



# #89

### Quick Stats

- ▶ **Position:** Tight End/H Back
- ▶ **Hometown:** Kingsburg, Calif.
- ▶ **High School:** San Joaquin Memorial
- ▶ **Birth Date:** Oct. 30, 1986

### Quick Hitters

#### Favorite food?

- ▶ Sushi.

#### Favorite television show?

- ▶ Sons of Anarchy.

#### Something you can't live without?

- ▶ MarioKart.

#### Favorite professional sports team?

- ▶ The Chicago Bulls.

#### Favorite movie?

- ▶ Green Street Hooligans.

#### Best defender you have ever faced?

- ▶ (Former Husker and current St. Louis Ram) Adam Carriker.

#### If you had one million dollars, what would you buy first?

- ▶ The biggest truck I could find.

#### What sport would you be playing if you weren't playing football?

- ▶ Boxing.

#### Funniest teammate?

- ▶ It's got to be T.J. O'Leary.

#### Best place to eat in Lincoln?

- ▶ I'd have to say my house.

## Getting to Know . . .

# Hunter Teafatiller

By Scott Pulverenti, Nebraska Media Relations

From California dreaming to scholarship athlete at Nebraska, senior tight end Hunter Teafatiller has persevered through many obstacles over the past four years. After arriving on campus four years ago from Kingsburg, Calif., the former walk-on didn't really know what to expect.

"Well surfing was out of the question and sushi was pretty much skeptical at most. I'm skeptical about fresh fish in the Midwest," Teafatiller said. "It's a 360-degree turn from California. It's a completely different world out here."

Ever since his freshman season, when he played mostly on special teams, Teafatiller has been considered one of the hardest working players on the team and one of the most consistent performers on the field. As a sophomore, Teafatiller enjoyed his most successful year statistically, catching five passes for 78 yards, with four of those catches resulting in touchdowns. His sophomore season was capped by a catch that Teafatiller will never forget, when he hauled in the lone touchdown for the Huskers in their loss to Oklahoma in the Big 12 Championship Game.

With a talented group of tight ends on this year's roster, the Husker coaches have utilized Teafatiller's skills at the "H Back" position as well as tight end. So far this season, Teafatiller has caught three passes for 27 yards while also leading the way for the Husker running backs. The hybrid fullback/tight end position is something that Teafatiller is comfortable with and enjoys playing.

"I like what I'm doing right now which is a true 'H Back' kind of thing," Teafatiller said. "Nobody really knows where I'm lining up. I can see how it causes confusion on defenses. When I'm in my own element, nobody knows what I'm running or what position I'm actually in."

When many freshmen walk-ons enter a program, one of their main goals is to earn a scholarship by the time their football career has ended. Teafatiller reached that goal earning a scholarship this season. While Teafatiller was ecstatic that he had earned his scholarship, it also made him work harder on and off the field.

"I knew that either way, if I was a scholarship guy or a walk-on guy, I was going to have a set plan that I was going to have. I knew I was going to fill that role because I knew I could do it," Teafatiller said. "It just emphasized that I was here to do something. It kind of put the nail in the coffin, like 'I did it.' I met my goal."

As a senior who has seen his fair share of ups and downs in his career, Teafatiller looks to himself and his fellow seniors to set a foundation to get the Nebraska program back to national prominence. He takes pride in knowing that he is part of the inaugural class that gets to start that process of building the program for the future under Coach Bo Pelini.

"There is definitely a restoring (of) the tradition here. He's (Bo Pelini) bringing it back to the family atmosphere. It's not a business anymore, it's a family," Teafatiller said. "We have something special here to start something new."

