

# 2008 University of Nebraska Football Signees

## Alphabetical Listing:

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School/Junior College
Antonio Bell	WR	6-2	180	Daytona Beach, Fla.	Mainland HS
Will Compton	LB	6-2	230	Bonne Terre, Mo.	North County HS
Khiry Cooper	WR	6-2	180	Shreveport, La.	Calvary Baptist Academy
Ben Cotton	TE	6-6	230	Ames, Iowa	Ames HS
Alfonzo Dennard	DB	5-10	190	Rochelle, Ga.	Wilcox County HS
Sean Fisher	LB	6-6	225	Omaha, Neb.	Millard North HS
David Grant	OL	6-6	295	Killeen, Texas	Killeen HS
Ricky Henry	OL	6-4	305	Omaha, Neb.	Omaha Burke HS/North Dakota State College of Science
Tyson Hetzer*	TE	6-6	245	Redding, Calif.	Anderson HS/Citrus College
Micah Kreikemeier	LB	6-3	210	West Point, Neb.	West Point Central Catholic HS
John Levorson	DB	6-3	190	Crete, Neb.	Crete HS
Tim Marlowe	WR	5-10	160	Youngstown, Ohio	Cardinal Mooney HS
Cameron Meredith	DL	6-4	225	Santa Ana, Calif.	Mater Dei HS
Collins Okafor	RB	6-1	195	Omaha, Neb.	Omaha Westside HS
Courtney Osborne	ATH	6-3	175	Garland, Texas	South Garland HS
Steven Osborne	WR	6-4	185	Garland, Texas	South Garland HS
Kyler Reed	HB	6-3	220	Shawnee, Kan.	St. Thomas Aquinas HS
Justin Rogers	DB	5-11	180	Birmingham, Ala.	Vestavia Hills HS
P.J. Smith	DB	6-2	205	River Ridge, La.	John Curtis HS
Kody Spano**	QB	6-2	205	Stephenville, Texas	Stephenville HS
Baker Steinkuhler	OL	6-6	290	Lincoln, Neb.	Lincoln Southwest HS
Brandon Thompson	OL	6-6	295	The Woodlands, Texas	The Woodlands HS
Quentin Toailoa	DL	6-4	300	Highland, Calif.	Redlands East Valley HS
Mason Wald	DB	5-11	205	Birmingham, Ala.	Vestavia Hills HS
Lester Ward	RB	6-3	215	Brenham, Texas	Brenham HS
Alonzo Whaley	LB/FB	6-1	225	Madisonville, Texas	Madisonville HS
David Whitmore	DB	6-2	185	Port Arthur, Texas	Memorial HS
Josh Williams	DL	6-4	225	Denton, Texas	Ryan HS

\*Indicates mid-year signee; \*\*enrolled at Nebraska in January

## The Class Breakdown:

Total: 28; Freshmen: 26; Junior College Transfers: 2

### By State:

**Texas (9):** Grant (Killeen); Courtney Osborne (Garland); Steven Osborne (Garland); Spano (Stephenville); Thompson (The Woodlands); Ward (Brenham); Whaley (Madisonville); Whitmore (Port Arthur); Williams (Denton); **Nebraska (6):** Fisher (Omaha); Henry (Omaha); Kreikemeier (West Point); Levorson (Crete); Okafor (Omaha); Steinkuhler (Lincoln); **California (3):** Hetzer (Glendora); Meredith (Santa Ana); Toailoa (Highland); **Alabama (2):** Rogers, Wald (Birmingham); **Louisiana (2):** Cooper (Shreveport); Smith (River Ridge); **Florida (1):** Bell (Daytona Beach); **Georgia (1):** Dennard (Rochelle); **Iowa (1):** Cotton (Ames); **Kansas (1):** Reed (Shawnee); **Missouri (1):** Compton (Bonne Terre); **Ohio (1):** Marlowe (Youngstown)

### By Position (First Position Listed):

**Offense (14):** QB-Spano; RB-Okafor, Ward; WR-Bell, Cooper, Marlowe, S. Osborne HB-Reed; TE-Cotton, Hetzer; OL-Grant, Henry, Steinkuhler, Thompson

**Defense (13):** DL-Meredith, Toailoa, Williams; LB-Compton, Fisher, Kreikemeier, Whaley; DB-Dennard, Levorson, Smith, Rogers, Wald, Whitmore

**Athlete (1):** C. Osborne

## Walk-On Student-Athletes

The following student-athletes have accepted admission to the University of Nebraska and plan to join the Husker football program as walk-ons in the fall.

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School
Kenny Anderson	DE	6-2	235	Omaha, Neb.	Millard West HS
Damon Bechtold	TE	6-4	215	Omaha, Neb.	Westside HS
Jase Dean	FS	6-0	180	Bridgeport, Neb.	Bridgeport HS
Taylor Dixon	DB	5-11	170	Wauneta, Neb.	Wauneta-Palisade HS
Justin Jackson	DL	6-3	255	Roca, Neb.	Norris HS
Jordan Makovicka	RB	5-10	170	Ulysses, Neb.	East Butler HS
Matt Manning	LB	6-1	225	Omaha, Neb.	Creighton Prep HS
Mychael McClure	LB	6-5	210	Wisner, Neb.	Wisner-Pilger HS
Colin McDermott	LB	6-2	225	Omaha, Neb.	Creighton Prep HS
Conor McDermott	DE	6-2	230	Omaha, Neb.	Creighton Prep HS
Sam Meginnis	LB	6-2	210	Lincoln, Neb.	Lincoln East HS
Josh Molek	DE	6-3	235	Omaha, Neb.	Skutt HS
Brent Moravec	FB/LB	6-0	180	Grand Island, Neb.	Central Catholic HS
David Pillen	FB/LB	5-11	230	Sugar Land, Texas	Stephen F. Austin HS
Zach Ruiz	QB/ATH	6-3	210	Beatrice, Neb.	Beatrice HS
Steve Spratte	WR	5-11	180	Waukesha, Wis.	Waukesha West HS
Graham Stoddard	LB	6-2	215	Lincoln, Neb.	Lincoln Southwest HS
Jeremy Wallace	RB	6-1	220	Omaha, Neb.	Bryan HS

## Antonio Bell

**WR, 6-2, 180, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Mainland HS)**

Antonio Bell joins the Huskers after a highly productive prep career at Mainland High School in Daytona Beach, Fla. Bell's signing gives Nebraska at least one signee from Florida in each of the past seven years. The 6-2, 180-pound Bell was an explosive offensive threat for Mainland High and Coach John Maronto. A starter since his freshman season, Bell caught 45 passes for 776 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior. That performance earned him first-team all-area honors and second-team class 5A all-state accolades from the Florida Sportswriters Association. Bell earned first-team all-area honors for the Buccaneers as a junior when he caught 42 passes, covering 625 yards and four touchdowns. Bell accounted for 500 receiving yards as a sophomore in 2005, earning him a second-team all-area selection. Bell also competes in the high jump and triple jump for the Mainland track team. He is ranked among the top 60 players in the Sunshine State by SuperPrep Magazine. Bell comes from the same high school that produced current Husker offensive lineman Cruz Barrett. Bell chose Nebraska over offers from West Virginia, South Carolina and Tennessee. Antonio is the son of Tony and Cynthia Bell, and was born on Feb. 21, 1990.

## Will Compton

**LB, 6-2, 230, Bonne Terre, Mo. (North County HS)**

Will Compton is one of four linebacker prospects in Nebraska's 2008 signing class. Compton joins the Nebraska program from North County High School where he starred on both sides of the football. Compton's signing marks the fifth straight year Nebraska has signed at least one player from the state of Missouri. The 6-2, 230-pound Compton is a physical player who has a nose for the football from his linebacker spot. During his senior season, Compton recorded 107 tackles, including 16 tackles for loss, four sacks, and two interceptions, while causing a fumble and recovering another. On offense, Compton was also a key performer for North County High and Coach David Leeds, accounting for approximately 500 rushing yards, 1,000 all-purpose yards and 14 touchdowns. His play as a senior earned Compton first-team all-state honors from the Missouri Sportswriters and Broadcasters Association. Compton also showcased his outstanding ability on both sides of the ball during his junior season, making 71 tackles, 13 tackles for loss and an interception on defense. Compton had big numbers on offense, rushing for 455 yards, while catching 51 passes for 855 yards. He earned first-team all-state honors as a receiver, while picking up all-district and all-conference honors as a linebacker. A SuperPrep All-American, Compton is ranked as the No. 3 overall prospect in the state of Missouri by Rivals.com and one of the top 40 "athletes" in the country by the recruiting service. ESPN.com and Scout.com both list Compton among the top 20 inside linebacker prospects in the nation. Compton was a defensive captain in the Offense-Defense Bowl all-star game at the Orange Bowl in January. Compton chose Nebraska over Missouri and Illinois. Compton is the son of Bill and Kathy Compton and was born on Sept. 19, 1989.

## Khiry Cooper

**WR, 6-2, 180, Shreveport, La. (Calvary Baptist Academy)**

Khiry Cooper (pronounced KY-ree) is a play-making wide receiver from the Louisiana prep ranks. He is one of four players in Nebraska's signing class who are expected to begin their career at the receiver spot. Cooper is also one of two players from Louisiana in the class, both of whom committed to NU in the past week. Cooper has used his skills to account for 42 receiving touchdowns and better than 1,700 yards over the past three seasons, including 16 trips to the end zone as a senior. The 6-2, 180-pound Cooper caught 60 passes last fall for 1,038 yards, while also seeing action on defense. His play led Calvary Academy to a 12-1 record and a trip to the state semifinals in Class 2A. For his efforts, Cooper was a first-team Class 2A all-state selection and was also a member of the Baton Rouge Advocate's "Second Dozen" of top players in Louisiana. Cooper nabbed 50 receptions for 750 yards and 15 touchdowns as a junior. During his sophomore campaign in 2005, Cooper was key contributor at wide receiver and free safety, grabbing 48 receptions

for 597 yards and 11 touchdowns. Cooper's coach at Calvary Academy was Doug Pederson, who played quarterback in the NFL for 12 seasons, most recently the 2000 to 2004 seasons with the Green Bay Packers. Cooper also uses his 4.4 speed to roam center field for the Calvary Academy baseball team, and he hopes to be a dual-sport athlete at Nebraska. Last season Cooper hit .420 to lead his team to a state title. Cooper is ranked among the top 30 football players in the state of Louisiana by both Rivals.com and SuperPrep Magazine. Cooper chose Nebraska over Arkansas. He is the son of Yolanda Cooper and was born on Jan. 18, 1990.

## Ben Cotton

**TE, 6-6, 230, Ames, Iowa (Ames HS)**

Ben Cotton is a second generation Husker who is expected to begin his Nebraska career as a tight end. Cotton is the son of Nebraska associate head coach/offensive line coach Barney Cotton, who played for the Huskers from 1975 to 1978. Cotton committed to the Huskers shortly after the hiring of Bo Pelini as head coach in early January. He is the first scholarship signee from the state of Iowa since 2001. Cotton has been a key performer for Ames High and Coach Bruce Vertanen since his sophomore year. During his senior season, Cotton caught 44 passes for 639 yards and four touchdowns to earn first-team Elite All-State honors from the Des Moines Register. He was the Little Cyclones' only two-way starter, also lining up at defense end. Cotton missed six games because of injury in 2006, but still managed 10 receptions. Cotton first drew the attention of college coaches as a sophomore when he earned second-team all-conference honors. In addition to his football skills, Cotton is also a standout for the Ames High basketball team. He has been a part of the starting lineup each of the past two years. Cotton qualified for the state track meet in the discus and is a pitcher and center fielder for the baseball team. Cotton was ranked among the top 25 tight ends in the country by SuperPrep and Rivals.com. He was listed as the No. 2 overall prospect in the state of Iowa by Rivals.com and Scout.com and among the top 25 players in the Midlands region by SuperPrep. Cotton chose Nebraska over offers from Louisville, Iowa, Kansas, Iowa State and Wisconsin. Ben is the son of Barney and Christine Cotton and was born on June 13, 1989.

## Alfonzo Dennard

**DB, 5-10, 190, Rochelle, Ga. (Wilcox County HS)**

Alfonzo Dennard was one of the final pieces of Nebraska's 2008 signing class, committing to the Huskers late last week. Dennard is an outstanding athlete who excelled on both sides of the ball for Wilcox County High School in Georgia. Dennard is one of five players expected to begin their Nebraska careers in the secondary. He is also the first scholarship player from Georgia since current New England Patriot Le Kevin Smith joined the Huskers in 2001. In his senior season, Dennard played a leading role in helping North Wilcox and Coach Mark Ledford to a 13-2 record and state runner-up finish in Class A. Dennard lined up at cornerback on defense and made 53 tackles, while picking off five passes. Offensively, Dennard caught 39 passes for 780 yards and scored 14 touchdowns. The 5-10, 190-pound Dennard also used his speed to help Wilcox County on special teams, returning two kickoffs and one punt for touchdowns. His performance as a senior earned Dennard first-team Class A all-state honors from the Georgia Sportswriters Association. Dennard also piled up big numbers as a junior. Offensively he caught 45 passes for 840 yards and 12 touchdowns, while rushing 24 times for 240 yards and another six touchdowns. On the defensive side, Dennard made 60 tackles and six interceptions. Dennard's athleticism has also made him a valuable performer for the basketball and track teams. He serves as the point guard for Wilcox County's hoops team and uses his speed in sprint events during track in the spring. Dennard recently played in the GACA North-South All-Star game. He is ranked as one of the nation's top 25 cornerbacks by Rivals.com and is listed among the top 40 overall prospects in the state of Georgia. Dennard chose Nebraska over North Carolina and Troy. Dennard is the son of Rose Mary Dennard and was born on Sept. 9, 1989.

## Sean Fisher

**LB, 6-6, 225, Omaha, Neb. (Millard North HS)**

Linebacker Sean Fisher was one of the first players to commit to the 2008 Husker class, announcing his college choice in June of 2007. Fisher was a standout two-way performer at Class A powerhouse Millard North, starring in the secondary and also at running back, while also handling punting chores and returning kicks. Fisher led Coach Fred Petito's team to the Class A state championship game in 2007. On offense, Fisher rushed for 646 yards, including 198 yards on 44 carries in the state title game. Defensively, Fisher played in the secondary and made 68 total tackles, including 43 unassisted stops, and added three tackles for loss and an interception. For his performance, Fisher was named an honorary captain of both the Omaha World-Herald's All-Nebraska team and the Lincoln Journal Star's Super-State squad. Fisher also earned all-state honors from both papers as a junior when he made 92 tackles and had three interceptions, helping the Mustangs to the state semifinals. Fisher was also a key player for Millard North during his sophomore season, when the school captured the Class A state title. Fisher was named a SuperPrep All-American and is listed among the nation's top 25 linebackers by SuperPrep, ESPN.com and Scout.com. He was widely regarded as one of the top five players in Nebraska by all recruiting services. Fisher chose Nebraska over Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Iowa, Colorado and Arizona State among others. Fisher was born on Sept. 13, 1989, and is the son of Todd and Cathy Fisher.

## David Grant

**OL, 6-6, 295, Killeen, Texas (Killeen HS)**

Offensive lineman David Grant is part of Nebraska's largest-ever group of recruits from the state of Texas. Grant is one of nine Texans in the 2008 Husker class and one of four offensive line prospects to sign with Nebraska. Grant is a relative newcomer to the game of football, playing just two seasons of organized action after moving from New York City. The 6-6, 295-pound Grant has honed his skills enough to earn all-district honors and second-team Class 4A all-state honors from the Texas Sportswriters Association. Grant's play on the offensive line helped Killeen High and Coach Sam Jones to a 6-4 record in 2007. Grant was named one of the top 100 players in the state of Texas by both Rivals.com and SuperPrep Magazine, while also being recognized as one of the top 60 offensive tackles in the nation. Grant chose Nebraska over Baylor, Iowa State, Texas Tech, Oklahoma State and Houston. Grant was born on May 28, 1989, and is the son of Lorna Duncan.

## Ricky Henry

**OL, 6-4, 305, Omaha, Neb.**

**(Omaha Burke HS/North Dakota State College of Science)**

Offensive lineman Ricky Henry is one of six Nebraska natives in the 2008 signing class, including three players from Omaha. Henry originally signed with Nebraska in 2006, but has spent the past two seasons at the North Dakota State College of Science, where he was a standout on the offensive line. Henry has started every game at right guard the past two seasons, and in 2007, Henry earned first-team all-region honors for Coach Chuck Parsons. Henry attended Omaha Burke High School, where he earned two-time first-team Class A all-state honors. In 2005, Henry was named to the Omaha World-Herald's All-Nebraska team and the Lincoln Journal Star's Super-State squad. Henry made his biggest mark on defense in high school with 84 tackles, including 27 tackles for loss as a senior, and another 107 tackles during his junior season. Henry also starred on the wrestling mat in high school, winning the Class A state heavyweight title as a senior, after earning runner-up honors in his junior season. Henry is the first Husker scholarship recruit from Omaha Burke since Adam Julch and Aaron Wills signed with the Huskers in 1995. Henry will have three years to complete two seasons of eligibility at Nebraska. In addition to Nebraska, Henry also received offers from Colorado and Houston. Henry was born on July 27, 1987, and is the son of Maria Henry.

## Tyson Hetzer

**TE, 6-6, 245, Redding, Calif. (Anderson HS/Citrus College)**

Tight end Tyson Hetzer is one of two members of the 2008 Nebraska recruiting class who joined the program in January. Hetzer comes to the Huskers after playing the 2007 season at Citrus College in Glendora, Calif. Hetzer has two seasons of eligibility remaining at Nebraska. At 6-6 and 245 pounds, Hetzer will provide Nebraska with outstanding size at the tight end position. In 2007, Hetzer caught 13 passes for 152 yards and a touchdown for a 6-5 Citrus College team. Hetzer also played a key role as a blocker from his tight end spot. He is ranked among the top 100 junior-college prospects according to Rivals.com. Hetzer began his college career at Shasta (Calif.) College in 2005-06, where he played on the basketball team and helped the squad to a 21-11 record. Following the season he transferred to Division II North Alabama, hoping to play football, but after one semester he transferred to Citrus College. Hetzer had an outstanding two-sport high school career at Anderson High School. Tyson played two seasons of varsity football for the Cubs, lining up at wide receiver, tight end, defensive end and linebacker, while also handling punting duties. On the hardwood, Hetzer was twice named Anderson's Most Valuable Player. Hetzer committed to Nebraska last summer and also received offers from Louisville, Kansas State, Arizona State and Utah State. Tyson is the son of Leslie and Charlie Hetzer and was born on Oct. 4, 1986. He is majoring in sociology at Nebraska.

## Micah Kreikemeier

**LB, 6-3, 210, West Point, Neb. (West Point Central Catholic HS)**

Micah Kreikemeier is one of six in-state products in Nebraska's 2008 scholarship class. Kreikemeier joins the Husker program after a standout prep career at West Point Central Catholic. He was the first player to commit to Nebraska after Bo Pelini's hiring as head coach on Dec. 2. Kreikemeier has a family history with the Nebraska program, as his father, Keith, played for the Huskers as a walk-on from 1981 to 1983. Kreikemeier is projected to begin his Nebraska career as a linebacker, the position he starred at for Coach Dave Ridder at West Point CC. Kreikemeier totaled 125 tackles, three sacks, an interception and a pair of fumble recoveries on defense as a senior. Offensively, he played tight end and had more than 300 receiving yards and two touchdowns. He also scored four touchdowns as a short-yardage back for the Bluejays to earn honorable-mention Class C-2 all-state honors. Kreikemeier was ranked as one of the nation's top 70 linebacker prospects according to ESPN.com, and was listed among the top 10 prospects in Nebraska by Rivals.com. Kreikemeier is also accomplished in the classroom, carrying a 4.0 grade-point average. Kreikemeier also plays basketball for the Bluejays, who currently own a 12-6 record. He is the first player from West Point Central Catholic to earn a scholarship from the Huskers since Tom Ridder signed with the Huskers in 1974. Dave Ridder also played for Nebraska, originally joining the program as a walk-on before earning a scholarship, and lettering as a defensive end from 1981 to 1983. Kreikemeier is the son of Keith and Jodi Kreikemeier and was born on March 12, 1990.

## John Levorson

**DB, 6-3, 190, Crete, Neb. (Crete HS)**

One of the top all-around athletes in the state of Nebraska, John Levorson comes to Nebraska after leading Crete High School to back-to-back Class B state championships. Levorson starred at quarterback for the Cardinals, providing Coach Chuck McGinnis with a run-pass threat. Levorson is expected to begin his Husker career in the defensive backfield, but has the athleticism to line up at multiple positions. In his senior season, Levorson rushed for 1,158 yards and averaged better than 10 yards per attempt. Through the air, he connected on 55 percent of his passes, while racking up 92 tackles and six interceptions on defense. Levorson's play during the 2007 season earned him recognition as an honorary captain of both the Lincoln Journal Star's Super State team and the Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska squad. Levorson also led Crete to the state title in 2006, when he passed for 1,316 yards, ran for another 734 yards and made 34 tackles on defense. His play as a junior also earned Levorson first-team All-Nebraska honors as a defensive back and first-team Class B all-state accolades as a quarterback. Levorson is ranked

among the top 100 athlete recruits in the nation, was listed as the No. 6 in-state prospect by Rivals.com and No. 5 by Scout.com. Levorson's talents do not end on the football field. He is a standout for the Crete basketball team, averaging 18.9 points per game while leading the Cardinals to a 10-6 record and a top-10 ranking. As a junior, he earned first-team Class B all-state honors, while averaging nearly 16 points per game. On the track, Levorson was part of a state championship 1,600-meter relay team and a state runner-up 400-meter relay squad. Levorson is strong in the classroom as well, earning a 4.0 grade-point average. Levorson also received scholarship offers from Wyoming and Ohio before committing to the Huskers last June. Levorson is the son of David and Laurie Levorson and was born on May 24, 1989.

## Tim Marlowe

**WR, 5-10, 160, Youngstown, Ohio (Cardinal Mooney HS)**

Tim Marlowe was one of the final additions to the Nebraska recruiting class, committing to the Husker program this week. Marlowe is an extremely quick and explosive athlete. Marlowe will begin his Nebraska career at receiver, part of a talented four-player group at the wideout spot. A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Marlowe is the first player from the state of Ohio to commit to Nebraska since DeJuan Groce and Matt Shook joined the Husker program in February of 1998. Marlowe showed his versatility last season as a senior at Cardinal Mooney High School, beginning the season at receiver, before being pressed into service at quarterback and leading his team to the state championship game. Marlowe also continued to play a role on the Mooney defense. Marlowe ran for almost 300 yards on 42 carries and scored four touchdowns. He also caught nine passes for 216 yards and three more touchdowns. On defense, he had 36 tackles, led his team in pass deflections with 32 and in interceptions with five. He also had three kickoff returns for 70 yards. His play helped Cardinal Mooney and Coach P.J. Fecko to a 14-1 record and a Division IV state runner-up finish. In the state title game, Marlowe rushed 17 times for 104 yards and a touchdown, completed 5-of-6 passes for 135 yards and a touchdown and made three tackles on defense. Marlowe was also a two-way standout for Cardinal Mooney as a junior, helping the Cardinals to a perfect 15-0 record and a Division IV state title. Marlowe is the son of Richard and Maureen Marlowe, and was born on Feb. 10, 1989.

## Cameron Meredith

**DL, 6-4, 225, Santa Ana, Calif. (Mater Dei HS)**

Cameron Meredith is one of three players from California who are part of Nebraska's 2008 signing class. Meredith committed to the Huskers last August and is one of three players projected to start their Nebraska career on the defensive line. The 6-4, 225-pound Meredith was a three-year starter at Mater Dei High School, annually one of the nation's powerhouse prep programs. Mater Dei was ranked nationally for much of the season, before losing in the quarterfinals of the state playoffs and finishing with a 9-2 record. Meredith was hampered by injury during his senior season, but still managed to earn co-Defensive MVP honors in the Trinity League and first-team All-Orange County honors from the Orange County Register. Meredith was also a third-team all-state pick by Cal Hi Sports. As a senior, Meredith had 65 unassisted tackles, 27 assists, 7.5 sacks, nine quarterback hurries, two caused fumbles and one fumble recovery. Meredith was also a standout for Coach Bruce Rollinson as a junior, when he made 60 tackles, including eight sacks, and recovered a pair of fumbles. His play as a junior earned Meredith first-team all-league and second-team all-county honors. Meredith has outstanding speed for his size and showed the versatility to also line up at linebacker. Meredith is regarded as one of the top 15 weakside defensive ends in the country by Rivals.com and one of the top 70 prospects in California by Rivals.com, Scout.com and SuperPrep Magazine. Meredith chose Nebraska over a host of other schools including Oregon, Colorado, Oklahoma and Arizona State. Meredith was born on Nov. 20, 1989, and is the son of Cory and Katherine Meredith.

## Collins Okafor

**RB, 6-1, 195, Omaha, Neb. (Omaha Westside HS)**

Standout running back Collins Okafor was one of the first players to join the 2008 Nebraska signing class, committing to the Huskers during his junior season at Omaha Westside High School. Okafor is one of six in-state products in the 2008 Husker signing class, and he is the first scholarship signee from Westside since Ira Cooper signed with Nebraska in 2000. Okafor earned first-team All-Nebraska honors from the Omaha World-Herald and first-team Super State accolades from the Lincoln Journal Star each of the past two seasons. This season, Okafor rushed for 1,525 yards on 205 carries and found the end zone 17 times for Coach Marty Kauffman. His play helped Westside to a 7-3 record and a trip to the state playoffs. During his junior season in 2006, Okafor was the driving force behind the Warriors' trip to the Class A state championship game and a 12-1 record. Okafor rushed for 1,850 yards and 16 rushing touchdowns, while also compiling 389 receiving yards and six touchdown receptions. Okafor is ranked as one of the top five players in the state by Rivals.com and Scout.com and among the top 25 players in the Midlands Region by SuperPrep Magazine. Okafor also excels on the track for Westside, qualifying for the state meet as a junior in the 100 meters, 400-meter relay and 1,600-meter relay. Okafor chose Nebraska over Stanford, Kansas and Iowa. He is the son of Napoleon Okafor and Pat Okon Okafor and was born on June 6, 1989.

## Courtney Osborne

**ATH, 6-3, 175, Garland, Texas (South Garland HS)**

Courtney Osborne is one of nine Texas natives in Nebraska's signing class, representing the Huskers' largest ever recruiting harvest from the Lone Star State. Osborne joins his twin brother, Steven, in the Huskers' 2008 signing class, marking the second set of twins to sign with Nebraska. They join the Bullocks brothers who signed in 2001. A versatile performer, Courtney was recruited by the Huskers as an athlete who could play a number of positions. Osborne made his biggest impact on defense for South Garland High School and Coach Mickey Moss. He also excelled on the special teams units where he utilized his hard-hitting style. The play of the Osbornes helped a talented South Garland squad to a 10-2 record and a district title in 2007. Courtney was listed as the No. 50 prospect on the Dallas Morning News' Area 100 list. In addition to Nebraska, Osborne also received scholarship offers from UNLV and Kansas. Courtney was born on Jan. 15, 1990, and is the son of Sandra Osborne.

## Steven Osborne

**WR, 6-4, 185, Garland, Texas (South Garland HS)**

Wide receiver Steven Osborne joins his twin brother Courtney in the Huskers' 2008 signing class. Steven and Courtney are just the second set of twins ever to sign with the Huskers, joining Josh and Daniel Bullocks who signed with the Huskers in 2001 and who both are currently in the NFL. The Osbornes are two of nine Texas natives in the 2008 class, marking the most players signed from the state in one season by Nebraska. Steven Osborne provided a big receiving target for South Garland High and Coach Mickey Moss, helping the school to a district title and a 10-2 record. As a senior, he caught 38 passes for 601 yards and 10 touchdowns. His play did not go unnoticed as the Dallas Morning News ranked him as the No. 49 prospect on its Area 100 list. In addition to Nebraska, Steven also visited UNLV, and received scholarship offers from Utah, Kansas and SMU among others. Steven was born on Jan. 15, 1990, and is the son of Sandra Osborne.

## Kyler Reed

**HB, 6-3, 220, Shawnee, Kan. (St. Thomas Aquinas HS)**

Kyler Reed showed his versatility throughout his prep career at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Overland Park, Kan., playing a significant role on both offense and defense. Reed's ability will allow him to play either side of the ball at Nebraska, but he is scheduled to start his Husker career on offense as an H-back. The 6-3, 220-pound Reed helped Coach Kevin Kopecky's team to an 8-4 record and a trip to the Class 5A state semifinals--the third straight year Aquinas has reached the state semifinals. Reed rushed for 350 yards out of the backfield, but made his biggest impact as a receiver with 500 receiving yards and seven touchdown receptions. He also passed for a touchdown, and was a standout safety on defense. Reed's performance in leading Aquinas earned him first-team 5A all-state honors from the Kansas High School Coaches Association and honorable-mention all-metro honors from the Kansas City Star. During his junior season, Reed played all over the field, lining up as a wide receiver, fullback and defensive back for a 10-2 Aquinas team. His performance earned him all-area and honorable-mention all-metro accolades in 2006. Reed's versatility is evident in his rankings from recruiting services. ESPN.com ranks him as the nation's No. 1 fullback, while Rivals.com lists him among the nation's top athlete prospects and Scout.com lists him among the top 20 weakside linebackers in the country. Rivals and Scout also ranked Reed among the top 10 prospects in Kansas and SuperPrep Magazine lists him among the top 40 players in the Midlands Region. Reed comes to Nebraska from the same high school that produced 2007 senior linebacker Lance Brandenburgh. Reed was born on April 14, 1990, and is the son of Linda Reed and Kenny Reed.

## Justin Rogers

**DB, 5-11, 180, Birmingham, Ala. (Vestavia Hills HS)**

Justin Rogers is a talented athlete who has the ability to excel on either side of the ball at the collegiate level. The 5-11, 180-pound Rogers made his biggest impact as a running back at Birmingham's Vestavia Hills High School, but he will likely begin his Husker career in the secondary. Rogers and teammate Mason Wald are the first scholarship players from the state of Alabama since Brett Byford joined the Husker program in 2003. Rogers racked up huge rushing numbers for Coach Buddy Anderson, helping his school to two straight state semifinal trips. In 2007, Rogers helped Vestavia Hills to an 11-3 record by rushing for 2,110 yards and 28 touchdowns. Vestavia Hills advanced to the state semifinals by upending national powerhouse Hoover High in the quarterfinals. Rogers' play as a senior earned him first-team Class 6A all-state honors as a running back and he also played in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic. Rogers' rushing numbers as a senior were nearly identical to his junior season when he totaled 2,100 yards and 31 touchdowns on the ground. Rogers boasts great speed, having won the 2007 Class 6A indoor 55-meter dash title with a time of 6.57 seconds. Rogers is ranked among the top 30 players in Alabama and among the top 50 running back prospects in the country. Rogers chose Nebraska over Auburn, Clemson, UCLA and Kentucky. He is the son of Sharon Rogers and Kenny Rogers and was born on Aug. 7, 1990.

## P.J. Smith

**DB, 6-2, 205, River Ridge, La. (John Curtis HS)**

P.J. Smith is a talented defensive back prospect who joins the Husker program from Louisiana prep powerhouse John Curtis High in River Ridge. Smith is one of two players in the class from the state of Louisiana, both of whom committed to the Huskers in the past week. Smith was a four-year starter for Coach J.T. Curtis and helped the school to Class 2A state titles each of the past three seasons. Smith earned first-team all-state honors this season and was a member of the Baton Rouge Advocate's Louisiana "Super Dozen". The 6-2, 205-pound Smith made 85 tackles, added four interceptions and forced a pair of fumbles for a 12-2 state championship team in 2007. Smith also saw action at receiver and caught a pair of touchdown passes. Smith was a two-way standout during his junior season. On the defensive side of the ball, Smith made 28 tackles, had three interceptions and broke up 14 passes. On offense his 10 receptions covered 124 yards, including three touchdown

catches. Smith is regarded as one of the top 15 players in Louisiana by Rivals.com and among the top 50 safeties in the country by the recruiting service. Smith's skills are not limited to the gridiron. He is also a four-year starter in basketball and is currently leads his team in scoring and rebounding. Smith chose Nebraska after also visiting Arkansas, Baylor and Southern Miss. He is the son of Richard and Darlisa Smith and was born on April 28, 1989.

## Kody Spano

**QB, 6-2, 205, Stephenville, Texas (Stephenville HS)**

Quarterback Kody Spano is one of two members of the 2008 Nebraska recruiting class to join the Huskers at mid-semester. Spano completed his high school studies at Stephenville (Texas) High School in the first semester, and enrolled at Nebraska in January. Spano is one of nine Texans in the Nebraska recruiting class, giving the Huskers 16 signees from the Lone Star State over the past two years. The 6-2, 205-pound Spano provided Stephenville High and Coach Chad Morris with a dual threat from the quarterback position. During his senior season, Spano passed for 2,263 yards and 23 touchdowns, while completing better than 62 percent of his passes to lead Stephenville to a 10-2 record and a trip to the second round of the Class 4A state playoffs. He also rushed for 366 yards and 11 touchdowns. Spano also produced big numbers as a junior, throwing for 2,889 yards and 31 touchdowns, while rushing for an additional 532 yards and 10 touchdowns. Stephenville also finished 10-2 under his direction in 2006. Spano's performance as a senior earned him Offensive MVP honors in Class 4-A District 8, and second-team Class 4-A all-state honors. Spano also earned second-team all-state honors during his junior season. Spano is ranked as the nation's No. 9 dual-threat quarterback by Rivals.com and among the top 50 players in the Lone Star State. ESPN.com also ranks Spano among the nation's top 30 quarterbacks. Spano also competed for the track team, and won the district title in the discus as a junior. Also a standout in the classroom, Spano was a member of the National Honor Society. In addition to Nebraska, Spano also visited Oklahoma State and received scholarship offers from TCU and Tulsa. Spano is the son of Kyle and Kim Spano, and was born on April 25, 1989.

## Baker Steinkuhler

**OL, 6-6, 290, Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln Southwest HS)**

Baker Steinkuhler is one of the most decorated members of Nebraska's 2008 signing class after a standout prep career at Lincoln Southwest High School. The son of 1983 Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award winner Dean Steinkuhler, Baker earned Lincoln Journal Star Super State honors three straight years and Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska honors each of the past two seasons. Steinkuhler was also recognized as the top lineman on the prestigious Parade All-America team, which consisted of the nation's top 58 players, while earning second-team All-America honors from USA Today. Steinkuhler was a four-year starter and starred on both sides of the ball for Coach Mark King at Southwest, but is expected to begin his Nebraska career on the offensive line. Steinkuhler's play has helped Southwest rank among the state's top Class A programs in recent years. As a senior, he recorded 36 solo stops, 36 assisted tackles, helping the Southwest defense allow just 190 yards per game. Offensively, Steinkuhler anchored the offensive line which paved the way for Brandon Brown to rank fourth in Class A at 140.6 rushing yards per game. During his junior season, Baker anchored the lines for a 10-1 Southwest team that was ranked No. 1 for much of the season. During his sophomore season, Steinkuhler helped the Silverhawks to a state runner-up finish. Generally regarded as the top prospect in Nebraska, Steinkuhler was ranked as the No. 8 overall prospect in the country by Rivals.com, and the No. 2 offensive tackle according to both Rivals.com and Scout.com. He was also the SuperPrep Midlands region Offensive Player of the Year and the No. 25 overall prospect in the country according to that publication. He was also a first-team EA Sports prep All-American. Steinkuhler put his skills on display at the U.S. Army All-American Game in January, where he played on the defensive side of the ball. Baker committed to Nebraska at the start of his junior season and did not take any additional visits. Baker is the son of Sue Steinkuhler and Dean Steinkuhler and was born on July 12, 1989. His brother, Ty, will be a senior defensive lineman for the Huskers in 2008.

## Brandon Thompson

**OL, 6-6, 295, The Woodlands, Texas (The Woodlands HS)**

Brandon Thompson is one of four players in the Nebraska signing class who are expected to begin their Husker careers on the offensive line. The 6-6, 295-pound Thompson is also one of nine Texans in the signing group, the largest group of players from that state to sign with Nebraska in a single season. Thompson was the leader of the Highlanders' offense in 2007, providing protection for a quarterback who threw for nearly 1,600 yards and paving the way for three running backs to top 300 yards on the ground. Despite battling injuries during his senior season, Thompson's play earned him first-team all-district honors in the 5A ranks. Thompson also earned all-district honors as a junior, when he helped Coach Mark Schmid's squad to a 6-5 record. Thompson is ranked among the top 80 players in the Southwest region according to SuperPrep Magazine and is listed among the nation's top 50 offensive tackles by both ESPN.com and Scout.com. In addition to his talents on the football field, Thompson also excels for the Highlander track team, throwing the shot put and discus. Thompson chose Nebraska over Purdue, Oklahoma State, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Colorado. Brandon is the son of Jeff Thompson and Belinda Proctor and his stepfather is Leonard Proctor. Brandon was born on June 10, 1990.

## Quentin Toailoa

**DL, 6-4, 300, Highland, Calif. (Redlands East Valley HS)**

Defensive line prospect Quentin Toailoa (pronounced toe-uh-loa) is one of three native Californians in Nebraska's 2008 signing class. The 6-4, 300-pounder has good speed for his size and is expected to line up on the interior defensive line for the Cornhuskers. Toailoa joined the Huskers after an outstanding prep career at Redlands East Valley High where he helped his team to a 12-1 record in 2007, before a loss in the semifinals of the playoffs. Toailoa racked up better than 90 tackles during his senior season, including three sacks. His performance netted him first-team all-league honors as a defensive tackle. Toailoa also earned all-league honors as a junior, when he compiled 70 tackles and three sacks. Toailoa is regarded as one of the nation's top 50 defensive tackles by both Scout.com and ESPN.com, while SuperPrep Magazine lists him among the top 150 players in the Far West region. Toailoa chose Nebraska over offers from Oregon State, Utah, Arizona and Fresno State among others. Quentin is the son of Tamara and John Ciraulo and Falá and Heather Toailoa. Quentin was born on Aug. 22, 1990.

## Mason Wald

**DB, 5-11, 205, Birmingham, Ala. (Vestavia Hills HS)**

Mason Wald was the final addition to Nebraska's signing class and will bring his reputation as a hard-hitting safety to the Nebraska Blackshirt defense. The 5-11, 205-pound Wald is a fearless hitter who helped Vestavia Hills High in Birmingham to back-to-back appearances in the Alabama 6A state semifinals. He joins prep teammate Justin Rogers in Nebraska's 2008 class, giving the Huskers their first signees from Alabama since 2003. Wald's play in 2007 helped Vestavia Hills and Coach Buddy Anderson to an 11-3 record, including a victory over rival and national powerhouse Hoover High in the state quarterfinals, when Wald had six tackles and two interceptions. On the season, Wald finished with seven interceptions and more than 100 tackles. For his outstanding play in 2007, Wald was a first-team Class 6A all-state pick by the Alabama Sports Writers Association and the Birmingham News named him a member of its Super All-Metro team. Wald also played a key role during his junior season, also helping his team reach the state semifinals. Wald is the son of Michael and Suzanne Wald and was born on Nov. 2, 1989.

## Lester Ward

**RB, 6-3, 215, Brenham, Texas (Brenham HS)**

Lester Ward was one of the final commitments in Nebraska's 2008 signing class, joining the Husker class late last week. Ward is a talented all-around athlete, who has outstanding speed and versatility. The 6-3, 215-pound Ward was slowed by injury during his senior season, but managed to help Coach Glen West's team to an 8-3 record and a district title by rushing for 1,200 yards. Ward was honored for his work as he was a second-team all-district pick. Ward played a key role for the Cubs in 2006, helping Brenham to a 12-2 record and a trip to the third round of the 4A state playoffs. Ward rushed for 972 yards and had about 200 receiving yards in 2006, despite missing four games, to earn him second-team all-district accolades. Ward also saw action for Brenham High as a freshman and sophomore. In addition to his football talents, Ward is a top-flight track athlete. Ward competes in the hurdles and the triple jump for Brenham and has seen success on the state and national levels. Ward was second in the 110 high hurdles at the state track meet as a freshman and sophomore. He also finished second in the high hurdles and fifth in the triple jump at the Junior Olympics before his sophomore year of high school. Ward is also strong in the classroom, as he has earned academic all-district honors in both 2006 and 2007. Ward is listed as the No. 43 prospect on the Houston Chronicle's Greater Houston Top 100, as well as being a member of the newspaper's Texas Top 100. He is also listed among the top 70 players in Texas by SuperPrep Magazine. Ward also visited TCU, Baylor and Missouri before deciding on Nebraska. Ward comes to the Husker program from the same high school as NU defensive back Shawn Sullivan, who redshirted in first season in the program in 2007. Ward is the son of Lester Sr. and Belene Ward and was born on Sept. 11, 1989. Lester Sr. played collegiately at Baylor and professionally for the Dallas Cowboys.

## Alonzo Whaley

**LB/FB, 6-1, 225, Madisonville, Texas (Madisonville HS)**

A talented two-way standout, Alonzo Whaley committed to the Nebraska program in January. The 6-1, 225-pound Whaley is one of nine Texas natives in the 2008 Husker class, and could line up at either linebacker or fullback. Whaley was a standout throughout his career at Madisonville High, but showcased his ability to find the football as a senior. Whaley racked up 162 tackles during the 2007 season, helping Madisonville and Coach Greg Morgan to a 9-2 record. In addition to his huge tackle numbers, Whaley also forced eight fumbles, recovered five and scored on an interception return. Whaley's play earned him Defensive MVP honors in his district, along with first-team Class 3A all-state honors from the Texas Sportswriters Association. Whaley also earned first-team all-state honors in 2006, helping his team to a 7-4 record, while making 172 tackles. Whaley is ranked among the top 100 players in the state of Texas by Rivals.com and among the top 100 players in the Southwest region by SuperPrep Magazine. He also ranked among the nation's top 50 weakside linebackers by Scout.com. Whaley visited Oklahoma State and Louisiana Tech and drew strong recruiting interest from Baylor, Missouri, Texas A&M and Arizona State. Whaley is the son of Annie Whaley, and was born on Jan. 4, 1990.

## David Whitmore

**DB, 6-2, 185, Port Arthur, Texas (Memorial HS)**

Defensive back David Whitmore was the first out-of-state player to commit to join the Huskers' 2008 class, announcing his intentions in April of 2007. He was the first of nine Texans to join Nebraska's class, NU's largest one-year signing group from the Lone Star State. The 6-2, 185-pound Whitmore starred as a cornerback for Coach Ronnie Thompson at Memorial High School in Port Arthur, Texas. As a senior, opposing teams often avoided Whitmore's side of the field, but he made enough plays in the secondary to earn honorable-mention all-district honors in the Class 5A ranks. Whitmore had a breakout season as a junior, making 90 tackles, intercepting two passes and breaking up 13 more, helping Memorial High to a 6-5 record and a tie for first place in the district. Whitmore was named to the Austin-American Statesman's Fabulous 55 in Texas, and is highly regarded by recruiting services. He is

ranked among the top 50 prospects overall in the state of Texas according to Rivals.com and among the top 70 players in the Southwest region by SuperPrep Magazine. He is also a consensus choice as one of the nation's top 25 cornerback prospects. Whitmore also received offers from Kansas State, Oklahoma State and Missouri. He is the son of David Whitmore Sr. and Pansy Whitmore, and was born on Nov. 13, 1989. His father played in the NFL as a defensive back for six seasons from 1990 to 1995. David Sr. played for the Giants, 49ers, Chiefs and Eagles during his career and was a member of New York's 1990 Super Bowl champion team.

## Josh Williams

**DE, 6-4, 225, Denton, Texas (Ryan HS)**

Josh Williams is one of three players in the Huskers' 2008 class expected to begin their career at Nebraska on the defensive front. Williams is part of the Huskers' large recruiting harvest from Texas, as nine players from the Lone Star State are included in the class. The 6-4, 225-pound Williams has had standout seasons for Coach Joey Florence at Denton's Ryan High School each of the past two years. During his senior season, Williams made 75 tackles, including 25 tackles for loss and 12 sacks, helping Ryan High School to a 6-5 record. His play earned him first-team all-district honors in the Class 4A ranks. Williams also earned first-team all-district honors as a junior in 2006. Williams made 68 tackles, including 22 tackles for loss, and logged six sacks and six pass breakups during his junior campaign. Williams is regarded as one of the top 20 defensive ends in the country by ESPN.com, Rivals.com and Scout.com. Williams is listed as the No. 19 prospect by the Dallas Morning News on its Area 100, while Rivals.com lists him among the top 50 players in Texas and SuperPrep Magazine ranks him among the top 60 players in the Southwest region. Williams also visited Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky and Missouri, and received offers from Texas and Texas A&M, among others before choosing Nebraska. Williams was born on Sept. 24, 1990, and is the son of Rose Williams.

## Walk-On Student-Athletes

*The following student-athletes have accepted admission to the University of Nebraska and plan to join the Husker football program as walk-ons in the fall.*

## Kenny Anderson

**DE, 6-2, 235, Omaha, Neb. (Millard West HS)**

Kenny Anderson joins the Husker football team after putting up some impressive stats his senior year at Millard West. Playing the defensive end position, the 6-2, 235-pounder recorded 13 sacks and 65 tackles, helping Millard West reach the semi-finals in the state football playoffs. For his efforts on the field, Anderson earned first-team all-state honors from the Lincoln Journal Star and second-team all-state from the Omaha World Herald. Anderson chose to walk-on at Nebraska over offers from Division II Northwest Missouri State and Augustana College (S.D.).

## Damon Bechtold

**TE, 6-4, 215, Omaha, Neb. (Westside HS)**

Damon Bechtold is walking on at Nebraska after helping Omaha Westside to three consecutive playoff appearances, including a trip to the 2006 Class A state title game. Bechtold played on both sides of the ball for Westside, and was an all-district selection for his play at defensive end, where he collected 10 sacks. At Nebraska, Bechtold is expected to play the tight end position. Bechtold was coached at Westside by Marty Kauffman.

## Jase Dean

**FS, 6-0, 180, Bridgeport, Neb. (Bridgeport HS)**

Jase Dean was a standout on the Bridgeport football team coached by Chris Koozer. For his efforts on the field, Dean earned honorable mention all-state honors in Class C-1. Dean was a part of the 2007 Winter Academic All-State team (3.86 GPA) and also participates in track and basketball for Bridgeport. As a junior, Dean claimed gold medals in the 100, 200 and 400-meter dashes at the state track meet.

## Taylor Dixon

**DB, 5-11, 170, Wauneta, Neb. (Wauneta-Palisade HS)**

Taylor Dixon chose to walk on at Nebraska after a stellar career at Wauneta-Palisade High School. The 5-11, 170-pound athlete rushed for better than 1,000 yards three seasons in a row in the eight-man ranks, and also passed for 1,000 yards his senior season. For his efforts on the field, Dixon earned first-team all-state honors in his Class D-1 by the Omaha World-Herald. Dixon is projected to play defensive back at Nebraska.

## Justin Jackson

**DL, 6-3, 255, Roca, Neb. (Norris HS)**

Justin Jackson turned down offers from several Division I-AA or II programs, including South Dakota, UNO and Northwest Missouri State to walk-on at Nebraska. Coached by Jeff Reed at Norris High School, Jackson compiled 84 tackles, 18 tackles for loss and six sacks from his nose guard spot as a senior. After earning all-state honors in Class B for his work on the offensive line, the 6-3, 255-pound lineman is projected to play either defensive tackle or defensive end for the Huskers. Jackson is also a state tournament qualifier in wrestling.

## Jordan Makovicka

**RB, 5-10, 170, Ulysses, Neb. (East Butler HS)**

Jordan Makovicka joins Nebraska with a strong Husker lineage as brothers Jeff and Joel each started at fullback in the mid-1990s while brother, Justin, is a current member of the Husker football team. As a senior Makovicka rushed for 1,912 yards on 339 carries, averaging 191.2 yards per game for East Butler High School. For his efforts, Makovicka earned second-team All-Nebraska honors from the Omaha World-Herald and Class C-2 first-team All-State honors from the Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star.

## Matt Manninger

**LB, 6-1, 225, Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep HS)**

Matt Manninger earned honorable mention Class A all-state honors by both the Lincoln Journal Star and the Omaha World-Herald as a senior. A two-year starter at Omaha Creighton Prep, Manninger started at middle linebacker, leading his team to playoff berths each year of his prep career. The 6-1, 225-pound linebacker led the state of Nebraska with four fumble recoveries. Manninger was getting interest from several Division II schools before choosing to walk-on at Nebraska. He is one of three Junior Jay players planning to walk on at NU, joining Colin and Conor McDermott.

## Mychael McClure

**LB, 6-5, 210, Wisner, Neb. (Wisner-Pilger HS)**

After playing both wide receiver and linebacker in high school, Mychael McClure will likely begin his Nebraska career at linebacker. McClure excelled on the gridiron as he earned Class C-1 first-team all-state honors from both the Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star. McClure also stars on the hardwood as he is a key member of the Gators' undefeated basketball team. McClure will join his brother, Kellen, as a Husker student-athlete. Kellen is a member of the Husker track and field team.

## Colin McDermott

**LB, 6-2, 225, Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep HS)**

Colin McDermott was a three-year starter for Omaha Creighton prep under head coach Tom Jaworski. McDermott anchored a defense that ranked first in team defense in Class A in 2007. The 6-2, 225-pound McDermott had 57 tackles, four sacks and two interceptions as a senior defensive lineman, earning him first-team All-State honors by both the Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha World-Herald. As a junior, McDermott accounted for 71 tackles and three sacks. Colin's brother, Conor, is also walking on at Nebraska.

## Conor McDermott

**DE, 6-2, 230, Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep HS)**

Conor McDermott joins his brother, Colin, as a walk-on in the 2008 Nebraska recruiting class. McDermott was a first-team Super State selection as a linebacker by the Lincoln Journal Star and a second-team All-Nebraska pick by the Omaha World-Herald. From his linebacker spot, McDermott was the second leading tackler for Creighton Prep with 64 on the year, while adding three sacks and two interceptions. The 6-2, 230 pound linebacker helped his team and Coach Tom Jaworski to the quarterfinals of the state playoffs in 2007.

## Sam Meginnis

**LB, 6-2, 210, Lincoln, Neb. (East HS)**

Sam Meginnis earned second-team all-state honors as a linebacker from both the Lincoln Journal Star and the Omaha World-Herald in his senior season. Meginnis had a team-leading 75 tackles in 2007, and also recorded two sacks, two interceptions and two fumble recoveries. While at Lincoln East, Meginnis helped Coach John Gingery turn around a program that finished 1-8 his sophomore year into a state playoff contender each of his final two seasons. Meginnis was receiving interest from several Division II schools before deciding to walk on at Nebraska.

## Josh Molek

**DE, 6-3, 235, Omaha, Neb. (Skutt HS)**

Josh Molek was a standout defensive end for Coach Matt Turman at Omaha Skutt Catholic, helping the SkyHawks win the 2005 Class B state championship. As a senior, Molek made the 2007 All-Omaha Metro team, the all-conference team and was a first-team Class B all-state pick by the Omaha World-Herald. Molek was also honored as part of the 2007 Associated Press All-State team and made honorable-mention all-state according to the Lincoln Journal Star.

## Brent Moravec

**FB/LB, 6-0, 180, Grand Island, Neb. (Central Catholic HS)**

Brent Moravec joins the Nebraska football team after a stellar athletic career at Grand Island Central Catholic where he competed at the state championship level in football, basketball and track and field. Moravec also excelled in the classroom, as he was nominated for the prestigious Wendy's High School Heisman Award. As a senior, Moravec earned honorable-mention Class C-1 all-state honors from the Omaha World-Herald.

## David Pillen

**FB/LB, 5-11, 230, Sugar Land, Texas (Stephen F. Austin HS)**

David Pillen played fullback, defensive end, linebacker and long snapper for Coach Tom Stuart at Stephen F. Austin. The versatile Pillen forced 15 fumbles in his career and made 115 tackles. At fullback, Pillen carried the ball 23 times for 145 yards in his career. The 5-11, 230-pound Pillen is the son of former Husker linebacker Clete Pillen, who played at Nebraska from 1974 to 1976. David's brother, Mark, is a junior on the Husker golf team.

## Zach Ruiz

**QB/ATH, 6-3, 210, Beatrice, Neb. (Beatrice HS)**

Zach Ruiz comes to Nebraska after a solid career at Beatrice High School, where he starred on both sides of the ball. From his quarterback spot, Ruiz threw for 1,683 yards and 16 touchdowns while rushing for another 480 yards and 11 touchdowns. Defensively, he pulled in six interceptions. Ruiz led his team to Class B State playoff semifinal trips in 2006 and 2007. Ruiz earned Class B first-team all-state honors from both the Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star as a senior. Ruiz garnered interest from Duke, Kansas, Missouri and Princeton before deciding to walk on at Nebraska.

## Steve Spratte

**WR, 5-11, 180, Waukesha, Wis. (Waukesha West HS)**

Steve Spratte was one of the top offensive players in Wisconsin in 2007, earning Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-State honors and WIAA All-State Honorable Mention. In 2007, Spratte rushed for 1,816 yards and 22 touchdowns on 267 attempts. Spratte also caught nine passes for 129 yards. The 5-11, 180-pound Spratte finished his high school career with 53 touchdowns. As a 14-year-old freshman, Spratte was pulled up from junior varsity by Coach Steve Rux and led Waukesha West to the WIAA Division 2 state championship, rushing for 145 yards and a touchdown on 32 carries in the championship game. Spratte's father, Todd, played linebacker at Nebraska in 1981. Spratte is ranked by ESPN.com as the 15th best recruit in Wisconsin.

## Graham Stoddard

**LB, 6-2, 215, Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest HS)**

Graham Stoddard earned 2006 All-Conference honors and was a two-time honorable mention all-city pick by the Lincoln Journal Star. Stoddard was a member of the 2005 Silverhawk team, under Coach Mark King, that was the state runner-up in Class A. As a junior, Stoddard made 69 tackles, five sacks and two interceptions from his defensive end position, helping Southwest to a 10-1 record. Stoddard, who also participated in track and field, was nominated for the 2007 Lead America Youth Leadership Conference and was a 2006 Scholar Athlete Award winner.

## Jeremy Wallace

**RB, 6-1, 220, Omaha, Neb. (Bryan HS)**

Jeremy Wallace attended Omaha Bryan High School where he led his team to a state playoff berth his senior year. Starting on both sides of the ball, Wallace ran for 1,171 yards and 17 touchdowns, while collecting 115 tackles, two sacks and one interception from his middle linebacker spot. For his efforts, the 6-1, 220-pounder earned Honorable Mention All-State honors from the Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha World-Herald. Wallace chose to walk on at Nebraska over offers from several Division II programs. He is also a starter for Omaha Bryan's basketball team.