



BO PELINI

| HEAD COACH | THIRD YEAR | 20-8 RECORD (.714) | BOWL RECORD: 3-0 |

Born: Dec. 13, 1967

Hometown: Youngstown, Ohio

College: Ohio State, 1990

Wife: Mary Pat

Children: Patrick, Kate and Caralyn

"It is about the process." Any Nebraska fan or casual observer of the Cornhusker football program has heard Head Coach Bo Pelini use that phrase to describe his guiding philosophy for his team to be a success.

Exactly what that process is may not be as easy to define. But it is clear that the process Pelini envisions for his program includes working hard and doing the right thing every day to ensure long-term and repeated success.

One other fact is very clear: As the disciplined, no-nonsense head coach enters his third season at Nebraska, Pelini's process is working. The results speak for themselves.

In 2009, Pelini guided Nebraska to a 10-4 record and the Big 12 North Championship. The Huskers posted their first 10-win season in six years and were ranked No. 14 in both final national polls, NU's highest ranking at the end of the season since 2001. Nebraska fell just one point and one second short of its first Big 12 title in a decade, dropping a 13-12 decision to second-ranked Texas in the Big 12 Championship Game. Nebraska capped the year with a dominant 33-0 shutout of Arizona in the Pacific Life Holiday Bowl, giving Pelini a 3-0 bowl record as NU's head coach.

Nebraska's path to the conference title game was not an easy one. After a pair of disappointing October losses, Nebraska stood 4-3 overall and just 1-2 in Big 12 play. However, for a second straight year, Pelini did not waver, using his steady process to get his team back on track as Nebraska played its best football to close the season. The Huskers reeled off five straight wins to end the regular season, including three road victories, and captured the division title by two games.

Pelini became the first coach in the 14-year history of the Big 12 Conference to win at least a share of a division title in each of his first two seasons. Pelini joined Bob Devaney, Tom Osborne and Frank Solich as coaches who have won at least nine games in each of their first two seasons at Nebraska. Pelini's 19 wins over the past two seasons place him second in victories among coaches who were hired at their respective schools in 2008.

The resurgence of the Nebraska program under Pelini has been due in large part to remarkable defensive improvement – Pelini's area of expertise before taking over as head coach. Just two seasons removed from ranking near the bottom of several Big 12 and national defensive categories, the Blackshirts ascended to a position as one of the nation's most dominant defenses in 2009.

Nebraska led the nation in scoring defense last year, allowing just 10.4 points per game, while pitching a pair of shutouts. The 10.4 points per game marked the lowest average allowed by Nebraska since the Blackshirts also led the nation by allowing 9.5 points per game in 1984. The 2009 season also marked the first time NU posted two shutouts since 2003 when Pelini served as defensive coordinator, and the 2009 Huskers held eight of 14 opponents to 10 or fewer points.

The Blackshirts also topped the pass efficiency defense and red zone defense lists and ranked in the top 10 nationally in sacks, rushing defense and total defense. The 272.0 yards per game allowed ranked as the school's best since 1999.



PLAYING EXPERIENCE

1987-90, Ohio State, free safety

COACHING EXPERIENCE

Iowa, 1991, graduate assistant

Cardinal Mooney High School, 1993, quarterbacks

San Francisco 49ers, 1994-96, assistant secondary

New England Patriots, 1997-99, linebackers

Green Bay Packers, 2000-02, linebackers

Nebraska, 2003, defensive coordinator,
interim head coach for Alamo Bowl

Oklahoma, 2004, co-defensive coordinator,
defensive backs

LSU, 2005-07, defensive coordinator

Nebraska, 2008-present, head coach

BOWL COACHING EXPERIENCE

Nebraska**

2003 Alamo Bowl, interim head coach,
def. Michigan St., 17-3

2009 Gator Bowl, head coach,
def. Clemson, 26-21

2009 Holiday Bowl, head coach,
def. Arizona, 33-0

** First head coach in NU history to win first three bowl games

LSU

2005 Peach Bowl, defensive coordinator,
def. Miami, 40-3

2006 Sugar Bowl, defensive coordinator,
def. Notre Dame, 41-14

2007 BCS Championship Game, defensive coordinator,
def. Ohio State, 38-24

Oklahoma

2004 Orange Bowl, co-defensive coordinator,
lost to USC, 55-19

Iowa

1991 Holiday Bowl, graduate assistant,
tied BYU, 13-13

NFL PLAYOFF COACHING EXPERIENCE

Green Bay Packers

2001

NFC Wild Card Game, def. 49ers, 25-15

NFC Divisional Playoffs, lost to Rams, 45-17

2002

NFC Divisional Playoffs, lost to Falcons, 27-7

New England Patriots

1998

AFC Divisional Playoffs, lost to Steelers, 7-6

1999

AFC Wild Card Game, lost to Jaguars, 25-10

San Francisco 49ers

1995

NFC Divisional Playoffs, def. Bears, 44-15

NFC Conference Finals, def. Cowboys, 38-28

Super Bowl XXIX, def. Chargers, 49-26

1996

NFC Divisional Playoffs, lost to Packers, 27-17

1997

NFC Wild Card Game, def. Eagles, 14-0

NFC Divisional Playoffs, lost to Packers, 35-14



The Pelini Family (from left): Kate, Mary Pat, Caralyn, Bo and Patrick.

Under Pelini's guidance, senior defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh was one of the most decorated defensive players in college football history. The first defensive lineman to be a finalist for the Heisman Trophy in 15 seasons, Suh finished fourth in the voting. He was also the first defensive player to be named the Associated Press Player of the Year, and was a unanimous All-American. Suh's hardware included the Outland, Lombardi, Nagurski and Bednarik awards. The award-winning season for Suh came just two seasons after LSU defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey won three major national awards and was an All-American while Pelini served as LSU's defensive coordinator. Suh and Dorsey are the only players in the past 14 seasons to sweep the Nagurski and Bednarik awards.

Pelini guided the Huskers to a 9-4 record in 2008, capped by victories in the Huskers' final four games and six of the season's final seven contests. The late-season surge allowed Nebraska to earn a share of the Big 12 North championship, and the Huskers picked up their ninth win with a 26-21 come-from-behind victory over Clemson in the Konica Minolta Gator Bowl. The win was a fitting conclusion for a team that developed a toughness that was a direct extension of its head coach.

Pelini's nine wins were the most nationally among first-time head coaches in 2008. Nebraska won its final four games of 2008 to carry the longest winning streak into a season since 2000. The 6-1 run to close the year tied for the best by an NU team since 1997, and Nebraska won its final four games for just the second time since 1997. In fact, through two seasons, Pelini's Nebraska teams have a 10-2 record in games played on or after Nov. 1. The only losses are to teams that appeared in the BCS National Championship Game later that season.

The success under Pelini in 2008 was attributed to both sides of the football. The Husker offense continued to rank among the nation's best, finishing in the nation's top 20 in passing offense, scoring offense and total offense.

The biggest gains were made on the defensive side of the ball where Pelini implemented his proven defensive system. Nebraska improved its total defensive average by 126.9 yards per game and finished second in the Big 12 in total defense. The run defense allowed 116.5 yards per game, nearly cutting its average from 2007 in half and finishing in the top 25 nationally in that category. The Blackshirts also posted 35 sacks, nearly tripling the total of the previous season.

The successful first season for Pelini came as a result of his ability to quickly implement his attitude and leadership into the program. Nebraska Athletic Director and Hall of Fame coach Tom Osborne named Pelini the 28th head coach in Nebraska football history on Dec. 2, 2007. Pelini wasted no time instilling a disciplined approach on and off the field, while also embracing the traditions of the Cornhusker football program. Pelini built a coaching staff with close ties to both the Pelini family and the Nebraska football family.

The Nebraska staff includes three former Husker players, and six full-time assistant coaches with previous experience at Nebraska. Seven coaches have worked alongside Pelini, including five members of the 2003 Husker staff. His Youngstown roots are also represented with three Cardinal Mooney High School grads among the Husker coaches.

The Nebraska staff hired by Pelini enters its third season fully intact. Nebraska is one of only nine schools that will enter the 2010 season with the same full-time coaching staff for a third consecutive season.

Pelini immediately showed the discipline to handle multiple tasks following his hiring. While quickly taking charge of all aspects of the Nebraska program, Pelini was also committed to finishing what he had started at LSU. Pelini returned to Baton Rouge in mid-December of 2007 and successfully orchestrated the Tigers' defensive game plan for the BCS National Championship Game against Ohio State. The 38-24 win was keyed by a defense that forced three turnovers and had five sacks.

Following the championship victory, Pelini turned his full focus to Nebraska. His first order of business in Lincoln was to pull together the Huskers' 2008 recruiting class. Pelini successfully organized and led a recruiting charge that allowed Nebraska to sign a talented and balanced recruiting class that February.

Pelini also understands the importance of the storied Nebraska walk-on program, and has integrated it as a key part of the Huskers' recruiting plan. The Cornhusker staff has welcomed nearly 70 walk-ons to the program in the first three seasons, and will continue to make the walk-on program a focus in future years.

Pelini has also reached out to two groups that form the backbone of the tradition-rich Nebraska program—its former players and its passionate fan base.

Former Cornhuskers have rallied behind Pelini's blue-collar approach. In turn the head coach has opened his door to those who helped build the program. Pelini has made a strong effort to connect with former players and those past Cornhuskers have become a fixture in the football offices and at practices.

Pelini has made regular public appearances around the state, reaching out to the nation's most loyal fans. The widespread support for Pelini has been evident at every stop and his simple, humble approach is a perfect fit with Nebraskans. The support for Pelini has been evident since his arrival, beginning with 80,000 fans at the Red-White Spring Game in April of 2008 to loyal followings on the road, at bowl games in Jacksonville and San Diego and the 2009 Big 12 Championship Game in Arlington, Texas.

While devoting time to former players, fans and attracting talented future Huskers, Pelini's No. 1 professional priority has been, and always will be, the current players in his program. Players have responded to his straight-forward message and process: Work hard, do the right thing and success will follow.

That hard work and discipline does not end on the field. Pelini's players have excelled in the classroom as well since he took over the program. Among Nebraska's 23-player 2010 senior class, 22 student-athletes are on track to graduate by May of 2011. Overall, 52 of 57 players in Pelini's first three senior classes are set to earn their degrees by August of 2011. Seven players have earned CoSIDA Academic All-District honors, including 2008 second-team Academic All-Americans Todd Peterson and Tyler Wortman. Pelini has also seen 28 of his players earned first-team academic all-conference honors during the past two years.

The wide-spread success Pelini has enjoyed in his first two seasons in Lincoln should come as no surprise. Prior to being named head coach, Pelini enjoyed five seasons as college football's most successful defensive coordinator. But the success story started much earlier during Pelini's youth. The youngest of eight children, Pelini grew up in the hard-nosed town of Youngstown, Ohio. Pelini's parents instilled the discipline at a young age that has guided Bo to success both in and out of athletics.

Pelini's passion for athletics began in Youngstown. After a standout prep career at Cardinal Mooney High School, Pelini went on to Ohio State. A hard-hitting safety, he was known for his passionate and relentless play. Teammates recognized his leadership and elected Pelini a team captain as a senior.

The tradition of being part of winning programs did not end after Pelini's playing career. His coaching career has featured success at every stop along the way. A Super Bowl ring and a national championship are part of the 42-year-old's impressive resume.

That coaching resume included a one-year stop as defensive coordinator at Nebraska. During the 2003 season, Pelini quickly learned the traditions of Nebraska football and its



VICTORIES IN FIRST TWO SEASONS AS NEBRASKA HEAD COACH

	Overall	Conference
Bob Devaney	19	12
Tom Osborne	18	9
Frank Solich	21	13
Bo Pelini	19	11

passionate fan base. In turn, Husker fans recognized the discipline and passion instilled by Pelini in the Blackshirt defense.

His first stop in Lincoln marked Pelini's first full-time college coaching job. During that 2003 season, Pelini engineered a dominant Blackshirt defense. The energized, relentless unit finished among the Big 12 and nation's best in nearly every defensive category.

Nebraska finished the year ranked first nationally in pass efficiency defense, second in scoring defense and 11th in total defense. The Huskers set a school and Big 12 record with 32 interceptions and tied an NU record with 47 takeaways, helping Nebraska lead the nation in turnover margin.

Pelini began his second tour of duty at Nebraska in 2008 with a victory on his resume. His first tenure in Lincoln was capped by serving as the interim head coach for Nebraska's dominant 17-3 win over Michigan State in the 2003 Alamo Bowl. In the win, the defense held MSU to just 174 total yards and a first-quarter field goal.

More defensive dominance followed in Pelini's next two stops at Oklahoma and LSU. Pelini served as the co-defensive coordinator on Bob Stoops' staff at Oklahoma in 2004, helping the Sooners win a Big 12 title and reach the national championship game against USC. Oklahoma finished the season ranked sixth nationally in rush defense, 11th in scoring defense and 13th in total defense.

In his three seasons as the defensive coordinator at LSU from 2005 to 2007, Pelini's dominant defenses helped the Tigers compile a 34-6 record, including the 2007 BCS national championship and the Southeastern Conference championship. The BCS title game in January of 2008 marked the third time in four years that Pelini was a part of a team that played in a BCS game.

The play of Pelini's defenses was a key part of LSU's success. The Tigers ranked third in the nation in total defense in 2007, surrendering an average of 288.8 yards per game. LSU also ranked in the top 25 nationally in pass efficiency defense (3rd), passing yards



allowed per game (9th), rush defense (14th) and scoring defense (17th). Senior defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey was the nation's most decorated defender in 2007, earning the Outland Trophy, the Lombardi Award and the Bronko Nagurski Trophy, while safety Craig Steltz earned All-America honors.

Pelini's defenses have a history of swarming to the football. LSU forced 36 turnovers in 2007, the third-most takeaways in the country. The Tigers' 2007 defensive success was the standard for Pelini at LSU, as each of his three LSU defenses ranked No. 3 nationally in total defense.

Pelini's 2006 unit surrendered just 242.8 yards per game, the fewest by a Tiger team since 1976. A pair of Tigers earned first-team All-America honors, including Dorsey and safety LaRon Landry, who went on to become the sixth overall pick in the NFL Draft by the Washington Redskins.

In 2005, the Tigers allowed just 266.9 yards per game, and ranked in the top 10 nationally in all four major defensive categories, including third in total defense, scoring defense and pass efficiency defense. Kyle Williams and Claude Wroten were both first-team All-America selections.

Overall, the seven college teams Pelini has been a part of have compiled an impressive 74-18 record, winning at least nine games every season. His defenses have posted nine shutouts and held the opposition to seven points or less 32 times. The 2009 Nebraska defense boasted two of those shutouts, while holding five opponents to three points or fewer.

Before joining the Huskers in 2003, Pelini had nine years of NFL experience, one season at a Division I university, and one year in the high school ranks. Pelini broke into the NFL in 1994 as assistant secondary coach for the San Francisco 49ers. With the 49ers, Pelini coached in the Super Bowl, helping San Francisco to a 49-26 win over San Diego in Super Bowl XXIX. Pelini held that position for three years before moving to the Patriots. He spent three years as New England's linebackers coach under coach Pete Carroll, helping the Patriots to a 27-21 record and two playoff appearances.

After three years with the Patriots, Pelini moved to the Packers, coaching linebackers for three seasons. In three years in Green Bay with head coach Mike Sherman, the Packers posted a 33-15 record and advanced twice to the playoffs. In 2002, the Packer defense ranked fourth in the NFL in pass defense, allowing 188.4 yards per game.

Pelini got his start in coaching in 1991, serving as a graduate assistant coach at Iowa under Hayden Fry. From there he moved into the high school ranks, serving as quarterbacks coach at Cardinal Mooney High School in Youngstown, Ohio in 1993 before taking the leap to the 49ers.

A standout free safety at Ohio State from 1987 to 1990, Pelini earned four letters for the Buckeyes. He was coached by Earle Bruce in 1987 and John Cooper his final three seasons. Pelini helped the Buckeyes to a 15-8 record over his final two seasons as a starter, and he was a three-time selection to the Academic All-Big Ten team. As a senior co-captain Pelini received the "Bo Rein Award," given annually to the Buckeyes' most inspirational player.

After earning his bachelor's degree in business marketing from Ohio State in 1990, Pelini completed his master's degree in sports administration at Ohio University in 1992. Pelini and his wife, Mary Pat, have three children, an 11-year-old son, Patrick, and two daughters, Kate, 9 and Caralyn, 7.



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT BO PELINI

"Hopefully, I am an example of what a player can gain by coming to Nebraska and playing for Coach Pelini and his staff. The coaching staff taught me so much in the short amount of time I was able to work with them. As a recruit you can come in and have four years under your belt with this staff. Just imagine how much better you can become."

-- **Ndamukong Suh, 2009 Heisman Trophy finalist, Lombardi, Outland, Nagurski and Bednarik awards winner and 2010 No. 2 NFL Draft pick**

"Our football program has made significant progress in two years under Bo's leadership. We are confident he has our program moving in the right direction. Bo is very straight-forward and very honest, and this is something players like. Our football team has responded to Bo's leadership and that has been a big part of the team's success."

"It is obvious he has a good understanding of this football program and an understanding of the importance of football to the state of Nebraska."

-- **Tom Osborne, Hall of Fame Football Coach and current Nebraska Athletic Director**

"When you know how Bo thinks, he's very passionate about every part of this program — about the kids doing the right things, about the kids graduating, about accountability, about Nebraska being what Nebraska should be. I think he's got a great plan."

-- **Ohio State Head Coach Jim Tressell**

"Bo is a great person and a great coach. He did a wonderful job for us while he was on our staff and he has obviously been successful at his other stops, as well. He is doing an excellent job for Nebraska."

-- **Oklahoma Head Coach Bob Stoops**

"I spent five years with Bo in the NFL. He's a great football coach. He is a success due to his work ethic, toughness and the great schemes that he brings."

-- **Seattle Seahawks Head Coach Pete Carroll**

"I have watched Bo's career closely, first in the NFL, then as one of the best coordinators in college football and now as the head coach at Nebraska. I think it was evident that he was ready to be the leader of a first-class program like Nebraska."

"Nebraska has one of the best young coaches in the country. Bo will outwork anybody and everybody to get Nebraska back among the elite of college football."

-- **Kirk Herbstreit, ESPN College Football Analyst**

"I'm just grateful I had the opportunity to play for him because he's done tremendous things for me in my career. He has, without a doubt, made me the player I am today. I just enjoy the way he coaches. I just enjoy being around him."

"Coach Pelini is going to set his goals through the roof, and he's not happy if he doesn't achieve them. He is a real intense guy. You're going to work hard, but it's going to pay off in the end."

-- **Glenn Dorsey, 2007 Lombardi Award and Outland Trophy winner under Pelini at LSU**

"He's the ultimate players' coach. He is real close to the players and takes an interest in you as an individual. His determination and drive snowballs down to the players, and I think that is one reason we had so much success under him in 2008."

-- **Zach Potter, Former Nebraska Defensive End**

"He is a great coach. He's like a father figure in that you just have so much respect for him and you don't want to disappoint him. As seniors, we felt he really cared about us and that was in just one short year. Players will do anything for him."

-- **Joe Ganz, Former Record-Setting Nebraska Quarterback**