

# 2009 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SIGNEES

## ALPHABETICAL LISTING

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School/Junior College
Jason Ankrah	DE	6-4	250	Gaithersburg, Md.	Quince Orchard HS
Nick Ash	OL	6-5	260	Keller, Texas	Keller HS
Antonio Bell*	WR	6-2	180	Daytona Beach, Fla.	Mainland HS
Rex Burkhead	RB	5-11	200	Plano, Texas	Plano HS
Jesse Coffey	OL	6-7	290	Denton, Texas	Guyer HS
Dejon Gomes**	DB	6-0	190	Hayward, Calif.	Logan HS/City College of San Francisco
Andrew Green	DB	6-0	180	San Antonio, Texas	James Madison HS
Cody Green*	QB	6-4	220	Dayton, Texas	Dayton HS
J.T. Kerr	TE	6-4	230	San Diego, Calif.	Scripps Ranch HS
Brandon Kinnie	WR	6-3	215	Kansas City, Mo.	Grandview (Mo.) HS/Fort Scott (Kan.) CC
Eric Martin	LB	6-2	215	Moreno Valley, Calif.	Rancho Verde HS
Taylor Martinez	ATH	6-1	185	Corona, Calif.	Centennial HS
Lazarri Middleton	DB	6-1	190	Long Beach, Calif.	Polytechnic HS
Cole Pensick	DL	6-2	260	Lincoln, Neb.	Lincoln Northeast HS
Brent Qvale	OL	6-7	335	Williston, N.D.	Williston HS
Thaddeus Randle	DL	6-1	255	Galena Park, Texas	North Shore HS
Dontrayevous Robinson	RB	6-1	215	Eules, Texas	Eules Trinity HS
Jeremiah Sirles	OL	6-6	280	Lakewood, Colo.	Bear Creek HS
Dijon Washington	DB	6-0	175	Lawndale, Calif.	Leuzinger HS
Chris Williams	LB	6-0	230	Abilene, Texas	Abilene HS
C.J. Zimmerer	RB	6-0	215	Omaha, Neb.	Omaha Gross HS

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

## CLASS BREAKDOWN:

Total: 21; Freshmen: 19; Junior College Transfers: 2

**By State:** Texas (8): Ash (Keller), Burkhead (Plano), Coffey (Denton), A. Green (San Antonio), C. Green (Dayton), Randle (Galena Park), Robinson (Eules), Williams (Abilene); California (6): Gomes (Hayward), Kerr (San Diego), Martin (Moreno Valley), Martinez (Corona), Middleton (Long Beach), Washington (Lawndale); Nebraska (2): Pensick (Lincoln), Zimmerer (Omaha); Colorado (1): Sirles (Lakewood); Florida (1): Bell (Daytona Beach); Maryland (1): Ankrah (Gaithersburg); Missouri (1): Kinnie (Kansas City); North Dakota (1): Qvale (Williston)

**By Position (First Position Listed):**

**Offense (11):** QB-C. Green; RB-Burkhead, Robinson, Zimmerer; WR-Bell, Kinnie; TE-Kerr; OL-Ash, Coffey, Qvale, Sirles

**Defense (9):** DL-Ankrah, Pensick, Randle; LB-Martin, Williams; DB-Gomes, A. Green, Middleton, Washington

**Athlete (1):** Martinez

## 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
Robert Barry	TE	6-8	220	Battle Creek, Neb.	Battle Creek HS
Brandon Chapek	OL	6-5	320	Wahoo, Neb.	Bishop Neumann HS
Tyson Clark	WR	6-4	185	Lincoln, Neb.	Lincoln East HS
Nick Failla	WR	5-10	180	Omaha, Neb.	Millard North HS
Dwight Jones	OL	6-4	240	Gretna, Neb.	Gretna HS
Ron Kellogg Jr.	QB	6-1	210	Omaha, Neb.	Westside HS
Ty Kildow	WR	5-7	165	Omaha, Neb.	Millard South HS
Adam Kuhl	LS	6-2	255	Maple Valley, Iowa	Maple Valley Community HS
Jake Long	TE	6-4	230	Elkhorn, Neb.	Elkhorn HS
Spencer Long	DE	6-4	250	Elkhorn, Neb.	Elkhorn HS
P.J. Mangieri	LS	6-4	245	Peoria, Ill.	Dunlap HS
Devin Paulsen	LB	6-2	210	Lincoln, Neb.	Lincoln Christian HS
Colby Starkebaum	LB	6-1	215	Sterling, Colo.	Sterling HS
Brett Wells	TE	6-4	200	St. Paul, Neb.	St. Paul HS

## JASON ANKRAH

DE ▶ 6-4 ▶ 250 ▶ GAITHERSBURG, MD. (QUINCE ORCHARD HS)

Defensive end Jason Ankrah is one of the top prospects on the East Coast and one of the nation's top defensive end recruits. Ankrah comes to Nebraska from Quince Orchard High School in Gaithersburg, Md., where he starred for Coach Dave Mencarini. Ankrah is just the second Husker signee from Maryland since 1990, joining senior defensive lineman David Harvey (La Plata) who signed with Nebraska in 2005. The 6-4, 250-pound Ankrah was a disruptive force from his defensive end position. He totaled 55 tackles as a senior, including 42 unassisted stops, 14 tackles for loss, seven sacks and 19 quarterback hurries. His play helped Quince Orchard to a 10-2 record in 2008 and a trip to the Maryland 4A West Regional Final. Ankrah was a first-team all-state pick, was an All-Met selection by the Washington Post and was also named to the All-Gazette (Gaithersburg) first team. Ankrah played in the first annual Maryland Crab Bowl, pitting the top players in Maryland against D.C. area standouts. He finished the contest with 1.5 tackles for loss. Ankrah also posted impressive numbers as a junior with more than 50 tackles and five sacks. His play was a significant factor in Quince Orchard's perfect 14-0 record and class 4A state championship, and he earned first-team All-Sentinel as an offensive lineman. Ankrah is listed among the top 10 defensive end prospects in the country by Rivals.com and among the top five recruits in Maryland by that service. He is also listed among the top 250 overall prospects in the country by Rivals. Ankrah is from the same high school as Nebraska assistant coach John Papuchis. He also visited Michigan and Maryland, and also considered Virginia Tech and Clemson. Ankrah is the son of Kofi and Nanu Ankrah and was born on Feb. 26, 1991.

## NICK ASH

OL ▶ 6-5 ▶ 260 ▶ KELLER, TEXAS (KELLER HS)

Nick Ash is a key part of an impressive group of offensive linemen in the 2009 Nebraska recruiting class. Ash is one of four players in the class who are expected to begin their Husker careers on the offensive line. The Keller, Texas, native is also one of eight players in the class from the Lone Star State. Ash was a first-team all-district pick for Coach Kevin Atkinson and Class 5A Keller High School in 2008, while also earning second-team all-area honors from the Dallas Morning News. He helped his team to a 7-3 record in 2008, and the Indians narrowly missed out on a state playoff appearance and improved by three wins over the 2007 season. Ash helped a Keller offense that averaged nearly 30 points per game and he allowed just one sack on the season. Ash played tackle during his senior season, switching from offensive guard as a junior, when he was an honorable-mention all-district pick. Ash is ranked among the top 100 overall players in the state of Texas by both Rivals.com and SuperPrep Magazine and is listed among the top 30 offensive guards in the country by Rivals.com. Ash is also ranked among the top 40 Dallas area prospects by the Dallas Morning News, and among the top 100 recruits in the state by that newspaper. In addition to his on-field accolades, Ash was also an honorable-mention academic all-state pick by the Texas High School Coaches Association. He selected Nebraska over Kansas, Purdue, Texas Tech, Arizona, Vanderbilt and TCU to name a few, but only visited Nebraska. Ash is the son of Kent and LeAnn Ash, and was born on Oct. 29, 1990.

## ANTONIO BELL

WR ▶ 6-2 ▶ 180 ▶ DAYTONA BEACH, FLA. (MAINLAND HS)

Antonio Bell joined the Husker program in January after originally signing with Nebraska in February of 2008. Bell was one of three players to join the program at semester, along with defensive back Dejon Gomes and quarterback Cody Green. Bell had a highly productive prep career at Mainland High School in Daytona Beach, Fla. The 6-2, 180-pound Bell was an explosive offensive threat for Mainland High and Coach John Maronto. A four-year starter, Bell caught 45 passes for 776 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior in 2007. 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 competed in the high jump and triple jump for the Mainland track team. He was ranked among the top 60 players in the Sunshine State by SuperPrep Magazine in 2008. 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.

## REX BURKHEAD

RB ▶ 5-11 ▶ 200 ▶ PLANO, TEXAS (PLANO HS)

Rex Burkhead is one of two talented running back prospects from the state of Texas in Nebraska's 2009 recruiting class. Burkhead was a standout performer for Plano High School and Coach Jaydon McCullough. Burkhead is one of eight players from Texas in the recruiting class, including fellow running back recruit Dontrayevous Robinson of Eules Trinity High School. Burkhead helped Plano to a 10-2 record and the second round of the Class 5A state playoffs in 2008. The 5-11, 200-pound speedster rushed for 1,762 yards and 28 touchdowns, while averaging nearly seven yards per carry. He also caught 42 passes for 594 yards and five touchdowns out of the backfield and was a threat as a kickoff and punt returner. Burkhead was honored for his efforts as a senior, being named a first-team Class 5A all-state selection by the Associated Press. He was also named the Dallas Morning News' All-Area Offensive Player of the Year. Recent winners of that award have included Graham Harrell, Chase Daniel and Matthew Stafford. The Morning News listed him among the top 25 prospects in the Dallas Metroplex and as one of the top 30 recruits in the state. He was also named to the Austin American Statesman's Fab 55 List of the top players in Texas. Burkhead's performance as a senior was the culmination of an outstanding high school career. During his junior season, Burkhead rushed for 1,768 yards and 29 touchdowns and caught 47 passes out of the backfield. His play helped Plano to a 13-2 record and a trip to the 5A state semifinals. Burkhead was an honorable-mention 5A all-state selection for his efforts as a junior. Burkhead burst onto the scene as a sophomore when he ran for more than 1,000 yards and eight touchdowns and also passed for more than 600 yards. For his efforts, Burkhead was named the 2006 District 9-5A Offensive Newcomer of the Year. Burkhead is ranked among the top 250 overall prospects in the country by Rivals.com and is listed among that service's top 10 all-purpose backs. He is also regarded as one of the top 40 prospects in Texas by Rivals.com and SuperPrep Magazine. Burkhead was also a basketball standout for Plano High School, earning first-team all-district honors as a junior and senior. He averaged 15.1 points, 5.2 rebounds and 2.6 assists as a senior and was part of a Class 5A state title in 2006. Burkhead chose Nebraska after also visiting Texas A&M, and receiving offers from dozens of other BCS schools. Burkhead was born on July 2, 1990, and is the son of Rick and Robyn Burkhead.

## JESSE COFFEY

OL ▶ 6-7 ▶ 290 ▶ DENTON, TEXAS (GUYER HS)

Texas native Jesse Coffey helps form an imposing group of offensive line prospects in Nebraska's 2009 recruiting class. Coffey is one of four offensive linemen in the class, all of whom stand at least 6-5 and weigh at least 260 pounds. Coffey is also one of eight recruits to join the Nebraska program from the state of Texas. Coffey earned honorable-mention Associated Press Class 4A all-state honors for Coach John Walsh at Denton's Guyer High School and was a first-team all-area selection by the Dallas Morning News. He was a key part of Guyer's 12-3 record and 4A state semifinal appearance in just the school's third year of varsity football. A three-year starter, Coffey graded out above 90 percent during the 2008 season and recorded more than 50 pancake blocks. Coffey's play helped Guyer make a dramatic turnaround from the 2007 season when it won just one game. Despite the lack of team success, Coffey was noticed by schools around the country, and chose Nebraska over numerous offers including Kansas and Texas A&M. Coffey only visited Nebraska and committed to the Huskers after attending camp in Lincoln last summer. Coffey was listed No. 35 on the Dallas Morning News' list of top players in the area. He is ranked as one of the top 60 offensive tackle prospects in the nation by both Rivals.com and Scout.com. He is also listed among the top 100 overall prospects in the Lone Star State by SuperPrep. He is also a standout in the classroom, carrying a 5.0 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale, and Coffey is tied for first in his class. Coffey is the son of Allen and Amy Coffey and was born on Oct. 6, 1990.

## DEJON GOMES

DB ▶ 6-0 ▶ 190 ▶ HAYWARD, CALIF.

(LOGAN HS/CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO)

Defensive back Dejon Gomes was one of three players in the 2009 recruiting class who joined the Huskers at the start of the second semester. He is also one of two players to join the Nebraska program from the junior college ranks. Gomes will have three years to complete two seasons of eligibility at Nebraska. Gomes comes to Nebraska after two impressive seasons at the City College of San Francisco, the same school that produced Husker quarterback Zac Lee and former NU receiver Maurice Purify. Gomes recorded 39 tackles during the 2008 season, helping Coach George Rush's team to a 7-4 record and a trip to the Hawaiian Punch Bowl. The 6-0, 190-pound Gomes also had four interceptions, 14 pass breakups and five tackles for loss. For his play, Gomes earned all-conference honors in 2008. His strong performance last fall came on the heels of an outstanding freshman season. Gomes recorded 34 tackles, four interceptions, seven breakups and four tackles for loss during the 2007 campaign, helping the Rams to a national championship. Gomes is ranked among the top 40 overall junior college prospects in the country by SuperPrep. Gomes starred as a prep at Logan High School in Union City, Calif. He primarily played running back in high school and rushed for about 1,000 yards and 24 touchdowns as a senior, before switching to defense for college. Gomes chose Nebraska after also visiting Houston. He was born on Nov. 17, 1989, and is the son of Norman and Deon Goolsby.

## ANDREW GREEN

DB ▶ 6-0 ▶ 180 ▶ SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS (JAMES MADISON HS)

Andrew Green is one of eight native Texans in Nebraska's 2009 signing class. The San Antonio product is also a key part of a strong group of secondary recruits who are set to join the Nebraska program. Green starred at James Madison High School, where he helped Coach Jim Streety's team to a 9-3 record and a trip to the second round of the Class 5A state playoffs. Green amassed 56 tackles, while adding 10 pass breakups and a fumble recovery and earned second-team all-area honors from the San Antonio Express-News. Green also returned kicks for Madison and was a first-team all-district pick for his efforts on special teams. Green also dominated in the secondary as a junior, when he picked off five passes and recorded eight pass breakups, while also making 70 tackles. Green also rushed for nearly 700 yards and six touchdowns as a junior and was a second-team all-district pick. His play during his junior season helped Madison to the Class 5A state semifinals. Rivals.com listed Green among the top 45 cornerback prospects and among the nation's most physical prospects at the position. He is listed among the top 75 overall in the state of Texas by Rivals, SuperPrep and the Dallas Morning News. Green chose Nebraska over Big 12 rivals Oklahoma, Missouri, Oklahoma State, Colorado, Baylor and Iowa State. He is the son of Tony and Charlar Green and was born on Aug. 21, 1991. Green's father, Tony, played collegiately at Baylor from 1975 to 1978. His uncle, Gary, also played for the Bears and went on to play nine seasons in the NFL as a cornerback, including four seasons as a Pro Bowler.

## CODY GREEN

QB ▶ 6-4 ▶ 220 ▶ DAYTON, TEXAS (DAYTON HS)

Cody Green is one of the most heralded recruits in the 2009 Nebraska signing class. The Dayton, Texas, native is one of eight signees from the Lone Star State in the Huskers' class and is regarded as one of the nation's top quarterback recruits. Green is already on campus, as he joined the Huskers for the second semester. The 6-4, 220-pound Green is coming off an outstanding senior season where he led Dayton High and Coach Jerry Stewart to a 13-2 record and a Class 4A state runner-up finish. A true dual threat as a signal caller, Green amassed nearly 5,000 yards of total offense. Green threw for 3,265 yards and 37 touchdowns, while rushing for 1,610 yards and 25 touchdowns. In leading the Broncos to the state title game, Green produced more than 1,000 yards passing and nearly 800 rushing yards in six playoff games. In the 4A state title game, Green passed for 329 yards and six touchdowns, while rushing for 94 yards. Green topped 200 yards passing nine times as a senior, including a pair of 300-yard games. On the ground, he rushed for more than 100 yards eight times, including 270 yards against Brenham in the state playoffs. For his efforts, Green was named first-team all-area by the Houston Chronicle as a utility player and was also an honorable-mention Class 4A all-state selection by the Associated Press. Green was slowed by an ankle injury during his junior season that allowed him to play in only a few games. He first showed his talents for Dayton High as a sophomore, when he rushed for 689 yards and passed for 1,429 yards and 19 touchdowns, while completing better than 61 percent of his passes. Green was listed as the No. 12 player on the Austin American-Statesman's Fab 55 list and is ranked among the top 25 players in the Lone Star State by the Dallas Morning News, Rivals.com and SuperPrep. Rivals.com ranks Green as the nation's No. 6 dual-threat

quarterback, while Scout.com ranks him as the seventh-best quarterback prospect nationally. Green received numerous offers from around the country, but only visited Nebraska and committed to the Huskers last July. He is the son of Chandra Green and was born on June 2, 1991.

## J.T. KERR

TE ▶ 6-4 ▶ 230 ▶ SAN DIEGO, CALIF. (SCRIPPS RANCH HS)

Tight end J.T. Kerr is part of a strong contingent of Californians in Nebraska's 2009 recruiting class. A San Diego native, Kerr is one of six Californians to sign with the Huskers. Kerr was limited as a senior because of an injury, but was still a factor in the passing game for Scripps Ranch High and Coach Sergio Diaz. The 6-4, 230-pound Kerr caught 21 passes for 294 yards and three touchdowns, while controlling the line of scrimmage as a blocker. His play helped Scripps Ranch to an 8-4 record and a trip to the second round of the state playoffs. Kerr spent his junior season at Fallbrook High School, where he caught 12 passes for 146 yards and a touchdown. Despite changing schools, Kerr drew the attention of recruiting analysts around the country. He is ranked among the top 40 tight ends in the country by both Rivals.com and Scout.com and is listed among the top 75 players in California by Rivals.com and among the top 100 players in the state by SuperPrep. Kerr was also named to the San Diego Union-Tribune's all-academic team. He chose Nebraska over Arizona and San Diego State. He was born on Dec. 17, 1990, and is the son of John Kerr.

## BRANDON KINNIE

WR ▶ 6-3 ▶ 215 ▶ KANSAS CITY, MO.

(GRANDVIEW (MO.) HS/FORT SCOTT (KAN.) CC)

Brandon Kinnie joins the Nebraska program after two seasons at Fort Scott Community College in Kansas. The 6-3, 215-pounder will add a big, physical player to the Nebraska receiving corps. Kinnie is one of two players to join the Huskers from the junior college ranks along with defensive back Dejon Gomes. Kinnie will have three seasons of eligibility at Nebraska. Kinnie is coming off an impressive 2008 season, when he earned first-team All-Jayhawk League honors. Kinnie caught 62 passes for 845 yards and 10 touchdowns, and also returned two kickoffs for 79 yards for Coach Jeff Sims. His play helped Fort Scott to a 9-2 record and No. 6 final national ranking. Fort Scott capped its season with a 30-14 victory over Blinn (Texas) College in the Heart of Texas Bowl. Kinnie caught a touchdown pass and blocked a punt in the game and was chosen as the bowl's Most Valuable Player. Kinnie also attended Fort Scott in 2007, but sat out the season as a redshirt. He also played for the Fort Scott basketball team each of the past two seasons. He primarily focused on football this past season, but did average 11.9 points and 5.6 rebounds in nine games on the hardwood. Kinnie is ranked among the top 75 overall junior college prospects in the country by both SuperPrep and Rivals.com. He played his prep football at Grandview (Mo.) High School in the Kansas City area. He earned all-state honors at Grandview, where he was also a basketball standout. Kinnie originally committed to Kansas State out of high school. Kinnie chose Nebraska over Kansas and Arkansas. He was born on Dec. 27, 1988, and is the son of Yulondia Sherae Kinnie.

## ERIC MARTIN

LB ▶ 6-2 ▶ 215 ▶ MORENO VALLEY, CALIF. (RANCHO VERDE HS)

Eric Martin is part of an impressive crop of players from California in Nebraska's 2009 class of recruits. A talented linebacker prospect, Martin is one of six natives of the Golden State who signed to play for the Huskers. The 6-2, 215-pound Martin played linebacker on a dominant defensive unit at Rancho Verde High School. The Mustangs' defense allowed just eight points per game, including four shutouts during a perfect 10-0 regular season, before Coach Pete Duffy's squad was defeated in the first round of the CIF playoffs. Martin led the team in tackles with more than 130 and also recorded eight sacks on the season. Martin was honored for his dominant play as a senior, being chosen as a first-team California all-state pick. He was also the Inland Valley League Defensive MVP and was named to the Inland Empire all-defensive team. Martin also produced big numbers during his junior season when he totaled about 100 tackles, helping Rancho Verde to a 9-3 record, the Inland Valley League title and a trip to the state quarterfinals. Martin also played a key role as a sophomore in 2006, again helping the Mustangs to a league title and another state quarterfinal appearance. Martin made an impression on college coaches after his sophomore season when he was voted the top underclass linebacker at the Southern California Nike Camp. Martin is ranked as one of the top 30 inside linebackers in the nation and among the top 40 players in California by Rivals.com. He was also listed among the top 70 players in the Far West region by SuperPrep. Martin chose Nebraska after making visits to Arizona and Arizona State. His parents are Kenneth and Alisa Johnson and Martin was born on July 21, 1991.

## TAYLOR MARTINEZ

**ATH ▶ 6-1 ▶ 185 ▶ CORONA, CALIF. (CENTENNIAL HS)**

Taylor Martinez is a talented all-around athlete who has the ability to play on either side of the ball at Nebraska. One of six Californians in Nebraska's 2009 recruiting class, Martinez compiled huge numbers as a quarterback as a senior. The 6-1, 185-pounder also has shown outstanding ability on defense and could be a factor in the secondary. Martinez was a dual threat quarterback for Coach Matt Logan at Corona's Centennial High School as a senior. Martinez passed for better than 3,000 yards and 28 touchdowns, and completed 61 percent of his passes. On the ground, Martinez added 750 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns. His play helped Centennial to a perfect 15-0 season and a state championship, capped by a victory over De La Salle High, when Martinez threw for 243 yards. Centennial finished No. 2 nationally in the USA Today's final prep rankings. Martinez was named the Big VIII League's Most Valuable Player and also earned the Los Angeles Times' Glen Davis Player-of-the-Year Award. A first-team all-state selection, Martinez was also the Inland Division Offensive Player of the Year, was named the Max Preps California Player of the Year and the Golden States Prep Southern California Offensive Player of the Year. Martinez spent only one season at Centennial High School. As a junior, he quarterbacked San Bernadino Cajon High and accounted for about 1,500 yards of total offense. He spent his freshman and sophomore years at Norco High, where he primarily played in the secondary. Martinez is ranked among the top "athlete" prospects in the nation by Rivals.com, while Scout.com lists him among the top 50 quarterbacks. He is listed among the top 50 players in California by both Rivals.com and SuperPrep and Scout.com ranked him as the No. 1 dual-threat quarterback on the West Coast. Martinez committed to NU last August and only visited the Huskers. He is the son of Casey Martinez and Epifania Martinez and was born on Sept. 15, 1990.

## LAZARRI MIDDLETON

**DB ▶ 6-1 ▶ 190 ▶ LONG BEACH, CALIF. (POLYTECHNIC HS)**

Lazarri Middleton is one of six Californians in the 2009 Nebraska recruiting class and part of a standout group of defensive backs to sign with the Huskers. Middleton is one of at least four players who are expected to begin their Nebraska careers in the secondary. He comes to Nebraska after compiling impressive statistics for high school powerhouse Long Beach Poly. Middleton played for a Poly team that finished the season 14-1, losing only to Sacramento Grant in the state's Open Division title game. Poly, coached by Raul Lara, finished the season ranked 10th nationally in the final USA Today High School football poll. Middleton starred at cornerback for the Jackrabbits, compiling 68 tackles, including 52 solo stops, and two interceptions. His play helped a defense that allowed 10 or fewer points nine times in 15 games. Middleton is regarded as one of the top 60 cornerbacks in the nation by both Rivals.com and Scout.com and is listed among the top 100 overall prospects in California by Rivals.com, while SuperPrep lists him among its Far West Top 150. Middleton chose Nebraska over SMU and Kansas State. He was born on June 21, 1991, and is the son of Lazarri Sr. and Tanisha Middleton.

## COLE PENSICK

**DL ▶ 6-2 ▶ 260 ▶ LINCOLN, NEB. (LINCOLN NORTHEAST HS)**

Cole Pensick is a second-generation Cornhusker and one of two in-state products in Nebraska's 2009 signing class. Cole is the son of Dan Pensick, who lettered for Nebraska as a defensive tackle from 1977 to 1979. He joins Omaha Gross product C.J. Zimmerer as the in-state products in this year's recruiting class. Pensick was the first player to commit to the 2009 class, pledging his intention more than a year ago. Pensick joins the Husker program after a standout prep career for Coach Dave Svehla at Lincoln Northeast High School. Pensick was a three-year starter for the Rockets and dominated the line of scrimmage on both offense and defense. As a senior, he played primarily on offense, but still managed to record nearly 40 tackles and lead his team in tackles for loss. He also averaged about 10 pancakes per game while lining up as the starting right guard on offense. Pensick was honored for his defensive play as a senior, as he was a first-team Super State pick by the Lincoln Journal Star and a first-team Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska selection. Pensick was a first-team All-Nebraska and second-team Super State selection during his junior season when he had 39 tackles, including seven tackles for loss, three sacks and a pair of fumble recoveries. His play helped Northeast to a state playoff berth in 2007. Pensick established himself as a player to watch during his sophomore season when he was a second-team All-Nebraska performer. Pensick is regarded as one of the top five prospects in the state by Rivals.com who lists him among the top 80 defensive linemen in the country. Scout.com projects Pensick on the offensive side of the ball, listing him among the top 10 centers in the country. Pensick also excels in wrestling and track for the Rockets. He finished fifth in Class A at 285 pounds in 2008. In track, Pensick captured the Class A shot put title as a junior with a throw of 57-10 1/4. Cole is the son of Dan and Bev Pensick and was born on Oct. 10, 1990.

## BRENT QVALE

**OL ▶ 6-7 ▶ 335 ▶ WILLISTON, N.D. (WILLISTON HS)**

Brent Qvale (pronounced kwal-lee) is part of an imposing group of offensive line recruits in Nebraska's 2009 signing class. The largest member of NU's signing class, the 6-7, 335-pounder is one of four players expected to begin their careers at Nebraska on the offensive line. All of the offensive line recruits stand at least 6-5 and weigh 260 pounds or more. Qvale comes to Nebraska from Williston, N.D., and is the Huskers' first signee from the high school ranks from North Dakota since Darin Duin (Fargo) signed with the Huskers in 1988. He is the first scholarship football player from North Dakota since Darin Erstad joined the squad as a punter from the NU baseball team in 1994. Qvale has been a multi-sport standout at Williston High School throughout his prep career. As a senior, he helped Williston and Coach Todd Matthews to a 7-4 record and a trip to the second round of the state playoffs. Qvale dominated on the offensive line and was named the Gatorade North Dakota Player of the Year and was first-team all-state as an offensive tackle. The all-state honors marked the third straight year Qvale has picked up first-team all-state recognition as an offensive lineman. Qvale is ranked among the top 100 offensive tackles in the country by Rivals.com. The athletic honors do not end on the gridiron. Qvale was a first-team all-state pick in basketball as a junior when he averaged about 17 points, and he averaged about 21.3 points and 11.9 rebounds and hit 62 percent of his field goals as a senior for a Coyote team that qualified for state. He was recently named the Western Dakota Association Athlete of the Year. He also captured the state shot put title as both a sophomore and a junior. His personal best mark last year was 57-5. Qvale only visited Nebraska, but chose the Huskers over offers from numerous schools, including Wisconsin and Iowa. Qvale also carries a perfect 4.0 grade-point average in the classroom. Qvale was born on March 11, 1991, and is the son of Sanford and Carol Qvale.

## THADDEUS RANDLE

**DL ▶ 6-1 ▶ 255 ▶ GALENA PARK, TEXAS (GALENA PARK NORTH SHORE HS)**

Thaddeus Randle is part of a strong group of signees from the state of Texas in Nebraska's 2009 signing class. A native of Galena Park, Randle is one of eight players from the Lone Star State set to join the Nebraska program. Randle was one of the first players to join Nebraska's class, committing to the Huskers last May. The 6-1, 255-pound Randle excelled as a defensive tackle for North Shore High School. As a senior, Randle made 70 total tackles, including 17 tackles for loss and 11.5 sacks. He also had 11 quarterback hurries, forced three fumbles, recovered two others and had four pass breakups for Coach Steve Aymond's team. Randle's play helped the Mustangs to a perfect 8-0 regular season, before a second-round loss to state runner-up FB Hightower in the Class 5A playoffs. The success was nothing new for North Shore as the school has now won 78 straight regular-season contests. Randle's play earned him numerous post-season honors. He was a first-team Class 5A all-state selection by the Associated Press and was named to the Houston Chronicle's Greater Houston first-team squad. Randle has been a three-year standout for the Mustangs. As a junior, he earned second-team all-district honors for a 14-1 team that reached the state semifinals. Randle also earned second-team all-district honors when he cracked the starting lineup as a sophomore. Randle is ranked as one of the top 100 prospects in Texas by Rivals.com and SuperPrep, and is listed as one of the top 60 defensive tackles in the country by Rivals and Scout.com. Randle took his only visit to Nebraska. He is the son of Thaddeus Randle Sr. and Julia Long and was born on Oct. 20, 1990.

## DONTRAYEVIOUS ROBINSON

**RB ▶ 6-1 ▶ 215 ▶ EULESS, TEXAS (EULESS TRINITY HS)**

Dontrayevious Robinson is part of an outstanding crop of players signed from the state of Texas. He is one of eight players who will join the Cornhusker program from the Lone Star State, and also one of two prolific running backs from Texas in the 2009 class, along with Rex Burkhead from Plano High. Robinson split time between tailback and fullback as a senior for a 13-1 Euless Trinity team that was ranked No. 1 in the nation for part of the year, before being knocked out in the quarterfinals of the Class 5A playoffs. Robinson finished with 614 rushing yards on 112 carries, while adding 11 rushing touchdowns for Coach Steve Lineweaver. Robinson also caught 10 passes. Robinson also starred for the Trojans as both a sophomore and junior. As a junior, Robinson rushed for 885 yards and 17 touchdowns and averaged better than 14 yards on 16 receptions. His efforts helped the Trojans to their second Class 5A state title in three seasons. Robinson first made an impact for Trinity as a sophomore in 2006, when he ran for 448 yards and 12 touchdowns. Robinson was listed among the top 25 prospects in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area by the Dallas Morning News and is ranked among the top 70 running backs in the country by Rivals.com and Scout.com. He is also listed among the top 60 players in Texas by SuperPrep magazine. Robinson committed to the Huskers last summer, and only visited Nebraska, but had offers from Utah, New Mexico and Southern Miss to name a few. Robinson is the son of Linda Robinson and was born on Nov. 8, 1990.

## JEREMIAH SIRLES

**OL ▶ 6-6 ▶ 280 ▶ LAKEWOOD, COLO. (BEAR CREEK HS)**

Jeremiah Sirles is part of a talented group of offensive line recruits in Nebraska's 2009 class of signees. The 6-6, 280-pound Sirles is one of four players expected to begin their Cornhusker careers on the offensive line, with the quartet all standing at least 6-5 and weighing 260 pounds or more. Sirles has been a standout on the offensive line for Bear Creek High School and Coach Tom Thenell each of the past three seasons. Behind Sirles' play, Bear Creek finished 2008 with an 8-3 record, before a loss in the second round of the Class 5A state playoffs. Sirles' impressive blocking helped Bears' quarterback Zach Thenell lead the state in passing, while the offense also produced 215 yards per game on the ground. For his efforts as a senior, Sirles was named to the Rocky Mountain News' All-Colorado squad for the second straight year. Sirles was named first-team all-Colorado and all-conference as a junior, when he helped his team reach the state quarterfinals. As a sophomore, Sirles helped Bear Creek to the state quarterfinals and earned first-team all-South Metro League honors and second-team all-state accolades. Sirles is ranked among the top 45 offensive tackle prospects in the country by Rivals.com and Scout.com. Rivals ranks him as one of the top 10 players in the state of Colorado and Sirles is ranked among the top 30 prospects in the Midlands Region by SuperPrep magazine. Sirles also excels in basketball and track for Bear Creek, helping his team to the state basketball tournament as a senior. Sirles received numerous offers from schools around the country and also visited Arizona State and Oregon before deciding on the Huskers. Sirles was born on Aug. 8, 1991, and is the son of Phil and Nora Sirles.

## DIJON WASHINGTON

**DB ▶ 6-0 ▶ 175 ▶ LAWDALE, CALIF. (LEUZINGER HS)**

California native Dijon Washington is part of an outstanding group of signees that are expected to bolster the Nebraska secondary. Washington is one of at least four players expected to begin their Husker career as defensive backs. He is also one of six native Californians in the Huskers' 2009 group of signees. The 6-0, 175-pound Washington capped his high school career with a strong senior campaign. He made about 70 tackles and had two interceptions for Leuzinger High which posted a 6-4 record in 2008. Washington was an all-league pick and a third-team CIF all-state selection for his efforts as a senior. Washington was a standout on both sides of the ball for Coach Toliver and Leuzinger in 2007. As a wide receiver, he caught 15 passes for approximately 300 yards and five scores. On defense he earned first-team all-league honors after tallying 50 tackles, two interceptions and one sack. Washington also saw significant action as a sophomore. He is ranked among the top 15 safety prospects in the country by Rivals.com, who also lists Washington as one of the top 35 prospects in the state of California. Washington is also listed among the top 85 overall prospects in the Far West region by Super Prep magazine. Washington chose Nebraska over Washington State, Oregon State and San Diego State. He was born on July 4, 1991, and is the son of Kemba Smith.

## CHRIS WILLIAMS

**LB ▶ 6-0 ▶ 230 ▶ ABILENE, TEXAS (ABILENE HS)**

Chris Williams is one of eight players from Texas in Nebraska's 2009 class and is one of the most decorated players signed by the Cornhuskers. Williams has starred for Abilene High and Coach Steve Warren for the past three seasons. As a senior, Williams season was cut short by a knee injury, but he produced huge numbers in the first 10 games, helping the Eagles to a perfect 10-0 season before a first-round loss in the Class 5A playoffs. Williams totaled 77 tackles as a senior, including 12 tackles for loss and eight sacks. He also forced four fumbles, recovered three fumbles and had a pair of interceptions. Williams' play netted him recognition as one of 58 players nationally to be named a Parade All-American. He was named the Defensive Player of the Year on the All-Big Country Super Team and was the District 3-5A Player of the Year. Williams posted similar numbers during his junior season for the Eagles. He posted 90 total tackles, including an amazing 32 tackles for loss and 13 sacks. His play helped Abilene to a 13-2 overall record and a trip to the Class 5A Division II state semifinals. Williams earned statewide recognition for his standout effort, being named the Class 5A Defensive Player of the Year by the Associated Press. The 6-0, 230-pounder first produced big numbers for Abilene in 2006 when he was the Eagles' only sophomore starter. Williams tallied 142 tackles in 13 games and established himself as a force in the middle of the Eagles' defense. Williams is regarded as one of the top dozen inside linebackers in the country by Rivals.com, who also ranks him as one of the top 35 prospects in Texas. Scout.com lists Williams as one of the nation's top 25 linebackers and SuperPrep ranks him among the top 25 players in the state of Texas. He was also listed as the 23rd-best prospect on the Austin American-Statesman's Fab 55 list. Williams chose Nebraska over offers from Oklahoma, LSU, Tennessee, Texas A&M and Oregon among others. He is the son of Christopher Williams and Juanita Almagur and was born on Oct. 25, 1990.

## C.J. ZIMMERER

**RB ▶ 6-0 ▶ 215 ▶ OMAHA, NEB. (GROSS HS)**

Omaha product C.J. Zimmerer is one of two in-state players in Nebraska's 2009 recruiting class, joining lineman Cole Pensick of Lincoln Northeast. The 6-0, 215-pound Zimmerer has excelled as a two-way standout for Coach Tim Johnk at Omaha Gross High each of the past three seasons. Zimmerer is expected to begin his Nebraska career in the offensive backfield, after posting impressive numbers on both sides of the ball for Gross in 2008. As a running back, he posted 1,325 yards and 17 touchdowns, while averaging better than 10 yards per carry. Defensively, Zimmerer was a force at linebacker, where he made 90 tackles, including nine tackles for loss and added a pair of interceptions. His performance as a senior helped Gross to a 9-2 record and a trip to the second round of the Class B state playoffs. Zimmerer was named to the Lincoln Journal Star Super State first team as a fullback, while the Omaha World-Herald made him a first-team All-Nebraska pick at linebacker. He was also the honorary captain of the World-Herald's Class B all-state defense. The big numbers as a senior were nothing new for Zimmerer. During his junior season, he ran for 701 yards and 11 touchdowns on just 88 carries, while making 123 tackles, including five sacks on defense. His play as a junior earned him first-team Class B all-state honors from both of the state's largest papers. He also started on the Cougar defense during his sophomore season. Zimmerer is ranked among the top 20 fullbacks in the country by Rivals.com and Scout.com and is listed among the top five players in Nebraska by Rivals. Zimmerer also played basketball at Gross prior to his senior season and has competed for the Cougars' track team. He was one of the first players to join the 2009 recruiting class, committing to the Huskers last May. He is the son of Tim and Jackie Zimmerer and was born on May 23, 1991.

## 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.*

### ROBERT BARRY

**TE ▶ 6-8 ▶ 220 ▶ BATTLE CREEK, NEB. (BATTLE CREEK HS)**

Robert Barry was a talented all-around performer for Battle Creek High School, and will join the Nebraska program as a tight end prospect. Barry caught about 30 passes for 400 yards and five touchdowns as a sophomore tight end, but primarily played quarterback for Coach Greg Wemhoff. Over the past two seasons, Barry has passed for a combined 2,300 yards, while rushing for another 500 yards. He also produced 32 touchdowns. Barry was an honorable-mention Class C-2 pick by both the Omaha World-Herald and the Lincoln Journal Star. Barry's play helped Battle Creek reach the state playoffs in 2006 and 2008.

### BRANDON CHAPEK

**OL ▶ 6-5 ▶ 320 ▶ WAHOO, NEB. (BISHOP NEUMANN HS)**

Offensive lineman Brandon Chapek joins the Huskers from Bishop Neumann High School in Wahoo. Chapek was a first-team Class C-1 all-state pick as an offensive lineman by the Omaha World-Herald, Lincoln Journal Star and Associated Press. Chapek made 43 tackles on defense and his play helped Neumann to an 8-3 record and a trip to the second round of the state playoffs. Chapek also provided impressive play as a junior, helping Bishop Neumann to a 12-1 record and a Class C-1 state runner-up finish. Chapek qualified for the state meet in the discus in 2008 and was an academic all-state pick in basketball in 2008.

### TYSON CLARK

**WR ▶ 6-4 ▶ 185 ▶ LINCOLN, NEB. (EAST HS)**

Tyson Clark will join the Huskers as a walk-on from Lincoln East High School. The 6-4, 185-pounder is the son of former Nebraska All-American safety Bret Clark. The younger Clark was an honorable-mention all-state pick as a receiver by the Lincoln Journal Star in both 2007 and 2008, and was named to the 2008 all-city team. His play for Coach John Gingery also earned him honorable-mention all-state honors from the Omaha World-Herald and the Associated Press. Clark also lettered in baseball and basketball for the Spartans.

## NICK FAILLA

**WR ▶ 5-10 ▶ 180 ▶ OMAHA, NEB. (MILLARD NORTH HS)**

Nick Failla joins the Nebraska program after a standout prep career at Class A powerhouse Millard North. Failla was an honorable-mention all-state pick for Coach Fred Petito as a senior when he rushed for 946 yards and 11 touchdowns from his quarterback spot. Failla had an outstanding junior season in 2007, rushing for 1,845 yards and 25 touchdowns, while passing for another 477 yards and three touchdowns. His efforts helped the Mustangs to the Class A state title game, and Failla was a first-team Super State pick by the Lincoln Journal Star and an All-Nebraska selection by the Omaha World-Herald. Failla made the decision to walk on at Nebraska despite scholarship offers from UNO, South Dakota and Northwest Missouri State. He was a high school teammate of current NU players Mike Caputo, Brian Thorson and Sean Fisher.

## DWIGHT JONES

**OL ▶ 6-4 ▶ 240 ▶ GRETNA, NEB. (GRETNA HS)**

Dwight Jones joins the Nebraska program as an offensive line prospect from Gretna High School. The 6-4, 240-pound Jones played on both sides of the ball and was a three-year letterwinner for the Dragons. His play helped Gretna and Coach Chad Jepsen to state playoff appearances in 2006 and 2008. Jones has also been a standout for the Dragons basketball team. Last season he was an honorable-mention all-Omaha area pick after connecting on better than 61 percent of his field-goal attempts. As a senior he helped Gretna to a 17-5 record.

## RON KELLOGG JR.

**QB ▶ 6-1 ▶ 210 ▶ OMAHA, NEB. (WESTSIDE HS)**

Ron Kellogg Jr. will join the Huskers as a walk-on from Omaha Westside High School, where he starred at quarterback. Kellogg helped the Warriors and Coach Marty Kaufmann to the state playoffs as a senior, when he passed for 12 touchdowns. Kellogg earned honorable-mention Class A all-state honors from the Lincoln Journal Star for his play. He also held scholarship offers from Northwest Missouri State and North Dakota and a walk-on offer from Iowa. Kellogg is the son of former Kansas basketball great and NBA player Ron Kellogg.

## TY KILDOW

**WR ▶ 5-7 ▶ 165 ▶ OMAHA, NEB. (MILLARD SOUTH HS)**

Wide receiver Ty Kildow will join the Huskers as a walk-on after a standout career at Millard South High School. Kildow remained on the radar screen of college recruiters despite missing his senior season with a knee injury. As a junior, Kildow was a Super State selection by the Lincoln Journal Star and a first-team All-Nebraska pick by the Omaha World-Herald, while also being named the honorary captain of the World-Herald's Class A all-state offense. The 5-7, 165-pound speedster caught 44 passes for nearly 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns and also had two kickoff return touchdowns and three interceptions. Kildow was coached at Millard South by former Nebraska defensive back Andy Means. Kildow turned down scholarship offers from UNO, North Dakota and Northwest Missouri State. He is also a baseball standout for the Patriots, earning first-team Super State honors as an outfielder in 2008.

## ADAM KUHL

**LS ▶ 6-2 ▶ 255 ▶ MAPLE VALLEY, IOWA (MAPLE VALLEY COMMUNITY HS)**

Adam Kuhl joins the Nebraska program as a walk-on prospect from Maple Valley, Iowa. Kuhl is expected to help the Huskers as a long snapper. The 6-2, 255-pound Kuhl excelled as a defensive lineman for the Rams and earned first-team All-Western Iowa honors from the Omaha World-Herald.

## JAKE LONG

**TE ▶ 6-4 ▶ 230 ▶ ELKHORN, NEB. (ELKHORN HS)**

Tight end Jake Long joins the Nebraska program after putting up impressive numbers for Elkhorn High School and Coach Mark Wortman. Long played both ways for the 7-3 Antlers and was honored for his work on both sides of the ball. He was a second-team All-Nebraska pick as a tight end by the Omaha World-Herald, while the Lincoln Journal Star placed him on its second-team Super State squad as a defensive lineman. Long was also named to the all-Omaha area team by the World-Herald. Long earned honorable-mention all-state honors from the World-Herald during his junior season. He also played for the Antlers' 2008 state championship baseball team.

## SPENCER LONG

**DE ▶ 6-4 ▶ 250 ▶ ELKHORN, NEB. (ELKHORN HS)**

Spencer Long joins his twin brother, Jake, as a walk-on from long-time Nebraska prep powerhouse Elkhorn High School. Spencer helped the Antlers to a 7-3 record in their first season of Class A participation with a strong performance as a defensive end. Long was an honorable-mention all-area selection for Coach Mark Wortman. A talented all-around athlete, the 6-4, 250-pound Long was also a member of the Antlers' 2008 state championship baseball team.

## P.J. MANGIERI

**LS ▶ 6-4 ▶ 245 ▶ PEORIA, ILL. (DUNLAP HS)**

P.J. Mangieri joins the Huskers as a long snapper from Dunlap High School in Peoria, Ill. In addition to his special teams skills, the 6-4, 245-pounder played offense and defensive line for Coach Jeff Alderman. Mangieri recorded 45 tackles and seven sacks in 2008 and was an All-Mid Illini Conference first-team selection as an offensive tackle. He was also named to the Peoria Journal Star's All-Area first team last fall. Mangieri also drew interest from Purdue as a walk-on prospect.

## DEVIN PAULSEN

**LB ▶ 6-2 ▶ 210 ▶ LINCOLN, NEB. (LINCOLN CHRISTIAN HS)**

Lincoln Christian product Devin Paulsen will join the Nebraska program as a walk-on linebacker. The 6-2, 210-pound Paulsen posted impressive numbers for Coach Matt Farup, helping his team to a Class C2 state playoff berth. Paulsen accounted for about 120 tackles and two interceptions and also handled the quarterbacking duties for the Crusaders. For his efforts, Paulsen was a Class C-2 all-state defender by the Lincoln Journal Star and an honorable-mention all-city pick by the publication.

## COLBY STARKEBAUM

**LB ▶ 6-1 ▶ 215 ▶ STERLING, COLO. (STERLING HS)**

Colby Starkebaum joins the Nebraska program after a standout career as a two-way performer for Sterling High in Colorado. The 6-1, 215-pound Starkebaum played running back and linebacker for Coach Mark Bauder. His play earned him honorable-mention Class 3A all-state honors from the Rocky Mountain News. Starkebaum is a talented all-around athlete at Sterling. He is a member of the wrestling team and a standout track performer, where he competes in the long and triple jump. In 2008, Starkebaum finished eighth in Class 4A in the triple jump with a leap of 43-5 1/4.

## BRETT WELLS

**TE ▶ 6-4 ▶ 200 ▶ ST. PAUL, NEB. (ST. PAUL HS)**

Brett Wells joins the Nebraska program as a walk-on after an outstanding prep career at St. Paul High School. Wells earned honorable-mention all-state honors from the Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star for his efforts for the Wildcats and Coach Travis Brouillette. His play helped St. Paul to the second round of the Class C-1 state playoffs. Wells was also a member of the basketball team, averaging about 15 points and 10 rebounds per game as a senior. He was an honorable-mention all-state pick by both papers during his junior season.