spring practice.

- In its final six regular-season contests of 2008, Nebraska averaged 211.6 yards rushing per game and ranked third in the Big 12 Conference in rushing in league games only.
- Nebraska rushed for at least 160 yards in each of the final six games of the regular season, topped by a season-high 340 rushing yards in a 56-28 win at Kansas State. That effort was the Huskers' best ground output in a Big 12 game in six seasons and highlighted Nebraska's running game over the second half of the season.
- The late-season surge in the running game improved the Huskers to 37th nationally in rushing offense at 169.8 yards per contest. By improving its rushing average, Nebraska ranked in the top 40 nationally in all four major offensive statistical categories. NU was 12th in total offense, 15th in passing offense and 17th in scoring. The Huskers were one of just nine teams nationally to rank in the top 40 in all four major statistical categories, including Oklahoma and Oklahoma State in the Big 12.

WELL-ROUNDED OFFENSES (NATIONAL RANK)

School	Rush	Pass	Total	Scoring
Tulsa	4	9	1	2
Oklahoma	20	3	3	1
Oklahoma State	8	38	6	9
USC	22	22	11	14
Nebraska	37	15	12	17
Penn State	17	37	14	11
Ball State	31	24	17	18
Illinois	38	20	19	40
Southern Miss	24	40	20	31
Troy	40	33	27	26

2009 BLACKSHIRTS HOPE TO BUILD ON IMPROVEMENT

The Nebraska defense finished as one of the top units in the Big 12 Conference in 2008, and was among the most improved defenses in the nation in the first season under Head Coach Bo Pelini. Nebraska ranked second in the Big 12 in total defense at 349.9 yards per game. The defensive numbers came just one season after Nebraska finished last in the Big 12 and 112th nationally in total defense at 476.8 yards per contest in 2007. With seven starters returning for the 2009 campaign Nebraska will look to build on that success this fall.

DEFENSIVE IMPROVEMENT

The 2008 Nebraska defense improved statistically in several areas over 2007. Here's a look at the 2008 improvement.

» Total Defense

2007	2008	Improvement
476.8 ypg	349.9 ypg	126.9 ypg

» Rushing Defense

2007	2008	Improvement
232.2 ypg	116.5 ypg	115.7 ypg

» Scoring Defense

2007	2008	Improvement
37.9 ppg	28.5 ppg	9.1 ppg

» Sacks

2007	2008	Improvement
13	35	22 (1.7 pg)

» Opponent 3rd-Down Conversion Percentage

2007	2008	Improvement
50.3 %	33.7 %	16.6 %

- Nebraska led the conference in third-down defense, and in Big 12 games only, Nebraska ranked second in the league in total defense and first in pass defense.
- Nebraska also registered 35 sacks on the season, nearly tripling its 2007 total. Among those sacks, 19 came in the final four games of 2008.

Nebraska was the national leader in improvement in rushing defense and team sacks. The Huskers improved their rush defense by 115.7 yards per game and 95 spots in the

national rankings. NU's 22-sack improvement tied with Minnesota for the greatest gain in the country. Nebraska's total defense average was an improvement of 126.9 yards per game, the fourth-best improvement nationally. The Huskers' ranking in total defense also improved 57 spots in 2008.

SCHEDULE TO TEST HUSKERS EARLY, OFTEN

Nebraska's 2009 schedule will feature contests against eight teams that finished with a .500 or better record in 2008 and six teams that appeared in bowl games. Included in that group are games against BCS bowl participants Oklahoma (BCS Championship Game) and Virginia Tech (Orange), along with other bowl teams Texas Tech (Cotton), Missouri (Alamo), Kansas (Insight) and Florida Atlantic (Motor City).

The remainder of Nebraska's non-conference schedule includes matchups in Lincoln with Arkansas State and Louisiana-Lafayette, which each finished 6-6 in 2008. The matchups with the three Sun Belt schools mark the first-ever meeting for Nebraska with each opponent. The last time Nebraska faced three opponents for the first time in the same season was in 1997 when Nebraska faced Akron and Central Florida in non-conference play and met Tennessee in the Orange Bowl.

In Big 12 action, Nebraska will face OU, Texas Tech and visit Baylor from the South Division, along with its full slate of North Division games.

Nebraska enters the fall with six of its game times and television arrangements already known.

- The Big 12 opener at Missouri has been moved to Thursday, Oct. 8 to accommodate an ESPN national telecast. The Huskers' regular-season finale at Colorado returns to its traditional post-Thanksgiving Friday date and will be televised to a national audience on ABC that afternoon.
- Nebraska and Virginia Tech will battle on ABC with the telecast carried to a regional audience.
- Nebraska's three non-conference home games against Florida Atlantic, Arkansas State and Louisiana-Lafayette can all be seen on a pay-per-view basis through Fox Sports Net.



Senior defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh (93).

SUH TO CONTEND FOR NATIONAL HONORS IN 2009

Nebraska senior defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh has received attention throughout his career for his unique name. However, in the past year, Suh has received even more attention for his play on the field. After his strong surge as a junior, he is expected to be a contender for numerous conference and national honors this fall.

Suh finished as Nebraska's leader in several defensive categories in 2008. He had 7.5 sacks, including 5.5 in the final four games of the season. His 19 tackles for loss ranked eighth on the Nebraska single-season list, with 11 of those stops coming in the final four games. The 19 tackles for loss were the third-most ever by an NU interior lineman and the most since Kenny Walker had 21 in 1990.

Suh also tied for the team lead in interceptions with two, and he returned both of those picks for touchdowns. His two interceptions tied a Nebraska season record for defensive tackles and his three career picks are a school position record.

NEBRASKA CAREER TFL

Player, Years	TFL
1. Grant Wistrom, 1994-97	58.5
2. Barrett Ruud, 2001-04	50
3. Trev Alberts, 1990-93	45
...	
10. Travis Hill, 1989-92	37.5
...	
Ndamukong Suh, 2005-pres.	33

NEBRASKA SEASON TFL

Player, Year	TFL
1. Jim Skow, 1985	25
2. Corey McKeon, 2005	22
3. Demorrio Williams, 2003	21
Trev Alberts, 1993	21
Kenny Walker, 1990	21
Derrie Nelson, 1980	21
7. Grant Wistrom, 1996	20
8. Ndamukong Suh, 2008	19
9. three tied with	18

Suh enters his final season poised to make a significant mark in the Husker career record books.

- Suh has 33 career tackles for loss and is just 12 tackles for loss from third place on the Husker career list.
- His 12 career sacks leave him 3.5 sacks outside of the top 10 on the NU career list.
- His 130 career tackles are just 25 from the top 50 on the Nebraska career list. Only nine interior defensive linemen rank among Nebraska's top 50 career tacklers.

NEBRASKA CAREER SACKS

Player, Years	Sacks
1. Trev Alberts, 1990-93	29.5
2. Grant Wistrom, 1994-97	26.5
3. Jim Skow, 1983-85	26
--	
10. Mike Rucker, 1995-98	15.5
--	
Ndamukong Suh, 2005-present	12
Barry Turner, 2005-present	11.5

HENERY AMONG NATION'S MOST ACCURATE KICKERS

Place-kicker Alex Henery enters his junior season as the most accurate kicker in school history and the nation's most accurate field goal kicker over the past two seasons. The Omaha native is 26-of-29 on field goal attempts for an .897 accuracy rate, bettering the current NU career record of 75 percent.

Henery finished 2008 18-of-21 on field goals and 56-of-57 on extra-point tries. His 110 points led Nebraska and was the highest point total by a Cornhusker since Eric Crouch scored 116 points in 2001. His total ranked eighth in school history and was the second-most ever by a Nebraska kicker, trailing only Kris Brown's 116 points in 1997.

Henery made all eight of his field goals as a redshirt freshman in 2008 and made his first 12 career field goals.

- His 26 career field goals rank in a tie for fourth on the Nebraska career list, trailing only Kris Brown (57), Josh Brown (43) and Dale Klein (27).
- Henery is 101-of-102 (99.0) in his career on PAT attempts, currently bettering the career PAT conversion accuracy mark of .984 by Gregg Barrios (127-129).
- Henery has 179 points in his first two seasons to rank 20th in school history. He needs 33 points to move into the top 10 on the career list and is 91 points from fifth on the school's all-time scoring list.

800-WIN CLUB

Nebraska is one of six programs with 800 all-time victories, joining Michigan, Notre Dame, Texas, Ohio State and Penn State. NU reached the historic milestone in 2006 and now has 817 all-time victories.

1.	Michigan	872
2.	Texas	832
3.	Notre Dame	831
4.	Nebraska	817
5.	Ohio State	808
6.	Penn State	800

Nebraska will play its 120th season of college football in 2009, and owns an 817-337-40 all-time record in 1,194 games (.701). Nebraska's matchup with Texas Tech on Oct. 17 will be the school's 1,200th all-time game.

NATION'S BEST SINCE 1970

Nebraska easily ranks as the nation's winningest program since the start of the 1970s, when Bob Devaney guided NU to back-to-back national titles in 1970 and 1971. During the past four decades, the Huskers have compiled a 383-96-5 record, for a .796 winning percentage in 484 games. NU's 383 wins in that time period are 27 more than Oklahoma, which has the second-most wins since 1970.

1.	Nebraska	383
2.	Oklahoma	356
3.	Ohio State	355
4.	Michigan	354
5.	Penn State	346

- Nebraska has 35 nine-win seasons and 21 10-win seasons since 1970.
- The Huskers have finished the regular season undefeated and untied seven times since 1965, and played in 13 national title games (for one of the two teams) and won five national titles since 1970.
- Nebraska was the first team in college football history to win 100 or more games in consecutive decades, ranking first in the 1980s (103-20) and second in the 1990s (108-16-1). NU narrowly missed 100 wins in the 1970s (98).

HUSKERS CONTINUING WINNING WAYS IN CLASSROOM

Nebraska football has long been one of the nation's most successful programs on the field. Success in the classroom is also a cornerstone of the Nebraska football program.

Nation-Leading Total of CoSIDA Academic All-Americans

Seniors Todd Peterson and Tyler Wortman were selected as second-team ESPN the Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-Americans in 2008. The selection of Peterson and Wortman gave NU a nation-leading total of 98 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans in football. Nebraska also leads the nation in academic All-Americans across and teams and sports with 269 academic All-Americans across all teams and all sports.

Husker Seniors on Track for Degrees

The 2009 Nebraska senior class boasts several members who are expected to complete their degree work before finishing their football eligibility.

- Senior guard Andy Christensen completed his undergraduate work in May of 2008 and is expected to complete his graduate degree in construction management by May of 2010.
- Safety Matt O'Hanlon is expected to join Christensen as a graduate student during the 2009 season. The Bellevue, Neb., native is on track to pick up his degree in August.
- Nine other members of Nebraska's 14-man senior class are on track to complete their degree work in December and 13 of the 14 are likely to have earned their degrees by next May.
- In addition to the seniors who are expected to graduate, junior linebacker Blake Lawrence is on track to graduate in December, completing his degree work in just 2 ½ years. Junior defensive end Tyrone Fahie is also scheduled to pick up his bachelor's degree in December. 2009 juniors D.J. Jones, Zac Lee, Mike McNeill and Mike Smith are all expected to finish their undergraduate work by May of 2010.

Huskers Boast Impressive Total on Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll

The Nebraska football program had 49 student-athletes named to the Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll, an increase of seven over the same term a year ago. Among the group of 49 players, seven posted perfect 4.0 grade-point averages during the spring semester.

In the fall semester, Nebraska had 61 players named to the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll, an improvement of 22 players over the 2007 fall semester. The Big 12 honor roll recognizes all student-athletes who earned a 3.0 grade-point average or better in the previous semester.

Nebraska Among Leaders in Academic All-Big 12 Selections

Nebraska had 19 players named to the 2008 academic All-Big 12 team, including 13 first-team selections, and six second-team honorees. Nebraska's 19 honorees were the second-highest total in the Big 12 Conference.

Highlighting the Nebraska honorees were 2008 seniors Todd Peterson and Tyler Wortman and sophomore Thomas Grove. Wortman and Grove were among six student-athletes throughout the Big 12 who were recognized for having 4.0 grade-point averages either throughout their college careers or over the past calendar year. Peterson became the eighth football student-athlete in school history to be a four-time, first-team academic All-Big 12 selection (most recently Trevor Johnson and Judd Davies from 2000 to 2003).

In addition to Peterson's fourth honor, four seniors were honored for the third time in their careers—first-teamers Clayton Sievers, Nate Swift and Dan Titchener and second-team selection Zach Potter. Wortman and junior receiver Wes Cammack were each recognized by the conference for the second time in their NU careers, while Grove led a group of 12 players who earned recognition for the first time.

First team members recorded a 3.20 or better GPA, while the second team were those with a 3.00 to 3.19 GPA.

Nebraska Leads Big 12 in Exhausted Eligibility Graduation Rates

Nebraska ranked at the top of the Big 12 in the exhausted eligibility graduation rate for the sixth consecutive year, posting an impressive 93 percent rate. The exhausted eligibility rate surveys the graduation rate of scholarship student-athletes in 10 incoming freshman classes who complete their eligibility at the university. Nebraska's exhausted eligibility rate has improved 21 percentage points since the inception of the rate in 1991-92.

The current exhausted eligibility rate includes members of incoming classes from 1992-93 through 2001-02. During that time period, 400 of the 428 Nebraska scholarship student-athletes who completed their eligibility earned their degrees.

Nebraska's 93 percent exhausted eligibility rate ranks one percentage point higher than Texas Tech, which ranks second in the Big 12 at 92 percent. The national average for exhausted eligibility is 86 percent.

Nebraska also ranked among the conference leaders in the GSR (Graduation Success Rate). The Husker football team's 78 percent rate tied for second in the Big 12 Conference.