



Bo Pelini

HEAD COACH | 1ST YEAR | OHIO STATE (1990)



NOTING PELINI

Born: Dec. 13, 1967

Hometown: Youngstown, Ohio

Wife: Mary Pat

Children: Patrick, Kate and Caralyn

High School: Cardinal Mooney, 1986

College: Ohio State, 1990

Playing Experience

1987-90, Ohio State, free safety

Coaching Experience

Nebraska, 2008-present
Head Coach



LSU, 2005-07
defensive coordinator



Oklahoma, 2004
co-defensive coordinator, defensive backs



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



Green Bay Packers, 2000-02
linebackers



New England Patriots, 1997-99
linebackers



San Francisco 49ers, 1994-96
assistant secondary



Cardinal Mooney High School, 1993
quarterbacks



Iowa, 1991
graduate assistant

Tradition. Passion. Discipline.

Those are a few of the trademarks that define Nebraska football. Characteristics that have made Nebraska one of the most storied and decorated programs in college football history.

The words can also be used to describe Bo Pelini—the man in charge of the Cornhusker football program.

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, Pelini was known for his passionate and relentless play. Teammates recognized his leadership and elected him 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 40-year-old Pelini'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 passionate fan base. In turn, Husker fans recognized the discipline and passion instilled by Pelini in the Blackshirt defense.

After four years as the nation's most successful defensive coordinator, Pelini returned to Lincoln last December. Nebraska Athletic Director and former Hall of Fame coach Tom Osborne named Pelini the 28th head coach in Nebraska football history on Dec. 2, 2007.

Since being named head coach, Pelini has instilled a disciplined approach on and off the field, while also embracing the traditions of the Cornhusker football program. Pelini quickly worked to assemble a coaching staff that had 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 grads among the Husker coaches.

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

Following the championship victory, Pelini returned 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 in February.

Pelini also immediately made a commitment to re-establishing the importance of the storied Nebraska walk-on program. The Cornhusker staff received pledges from 30 players who plan to join the Huskers as walk-ons for fall camp.

The new Husker coach immediately 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 warmly welcomed Pelini back to Lincoln. In turn the head coach has opened his door to those that helped build the program. Former Huskers were a fixture at spring practices and Pelini made a strong effort to connect with as many former players as possible.

Pelini has also made a number of 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, no-nonsense approach seems to be a perfect fit with the citizens of the state.

"Bo has a reputation of being very straight-forward, very honest, and that's something that players like. It's something that they appreciate very much. I think the leadership issues are certainly very important. He has a good understanding of this state with the importance of walk-ons, the importance of football to the state."

Tom Osborne, Athletic Director
at Coach Pelini's hiring press conference

The support for the Nebraska program was on full display at the Red-White Spring Game in April. Ticket sales were capped more than a week in advance of the scrimmage and a crowd of more than 80,000 packed Memorial Stadium to catch their first glimpse of the 2008 Huskers.

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

That approach has worked for Pelini at each of his previous stops. He returned to Nebraska after three seasons as the defensive coordinator at LSU. In his time on Les Miles' staff, 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 this past January marked the third time in four years that Pelini has been a part of a team that has played in a BCS game.






The play of Pelini's defenses was a key part of LSU's recent 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 and Lombardi Award, while safety Craig Steltz earned All-America honors.

Pelini's defenses have a history of swarming to the football. That is evident in LSU forcing 36 turnovers in 2007, the third-most takeaways in the country. In fact, it was a fourth-quarter interception return for a touchdown that provided the difference in LSU's SEC title-game win over Tennessee. The Tigers' 2007 defensive success is nothing new. In fact, each of Pelini's three LSU defenses ranked No. 3 nationally in total defense.



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

BOWL GAME EXPERIENCE

As a Player	
	1990 Hall of Fame Bowl, lost to Auburn, 31-14 1990 Liberty Bowl, lost to Air Force, 23-11
As a Coach	
	1991 Holiday Bowl, tied BYU, 13-13
	2003 Alamo Bowl, def. Michigan State, 17-3 (interim head coach)
	2004 Orange Bowl, lost to USC, 55-19
	2005 Peach Bowl, def. Miami, 40-3 2006 Sugar Bowl, def. Notre Dame, 41-14 2007 BCS Championship Game, def. Ohio State, 38-24

Pelini's 2006 unit surrendered just 242.8 yards per game, the fewest by a Tiger team since 1976. The play helped LSU to a No. 3 final national ranking, including a Sugar Bowl win over Notre Dame. LSU led the SEC in six categories and also ranked in the top five nationally in scoring defense, pass defense and pass efficiency defense. A pair of Tiger defenders earned first-team All-America honors in 2006, including safety LaRon Landry and defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey. Landry went on to become the sixth overall pick in the NFL Draft by the Washington Redskins, while Dorsey was again a standout in 2007, winning the Outland Trophy.

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. Defensive tackles Kyle Williams and Claude Wroten were both first-team All-Americans following the season.

Pelini served as the co-defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach 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.

Pelini's first collegiate full-time job came at Nebraska in 2003. As the coordinator of the Huskers' Blackshirt defense for Head Coach Frank Solich, Pelini led an energized unit that 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. Pelini's defense was also one of the most opportunistic in school history. 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 will begin his second tour of duty at Nebraska with a 1-0 career record as a head coach. His 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. NU's performance in that game reflected Pelini's personality as the Huskers controlled the line of scrimmage with the running game and the defense held MSU to just 174 total yards and a first-quarter field goal.

Overall, the five college teams Pelini has been a part of have compiled an impressive 56-10 record, winning at least 10 games every season. His defenses have posted eight shutouts and held the opposition to seven points or less in 26 of 66 games.

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 head coach George Seifert and the San Francisco 49ers. Originally hired as a scouting assistant, Pelini was quickly promoted to defensive backs coach in the spring of 1994. Less than a year after his promotion to defensive backs coach, Pelini was coaching in the Super Bowl, helping the 49ers to a 49-26 win over San Diego in Super Bowl XXIX. Pelini held that position for three years before moving to the Patriots for the 1997 season.

As a member of the Patriots staff, Pelini coached the linebackers under head coach Pete Carroll. Pelini helped the Patriots go 27-21 over a three-year period with the club making the playoffs twice. Pelini's efforts were highlighted with



a Pro Bowl appearance by Chris Slade in 1997, the first Patriot linebacker to be named All-Pro since 1989.

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 is a native of Youngstown, Ohio. He and his wife, Mary Pat, also a Youngstown native, have three children, a nine-year-old son, Patrick, and two daughters, Kate, 7 and Caralyn, 5.

NFL PLAYOFF EXPERIENCE

San Francisco



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

New England



1998
AFC Divisional Playoffs, lost to Steelers, 7-6

1999
AFC Wild Card Game, lost to Jaguars, 25-10

Green Bay



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



» Nebraska Head Coach, 2008



» LSU Defensive Coordinator, 2005-07
2007 National Champions



» Oklahoma Co-Defensive Coordinator, 2004
Big 12 Champions



» Nebraska Defensive Coordinator, 2003
2nd Nationally in Scoring Defense

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT BO PELINI

"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's ready to be a head coach and I am sure he will do 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. I wish him the very best. He will be a great head coach."

-- USC Head Coach Pete Carroll

"I've watched his career closely, both in the NFL and as one of the best coordinators in college football. There is no question he is ready to take the step from high-level coordinator to becoming a leader of a first-class program like Nebraska."

--Kirk Herbstreit,
ESPN College Football Analyst

"I think the great thing is when you hire Bo Pelini, because he has worked with so many great coaches, the untold story is not that we just get Bo Pelini as a head coach. We now have one of the best coaching staffs in the country."

-- Trev Alberts,
Former Husker All-American and CSTV 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. So they're getting 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