

# 2014 Nebraska Football Recruiting Class

## Alphabetical Listing:

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School/Junior College
Freedom Akinmoladun	TE	6-4	240	Grandview, Mo.	Grandview HS
Drew Brown	PK	5-11	170	Southlake, Texas	Southlake Carroll HS
AJ Bush	QB	6-3	210	Alpharetta, Ga.	Norcross HS
Byerson Cockrell*	DB	6-0	180	Columbus, Miss.	Columbus HS/East Mississippi CC
Zack Darlington*	QB	6-1	200	Apopka, Fla.	Apopka HS
Tanner Farmer	OL	6-4	315	Highland, Ill.	Highland HS
Jerald Foster	OL	6-3	310	Lincoln, Neb.	Lincoln Southeast HS
Nick Gates	OL	6-5	275	Las Vegas, Nev.	Bishop Gorman HS
Luke Gifford	DB	6-3	200	Lincoln, Neb.	Lincoln Southeast HS
Monte Harrison	WR	6-2	205	Lee's Summit, Mo.	Lee's Summit West HS
Glenn Irons	WR	5-9	160	New Orleans, La.	Edna Karr HS
Chris Jones	DB	6-0	175	Jacksonville, Fla.	Sandalwood HS
Joshua Kalu	DB	6-1	170	Houston, Texas	Alief Taylor HS
Joe Keels*	DE	6-3	260	Kenosha, Wis.	Bradford HS/Highland (Kan.) CC
Sedrick King	DE	6-4	250	Plant City, Fla.	Plant City HS
Trai Mosley	DB	5-10	170	Pflugerville, Texas	Hendrickson HS
Peyton Newell	DL	6-3	285	Hiawatha, Kan.	Hiawatha HS
Demornay Pierson-El	WR	5-9	175	Alexandria, Va.	West Potomac HS
Lorenzo Stewart	RB	5-6	165	Klein, Texas	Klein Oak HS
Mick Stoltenberg	OL	6-5	270	Gretna, Neb.	Gretna HS
Jariah Tolbert	WR	6-3	190	New Orleans, La.	Edna Karr HS
Jaevon Walton	LB	6-0	235	New Orleans, La.	Edna Karr HS
Mikale Wilbon	RB	5-8	190	Chicago, Ill.	De La Salle Institute
DeAndre Wills	DE	6-3	250	Lineville, Ala.	Central of Clay County HS

\*-enrolled at Nebraska in January

## The Class Breakdown:

**Total:** 24; **Freshmen:** 22; **Junior College Transfers:** 2

**By State:** **Texas (4):** Brown (Southlake), Kalu (Houston), Mosley (Pflugerville); Stewart (Klein); **Nebraska (3):** Foster, Gifford (Lincoln), Stoltenberg (Gretna); **Florida (3):** Darlington (Apopka), Jones (Jacksonville), King (Plant City); **Louisiana (3):** Irons, Tolbert, Walton (New Orleans); **Illinois (2):** Farmer (Highland), Wilbon (Chicago); **Missouri (2):** Akinmoladun (Grandview), Harrison (Lee's Summit); **Alabama (1):** Wills (Lineville); **Georgia (1):** Bush (Alpharetta); **Kansas (1):** Newell (Hiawatha); **Mississippi (1):** Cockrell (Columbus); **Nevada (1):** Gates (Las Vegas); **Virginia (1):** Pierson-El (Alexandria); **Wisconsin (1):** Keels (Kenosha).

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

**Offense (13):** QB-Bush, Darlington; RB-Stewart, Wilbon; WR-Harrison, Irons, Pierson-El, Tolbert; TE-Akinmoladun;

OL-Farmer, Foster, Gates, Stoltenberg

**Defense (10):** DL-Keels, King, Newell, Wills; LB-Walton; DB-Cockrell, Gifford, Jones, Kalu, Mosley

**Kicker (1):** Brown

## Walk-Ons

Nebraska has secured commitments from 18 prospects who plan to join the program as walk-ons for the 2014 season.

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School/Junior College
Noah Arneson	DL	6-3	300	Omaha, Neb.	Omaha Gross HS
Alex Boryca	LB	6-2	220	Cozad, Neb.	Cozad HS
Cole Conrad	OL	6-5	280	Fremont, Neb.	Archbishop Bergan HS
Ryan Freudenburg	OL	6-5	290	Norfolk, Neb.	Lutheran-Northeast HS
Nolan Graham	DB	5-11	195	Firth, Neb.	Norris HS
Blake Holtmeier	WR	6-2	190	Kearney, Neb.	Kearney Catholic HS
Cameron Jakub	DB	5-11	170	Columbus, Neb.	Columbus HS
Matt Jarzynka	DE	6-4	220	Loup City, Neb.	Loup City HS
Bo Kitrell	FB/LB	6-1	210	Ashland, Neb.	Ashland-Greenwood HS
Creighton Koley	DB	6-0	185	Omaha, Neb.	Skutt Catholic HS
Nate Meduna	TE	6-5	220	Wahoo, Neb.	Bishop Neumann HS
Trent Ortmeier	OL	6-6	270	West Point, Neb.	Guardian Angels Catholic HS
Dylan Owen	DL	6-5	240	Westchester, N.Y.	Bridgton Academy/Somers HS
Brady Pelzer	WR	5-11	170	Bellevue, Neb.	Bellevue East HS
Garrett Poppen	LB	6-1	215	Giltner, Neb.	Giltner HS
Bryan Reimers	TE	6-5	205	Lincoln, Neb.	Lincoln East HS
Austin Rose	RB	6-1	220	Lincoln, Neb.	Lincoln North Star HS
Jack Van Almen	LB	6-1	215	Rochester Hills, Mich.	Stoney Creek HS

## **Freedom Akinmoladun**

### **6-4, 240, TE, Grandview, Mo. (Grandview HS)**

Freedom Akinmoladun (pronounced Ack – in – mole-uh-doon) is one of two Kansas City area products in the Huskers' 2014 signing class, joining Monte Harrison of Lee's Summit. Akinmoladun was an early commitment for the Huskers, announcing his intention to attend Nebraska on the Fourth of July. The 6-4, 240-pound Akinmoladun attended Grandview High School where he earned second-team Class 4 all-state honors from the Missouri Football Coaches Association as a senior. Akinmoladun caught 23 passes for 387 yards and two touchdowns, while also recording 26 tackles and five tackles for loss from his defensive end position. His play helped Coach Andy Leech's team to a 5-6 record and a trip to the second round of the Class 4 playoffs. In 2012, Akinmoladun caught 14 passes for 331 yards and a touchdown, and also made a big impact on defense with 85 tackles, 15 tackles for loss and four sacks. Akinmoladun first made an impact on the Grandview varsity as a sophomore when he earned third-team all-state honors. Akinmoladun is regarded as one of the top 30 tight ends in the nation and ranks among the top 15 players in Missouri according to both Rivals.com and 247 Sports. Akinmoladun has also been a standout for the Grandview basketball team, ranking as one of the team's top rebounders. Akinmoladun only visited Nebraska after his commitment, but also had offers from Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kansas State and Northern Illinois. He was born on Feb. 11, 1996, and is the son of Sherrye Akinmoladun.

## **Drew Brown**

### **5-11, 170, PK, Southlake, Texas (Southlake Carroll HS)**

Drew Brown will bring a familiar name to the Nebraska kicking game after a standout career at Southlake Carroll High School in the Dallas area. Brown is the younger brother of former Husker kicker Kris Brown, who ranks second at Nebraska in career scoring with 388 points from 1995 to 1998. The younger Brown is one of four Texans in Nebraska's 2014 recruiting class marking the seventh straight year the Lone Star State has supplied the most players to the NU recruiting class. Brown was named the first-team kicker on the DFW all-area team as a senior and earned honorable-mention Class 5A all-state honors. He connected on 9-of-11 field goals as a senior, with a long of 51 yards, and made 89-of-90 PAT attempts, helping Coach Hal Wasson's team to an 11-2 record and trip to the third round of the 5A Division 1 playoffs. Brown was perfect on 97 PAT attempts as a junior, while hitting on 9-of-10 field goals, as Carroll posted a 12-2 record and reached the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. Brown was also one of the state's top kickers during his sophomore season, helping Southlake Carroll to a perfect 16-0 record and Class 5A Division 1 state title. Brown hit on 17-of-21 field goals with a long of 49 yards, and made 63-of-64 extra points. Brown committed to Nebraska in June and did not take any other visits. He is ranked among the top dozen kickers in the nation by 247 Sports. Brown is the son of Hobert and Terri Brown, and was born on Oct. 30, 1995.

## **AJ Bush**

### **6-3, 210, QB, Alpharetta, Ga. (Norcross HS)**

Dual-threat quarterback AJ Bush was one of the final pieces in Nebraska's 2014 signing class, committing to the Huskers just days before Signing Day. The 6-4, 215-pound Bush posted outstanding numbers as a senior, helping Georgia prep powerhouse Norcross High School to a state title in the AAAAAA ranks. The left-handed Bush completed 139-of-259 passes for 2,101 yards and 16 touchdowns for Coach Keith Maloff's team. Bush was also a big threat with his feet, rushing for 764 yards and 13 touchdowns on 168 carries. Norcross was widely regarded as one of the top 50 prep teams in the nation in 2013. Bush spent his junior season at Milton High School, helping the Eagles to the first round of the AAAAAA playoffs. Bush ran for approximately 900 yards in 2012, while passing for 1,000 yards. Bush is regarded as one of the nation's top 50 dual-threat quarterbacks in the 247 Sports composite rankings. He also visited Boston College and Marshall, and had additional offers from Cincinnati, Kansas State, Toledo, Troy and Georgia State. Bush is the son of Alvin and Karen Bush, and he was born on Jan. 26, 1996.

## **Byerson Cockrell**

### **6-0, 180, Columbus, Miss. (Columbus HS/East Mississippi CC)**

Byerson Cockrell was one of three members of the 2014 scholarship class to join the Nebraska program in January. The 6-0, 180-pound Cockrell was a standout defensive back at East Mississippi CC, and will have three years to complete two seasons of eligibility at Nebraska. Cockrell made a strong impact in the secondary during his two seasons playing for Coach Buddy Stephens. In 2013, Cockrell played safety for the Lions and had three interceptions for 128 yards, including a 58-yard interception return for a touchdown. He added 33 tackles, four pass breakups, three tackles for loss and two sacks. His play helped East Mississippi to a perfect 12-0 record and the NJCAA title this past season. Cockrell was part of a defense that ranked second nationally with 30 interceptions in 2013. Cockrell is one of 11 players from the powerhouse program to sign Division I scholarships for the 2014 season. Cockrell was also a key performer for the Lions in 2012, helping the team to a 10-2 record. Cockrell finished the year with 20 tackles, including 16 solo stops, while picking off a pair of passes. Cockrell is originally from Columbus, Miss., and attended Columbus High School where he earned first-team Class 6A all-state honors as a senior in 2011. He had seven interceptions for 133 yards and was credited with 69 tackles, seven pass breakups and one forced fumble in his senior season. Cockrell also scored three touchdowns on offense as a senior. He was a member of the Columbus track team, competing in the 100 and 400 meters, and the 4x100 meter relay. Cockrell is the son of Elizabeth Cockrell and he was born on March 21, 1994. Cockrell is ranked among the top 10 junior college safeties in the nation by 247 Sports. Cockrell also received offers from Southern Miss, Louisiana-Monroe, UAB and Middle Tennessee among others.

## **Zack Darlington**

### **6-1, 200, QB, Apopka, Fla. (Apopka HS)**

Zack Darlington is the lone quarterback in the Huskers' 2014 scholarship class and is considered one of the nation's top dual-threat signal callers. The 6-1, 200-pound Darlington was one of three players to join the Nebraska program in January and will take part in spring practice with the Huskers. Darlington is one of three players from Florida in Nebraska's 2014 class, marking the second straight year Nebraska has signed three players from the Sunshine State's prep ranks. A preseason All-Florida selection, Darlington's senior season at Apopka High was cut short after just one game because of injury, but he compiled huge numbers in his first two seasons as the starting quarterback, leading one of the dominant prep programs in Florida. Playing for his father, Rick, the younger Darlington used his strong arm and great speed to lead Apopka to a 13-2 record in 2012, and the Class 8A (largest) state title in Florida. Darlington passed for 1,725 yards and 19 touchdowns, while also rushing for 708 yards and 10 touchdowns. In the state title game victory over Weston Cypress Bay, Darlington passed for 254 yards, while rushing for 130 yards and three touchdowns. For his effort as a junior, Darlington was named a Class 8A second-team all-state selection. As a sophomore, Darlington led Apopka to a 6-5 record. Darlington is ranked among the top 15 dual-threat quarterbacks by 247 Sports, and the site also lists him among the top 50 players in Florida. Darlington also had offers from Arizona, Boston College, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina State, Ohio State, Virginia Tech and West Virginia among others. Darlington committed to Nebraska in June of 2013 and did not take any other official visits. He was born on March 27, 1995, and is the son of Rick and Shelly Darlington. Zack's older brother, Ty, is an offensive lineman at Oklahoma and has seen playing time in his first two seasons in Norman.

## **Tanner Farmer**

### **6-4, 315, OL, Highland, Ill. (Highland HS)**

Tanner Farmer joins the Nebraska program as one of the top offensive line prospects in the country. One of four players in the class expected to begin their career on the offensive line, the 6-4, 315-pound Farmer was a standout for Coach Jim Warnecke Jr. at Highland High School in Illinois. Farmer was a dominant player on the offensive line, and his blocking helped the Bulldogs to an 11-1 record and a trip to the Class 5A quarterfinals. For his play as a senior, Farmer was a first-team Illinois Class 5A all-state selection by the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association. Farmer's play throughout his prep career helped Highland make great improvement from 2011 to 2013. Highland was 0-9 during Farmer's sophomore season, then improved to 5-5 and a state playoff berth in 2012, when Farmer was a standout offensive lineman. Farmer is an outstanding wrestler at Highland. As a junior, Farmer won the Class 2A state title at 285 pounds, and he is currently ranked as the No. 12 high school wrestler in the country in his weight class. Farmer was one of the top performers at "The Opening" all-star camp last

summer, and participated in the Under Armour All-American game in January. Farmer committed to Nebraska last June and did not take any other visits, but did have scholarship offers from Missouri, Illinois and Minnesota, among others. Rivals.com lists Farmer as the No. 4 offensive guard prospect in the country and the 82nd-ranked 2014 recruit overall. In composite recruiting rankings, Farmer is ranked among the top 10 prospects in Illinois. Farmer was born on March 1, 1996, and he is the son of Brian and Connie Farmer.

## **Jerald Foster**

### **6-3, 310, OL, Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln Southeast HS)**

Lincoln product Jerald Foster is one of three in-state signees in Nebraska's 2014 recruiting class. The three in-state players are the most for the Huskers since signing four homegrown products in 2011. Foster is joined in the 2014 class by his Lincoln Southeast teammate Luke Gifford. The 6-3, 310-pound Foster is also one of four players in the 2014 class who are expected to play on the offensive line for the Huskers. Foster was a dominant two-way player for Coach Ryan Gottula at Southeast the past three seasons. As a senior, Foster earned first-team All-Nebraska honors from the Omaha World-Herald and first-team Super State accolades from the Lincoln Journal Star, as he helped the Knights to a Class A state playoff appearance. Foster was a dominant blocker on offense, while recording 53 tackles, including three sacks from his defensive line spot. Foster was also a first-team All-Nebraska and first-team Super State pick as a junior when he helped Southeast to a 9-2 record and trip to the Class A quarterfinals. Foster first starred for the Knights in 2011, when he earned first-team Super State honors as a sophomore offensive lineman. His dominant effort on the offensive line helped Southeast to the Class A state championship and a 12-1 record. Foster is regarded as the top prospect in the state of Nebraska by Rivals.com, and is ranked as one of the nation's top 25 guards in the nation by Rivals.com, ESPN and Scout.com. Foster was one of the nation's most sought-after offensive line prospects. He committed to Nebraska last June and only visited the Huskers, but had offers from a number of schools, including Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Iowa State, Missouri, UCLA, Vanderbilt and Wake Forest. Jerald's older brother, Trey, will be a sophomore tight end for the Huskers in 2014. Foster is the son of Jesse and Charlie Foster, and he was born on Sept. 14, 1995.

## **Nick Gates**

### **6-5, 275, OL, Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman)**

Las Vegas product Nick Gates is part of an impressive group of offensive line recruits in the Huskers' 2014 class. The 6-4, 275-pound Gates is one of four players in the class expected to begin their NU career on the offensive line. Gates is Nebraska's first scholarship signee from Nevada since Mike Smith in 2006. Gates was a dominant force on the offensive line for Coach Tony Sanchez at Bishop Gorman High, helping his team to three straight state titles. As a senior, Gates paved the way for a powerful rushing offense that averaged better than 275 yards per game en route to a 13-2 record and a Division I state championship. Gates also saw time on defense, recording 13 tackles, a tackle for loss, three breakups and a fumble recovery. Gates earned first-team All-Nevada honors from the Las Vegas Review-Journal and was an All-Southwest League pick. Gates earned second-team all-state honors from the Review-Journal in 2012, helping Gorman to a 13-1 record, including a 63-10 victory in the state title game. Gates' play helped Gorman average better than 270 rushing yards per game, and he also saw some action on defense. Bishop Gorman was a perfect 16-0 in the 2011 season and averaged more than 280 rushing yards per game. Gates is regarded as one of the top 25 offensive tackles in the country by Rivals.com, 247 Sports and Scout.com. He is also generally regarded as the top player in Nevada, and is listed among the top 300 overall players nationally. Gates also visited Texas A&M, and had offers from dozens of schools, including Alabama, Arizona, Arizona State, Baylor, Colorado, Duke, Oklahoma, Oregon, Oregon State, UCLA, Washington and Washington State. Gates is also a standout player for Bishop Gorman's state championship baseball team. Gates owns a .372 batting average the past two seasons, including seven home runs and 37 RBI. He also owns a 3-1 record as a pitcher. Gates is the son of Taylor and Sonya Gates, and he was born on Nov. 27, 1995.

## **Luke Gifford**

### **6-3, 200, DB, Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln Southeast HS)**

A versatile athlete, Luke Gifford is one of two Lincoln Southeast products in Nebraska's 2014 signing class, and one of three homegrown players in this year's class. Gifford joins prep teammate Jerald Foster among Nebraska's signees. The Huskers' three in-state players are the most since NU inked four in-state products in 2011. The 6-3, 200-pound Gifford was one of the state's top players the past two years and was a standout on both sides of the ball for Coach Ryan Gottula at Southeast. As a senior, Gifford guided the Knight offense from the quarterback spot and helped Southeast reach the Class A state playoffs. Gifford passed for 970 yards and five touchdowns, while rushing for 742 yards and eight touchdowns. On defense, Gifford starred in the secondary, making 50 tackles with two interceptions and five pass breakups. Gifford was a first-team All-Nebraska defensive back selection by the Omaha World-Herald and also earned Super State accolades from the Lincoln Journal Star. Gifford was also a key performer for the Knights as a junior in 2012, when his play helped Southeast to a 9-2 record and a trip to the state quarterfinals. On offense, Gifford caught seven passes for 125 yards, while also starring in the secondary. He was a first-team Super State selection as a junior, while earning second-team All-Nebraska honors in 2012. Gifford was also a member of the varsity in 2011, when the Knights posted a 12-1 record and captured the Class A state title. Gifford is ranked among the top three prospects in the state by several recruiting outlets, while also ranking among the top 40 athlete prospects in the country by Rivals.com. Gifford has also been a key member of the Knights' basketball teams the past two years. Gifford was the first player to commit to the Huskers' 2014 class, announcing his plans in mid-March of 2013. Gifford did not take any other visits, but had offers from Iowa, Ohio and Toledo among others. Gifford is the son of Sam and Shannon Gifford, and was born on Aug. 28, 1995.

## **Monte Harrison**

### **6-2, 205, WR, Lee's Summit, Mo. (Lee's Summit West HS)**

One of the top all-around prep athletes in the country, Monte Harrison joins the Nebraska program after excelling in three sports at Lee's Summit West High School in Missouri. The 6-2, 205-pound Harrison will line up at wide receiver for the Huskers, and joins tight end Freedom Akinmoladun as signees from the Kansas City area. It marks the second straight year Nebraska has signed two players from the Kansas City metro area. Harrison posted huge offensive numbers as a senior for Coach Royce Boehm at Lee's Summit West, helping his team to a 13-1 record and a Class 5 state title. Harrison's explosiveness helped Lee's Summit West dominate during its playoff run, winning all five games by at least 28 points. Harrison finished the season with 60 receptions for 1,007 yards, an average of 16.8 yards per catch, and had 13 receiving touchdowns. Harrison also rushed for 198 yards and 12 touchdowns and threw a touchdown pass. He also averaged 17.1 yards on punt returns and saw limited action on defense. Harrison was a first-team Class 5 all-state pick by the Missouri Football Coaches Association. As a junior, Harrison earned second-team all-state honors in helping Lee's Summit West to an 11-1 record and a trip to the third round of the state playoffs. Harrison finished his junior season with more than 30 catches and eight touchdowns. He also was a threat on the ground, rushing for six touchdowns, while also returning kicks. Harrison saw action in 2011, when Lee's Summit West posted a 12-2 record and lost in the Class 5 state semifinals. Harrison is regarded as one of the top five players in Missouri by Rivals.com, and is ranked among the top 35 receivers in the country by Rivals. Harrison committed to Nebraska on the Fourth of July, and did not take any other visits. He also had offers from Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kansas State, Kentucky, Michigan State, Missouri and Vanderbilt. Harrison also hopes to play baseball at Nebraska and is considered one of the top prep baseball players in the country. From his outfield position, Harrison hit .457 as a junior, while driving in 33 runs and scoring 36. He had 12 doubles, three triples and six home runs and also stole 25 bases. Harrison also stands out on the hardwood for Lee's Summit West. He has helped his team to a 14-2 record through the end of January. Harrison averages about 17 points and nine rebounds per game. Harrison helped Lee's Summit West to a 21-5 record as a junior and to a 27-4 record and trip to the state semifinals as a sophomore. Harrison was born on Aug. 10, 1995, and he is the son of Michelle Francis.

## Glenn Irons

**5-9, 160, WR, New Orleans, La. (Edna Karr HS)**

New Orleans product Glenn Irons will add an explosive athlete to the Huskers' offense and return game as part of the 2014 signing class. The 5-9, 160-pound Irons is one of three players from Edna Karr High School to sign with the Huskers, joining teammates Jariah Tolbert and Jaevon Walton. It marks the first time Nebraska has signed three players from the same high school since the Huskers signed a trio of players from Lakeview Centennial High School in Texas in 1989. Irons had an impressive senior season for Coach Nathaniel Jones, helping Edna Karr to a 13-3 record and a trip to the state championship game. Irons racked up more than 1,000 yards receiving and caught 12 touchdown passes. Irons added nine touchdowns in the return game and was chosen as a first-team 4A all-state selection as a return man. Irons also earned all-area and all-district honors as a senior. During his junior season, Irons had more than 500 yards and 12 touchdowns receiving, helping Edna Karr to a 14-0 record and a Class 4A state title. Irons also saw action for Edna Karr in 2011, helping the school to an 11-4 record and the first of three straight state title game appearances. Irons also participates in basketball and track at Edna Karr High. Irons is regarded as one of the top 65 players in the talent-rich state of Louisiana according to 247 Sports. Irons chose Nebraska over offers from Kent State, Louisiana-Lafayette, Old Dominion, South Alabama and Western Kentucky. Irons was born on March 15, 1996, and he is the son of Unjell Irons and Darren Brooks.

## Chris Jones

**6-0, 175, DB, Jacksonville, Fla. (Sandalwood HS)**

Defensive back Chris Jones joined the Huskers' recruiting class in mid-January and is one of five players in the class expected to begin their career in the secondary. The 6-0, 175-pound Jones is one of three Florida players in the class, marking the second straight year NU has signed three players from the state. Jones' play as a senior helped Coach Adam Geis' Sandalwood High School team to an 8-3 record and a berth in the Class 8A state playoffs. Jones keyed the Sandalwood defense, making 32 tackles, while intercepting four passes, including one that he returned for a touchdown. Jones was named to the All-First Coast team by the Florida Times-Union. Jones' play as a junior helped Sandalwood to a 7-3 record, and the school narrowly missed the Class 8A playoffs. Jones chose Nebraska after also visiting Purdue. He also had offers from South Florida, Western Kentucky, Florida International and Western Michigan. Jones is regarded as one of the top 60 athlete prospects in the country by 247 Sports, which also listed him among the top 110 players in Florida. Jones was born on Aug. 13, 1995, and Lucille Payton is his legal guardian.

## Joshua Kalu

**6-1, 170, DB, Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor HS)**

Defensive back prospect Josh Kalu is one of four players from Texas in Nebraska's 2014 recruiting class, marking the seventh straight year the Lone Star State has supplied the largest number of players to the NU recruiting class. The 6-1, 170-pound Kalu is one of five players expected to begin their Nebraska career in the secondary. Kalu was a standout performer for Coach Jody Jordan at Alief Taylor High School in Houston, the same school that produced Husker junior offensive lineman Givens Price. Kalu helped his team to an 8-4 record in 2013, including a trip to the second round of the Class 5A Division 1 state playoffs. Kalu made 51 tackles and had four interceptions as a senior, with three returns for touchdowns. Kalu's play earned him All-Greater Houston first-team honors from the Houston Chronicle, and he was also a first-team all-district selection. As a junior, Kalu helped Alief Taylor to an 8-4 record, when he made 32 tackles and had an interception and a fumble recovery. He also averaged better than 13 yards per punt return and was named the Class 5A District 18 Newcomer of the Year. Kalu also excelled in track and basketball for Alief Taylor. Kalu is ranked among the top 80 safeties in the country according to the 247 Sports composite rankings, and is among the top 120 players in the state of Texas. Kalu committed to Nebraska in October and did not take any other visits. He did receive scholarship offers from Colorado, Arkansas State, Duke, Houston, SMU, Wake Forest and Washington State. Kalu was born on Aug. 28, 1995, and he is the son of Elekuachi and Prisca Kalu.

## Joe Keels

**6-3, 260, DE, Kenosha, Wis. (Bradford HS/Highland (Kan.) CC)**

Defensive end Joe Keels was one of three scholarship players to join the Nebraska program in January. Keels was regarded as one of the top defensive line prospects in the junior college ranks in 2013. The 6-3, 260-pound Keels will have two years of eligibility at Nebraska. Keels was a dominant performer for Highland (Kan.) Community College in 2013, where he played for Coach Ryan Held, a member of the Nebraska program in the early 1990s, and a former graduate assistant for the Huskers. In 2013, Keels finished the season with 20 tackles and 2.5 sacks in nine games, helping Highland to a 6-4 record. He was a second-team All-Jayhawk League selection at defensive end. Keels starred at Rochester (Minn.) college in 2012, recording 12.5 sacks. Keels began his college career at the North Dakota College of Science in 2011, but sat out as a medical redshirt. Keels is a native of Kenosha, Wis., and attended Bradford High School as a senior, before moving on to junior college. At Bradford High, Keels helped his team to a trip to the Division 1 state semifinals as a senior in 2010. Keels finished the season with 65 tackles, including eight sacks. Keels spent his first three years of high school at Mt. Zion (Ill.) High School. It marks the second straight year Nebraska has signed a Wisconsin native, joining defensive end A.J. Natter who was a freshman for Nebraska in 2013. Previously Nebraska had not signed a player from Wisconsin since 1997. Keels is ranked as one of the top five defensive linemen in the junior college ranks by 247 Sports, while 247 Sports and Rivals.com also listed him among the top 30 junior-college prospects regardless of position. Keels chose Nebraska over Wisconsin and had dozens of other offers including Alabama, Arizona, Boise State, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Penn State, USC and West Virginia to name a few. Keels is the son of Reynell Jones-Gray, and he was born on June 13, 1993.

## Sedrick King

**6-4, 250, DE, Plant City, Fla. (Plant City HS)**

Defensive end prospect Sedrick King was one of the final players to join the Huskers' 2014 signing class, committing to Nebraska in late January. The 6-4, 250-pound King is one of three signees from Florida, marking the second straight year Nebraska has signed three players from the Florida high school ranks. King emerged during his senior season at Plant City High School for Coach Wayne Ward. King exhibited great speed off the edge and finished the season with 50 tackles, including 11 tackles for loss and six sacks. He had an impressive 30 quarterback hurries, along with two interceptions and two fumble recoveries, helping his team to an 8-3 record and a trip to the Class 7A state playoffs. King began his junior season splitting time between safety and linebacker before settling into a spot in the front seven. He made 35 tackles as a junior, including five sacks. King also saw action on the Plant City varsity as a sophomore, posting eight tackles and a sack for a 7-3 team. King is regarded as one of the top 65 defensive ends in the nation according to the 247 Sports composite rankings. King also visited Central Florida before choosing the Huskers, and had offers from Florida Atlantic, Florida International, Louisville, Marshall, Memphis, South Florida, Rutgers, Wake Forest and West Virginia. King is the son of Sedrick King Sr., and he was born on May 27, 1996.

## Trai Mosley

**5-10, 170, DB, Pflugerville, Texas (Hendrickson HS)**

Trai Mosley joins the Nebraska program as one of five defensive back prospects in the Huskers' 2014 recruiting class. Mosley is also one of four Texans in Nebraska's 2014 class, the most of any state. The 5-10, 165-pound Mosley helped Hendrickson High School to a 10-1 record and trip to the Class 5A Division 2 state playoffs in 2013. Mosley was a ballhawk in the secondary and a dangerous threat in the return game for Coach Chip Killian's team as a senior. Mosley had 25 tackles, with five pass breakups and an interception. He also averaged 24 yards per kickoff return and 17 yards on punt returns, and served as Hendrickson's punter. Mosley earned second-team all-district honors. As a junior, Mosley helped Hendrickson High to an 8-3 record and a trip to the state playoffs. Mosley had 38 tackles, including two tackles for loss and added three interceptions and eight pass breakups. Mosley earned second-team all-district honors for his performance in 2012. Mosley was also a standout kick returner for Hendrickson during his prep career. Mosley only visited Nebraska, but also had offers from Baylor, Oklahoma, SMU and Texas State. Mosley is ranked as one of the top 60 cornerbacks in the country by Scout.com, while 247 Sports listed him among the top 105 players in the state of Texas. Mosley was born on Jan. 22, 1996, and is the son of Shonequa Wesley.

## **Peyton Newell**

**6-3, 285, DL, Hiawatha, Kan. (Hiawatha HS)**

Defensive line prospect Peyton Newell will join the Nebraska program after starring on both sides of the football at Hiawatha (Kan.) High School. The 6-2, 270-pound Newell is Nebraska's first high school scholarship signee from the state of Kansas since Kyler Reed in 2008. Newell started every game of his high school career on both sides of the ball, and posted record defensive numbers. In his career for Coach Chris Diller, Newell set school records with 257 tackles, 105 tackles for loss and 33 sacks, while registering 16 forced fumbles, five fumble recoveries, 12 blocked kicks and two defensive touchdowns. From his tight end spot on offense, Newell totaled 37 catches for 583 yards and seven touchdowns. As a senior in 2013, Newell led Hiawatha to a 7-4 record and a bi-district championship, culminated by a trip to the second round of the Class 3A playoffs. Newell had 76 tackles, including a school-record 12 sacks, 32 tackles for loss and four forced fumbles. He also caught seven passes for 118 yards and a touchdown. Newell was named to the CBS Sports/MaxPreps Small School First-Team All-American squad. He was also named to the Topeka Capital Journal and Wichita Eagle's Top 11 All-State and was the all-class defensive lineman of the year by both papers. Newell was also named the St. Joseph News-Press Defensive Player of the Year for the second straight year, earned unanimous Big 7 All-League honors and was chosen to participate in the 2014 Kansas Shrine Bowl. As a junior, Newell had 61 tackles, including a school-record 37 tackles for loss and 10 sacks. He added five forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries and caught 14 passes for 162 yards and three scores. His play led Hiawatha to an 8-3 record, a district title and state playoff appearance. Newell was a MaxPreps Junior All-American in 2012, while earning all-state honors in Kansas and unanimous all-league accolades. Newell had 76 tackles, including 26 tackles for loss and six sacks in 2011, while adding 12 catches for 246 yards and three touchdowns. Newell was a first-team all-area defensive pick in 2011, and was an honorable-mention Kansas all-state pick, while earning all-conference honors. Newell earned a spot in the varsity lineup as a freshman and made 44 tackles, including 10 tackles for loss, five sacks, forced three fumbles and had a blocked kick. He also caught four passes on offense. Newell had more than 30 scholarship offers, including Clemson, Georgia, Kansas, Kansas State, Michigan State, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Penn State, South Carolina, UCLA, USC and Wisconsin to name a few. He is regarded as the top defensive prospect in Kansas by all of the major recruiting services, and is regarded as one of the nation's top 25 defensive tackles by 247 Sports and Scout.com. Newell is the son of Frank and Stacie Newell and the late Melissa "Malter" Newell, and he was born on Nov. 18, 1995.

## **Demornay Pierson-El**

**5-9, 175, WR, Alexandria, Va. (West Potomac HS)**

Demornay Pierson-El joins the Nebraska as a dynamic offensive playmaker after a standout career at West Potomac High School in Alexandria, Va. Pierson-El posted prolific offensive numbers for Coach Jeremiah Davis, while also excelling as a kick returner. As a senior, Pierson-El primarily played quarterback for West Potomac and was a dual-threat option. Pierson-El threw for 876 yards and seven touchdowns, while rushing for 1,007 yards and 20 touchdowns. The elusive Pierson-El also continued to be used in the return game. Pierson-El was a prolific runner and return man during his junior season. He rushed 181 times for 1,658 yards and 26 rushing touchdowns. He also caught 10 passes for 127 yards, and helped his team to a 6-5 record. In addition to his offensive stats, Pierson-El was a prolific return man and earned second-team Class AAA all-state honors as a kick returner from the Virginia High School Coaches Association. As a sophomore, Pierson-El focused his time at receiver and caught 49 passes for 781 yards and 15 touchdowns. His play helped West Potomac to an 8-4 record and a trip to the second round of the state playoffs. Pierson-El is regarded as one of the top 100 receivers in the country by Rivals.com and Scout.com, and he is ranked as one of the top 25 overall prospects in Virginia by Rivals.com. The 247 Sports composite rankings listed him among the top 70 "athlete" prospects in the nation. Pierson-El has also been a member of the varsity basketball team since his sophomore season. He only visited Nebraska, but had offers from Boston College, North Carolina, Marshall and Old Dominion. Pierson-El is the grandson of William and Louise Carter and he was born on Dec. 26, 1995.

## **Lorenzo Stewart**

**5-6, 165, RB, Klein, Texas (Klein Oak HS)**

Lorenzo Stewart is part of an impressive group of explosive offensive playmakers in Nebraska's 2014 signing class. The 5-6, 170-pound Stewart makes up for his small size with game-breaking speed and quickness. Stewart is one of four signees from the state of Texas, marking the seventh straight year the Lone Star State has supplied the most players to the NU signing class. Stewart rushed for better than 3,200 yards in his prep career for Coach David Smith at Klein Oak High School. Stewart earned first-team all-district honors in the Class 5A ranks as a senior, helping his team to a 5-5 record. Stewart ran for 922 yards and nine touchdowns, while catching 18 passes for 237 yards and a touchdown. As a junior, Stewart rushed for 500 yards and seven touchdowns on just 64 carries, and also caught 17 passes, including two touchdown receptions. Stewart had his most productive rushing year as a sophomore, racking up 1,328 yards and 12 touchdowns on 155 carries. He also caught a touchdown pass and was one of only two sophomores to earn Class 5A first-team All-District 13 honors. His play helped Klein Oak to a 9-4 record and a trip to the third round of the Class 5A-Division 1 playoffs. Stewart earned a spot on the varsity as a freshman in 2010, and earned 5A-District 13 Offensive Newcomer-of-the-Year honors. Stewart rushed for 517 yards and two touchdowns and caught a touchdown pass during his freshman year, helping Klein Oak to an 8-4 record and berth in the state playoffs. Stewart is also a standout on the track for Klein Oak, advancing to the 2013 state meet in the 100-meter dash and as part of the 4x100 and 4x200-meter relay teams. Stewart finished fifth in the 100 meters at the state meet, while the 4x100-meter team captured the Class 5A state title and the 4x200 team placed third. Stewart is ranked as the No. 13 all-purpose back in the country by 247 Sports and is listed among the top 80 players in the state of Texas. Stewart took his only visit to Nebraska, but also had offers from Baylor, Houston and Louisiana Tech. He was born on Nov. 25, 1994, and is the son of Brenda Stewart.

## **Mick Stoltenberg**

**6-5, 270, OL, Gretna, Neb. (Gretna HS)**

Mick Stoltenberg joins the Nebraska program after a standout prep career on both sides of the football at Gretna High School. Stoltenberg is one of three in-state signees for the Huskers, the most homegrown products since the 2011 class. The 6-6, 250-pound Stoltenberg primarily played tight end and defensive end for Coach Chad Jepsen at Gretna, but could start his Nebraska career on the offensive line. Stoltenberg had his senior season cut short, suffering a knee injury early in the year. As a junior, Stoltenberg helped the Dragons to a 9-2 record and a trip to the second round of the state playoffs. Stoltenberg put together a strong junior season, playing a key role at tight end, while recording nine sacks from his defensive end position. Stoltenberg also threw the discus for the Gretna track and field team. Stoltenberg is ranked as the No. 3 player in Nebraska by Rivals.com, who also lists him among the top 50 offensive tackle prospects in the country. 247 Sports projects Stoltenberg on the defensive side of the ball, ranking him among the top 55 defensive ends in the country and the fourth-ranked prospect in Nebraska. Stoltenberg committed to Nebraska last summer and only visited Lincoln, but also had scholarship offers from Ohio, Tulsa and Army, among others. He was born on Jan. 25, 1996, and is the son of Alan and Sondra Stoltenberg.

## **Jariah Tolbert**

**6-3, 190, WR, New Orleans, La. (Edna Karr HS)**

Wide receiver Jariah Tolbert is one of three players from Edna Karr High School in New Orleans to join the Huskers in the 2014 signing class. Tolbert is joined by teammates Glenn Irons and Jaevon Walton, marking the first time Nebraska has signed three players from the same high school since NU signed three players from Lakeview Centennial High School in Texas in 1989. Tolbert earned honorable-mention LSWA Class 4A all-state honors this season, helping Coach Nathaniel Jones' Edna Karr team to a 13-3 record and a third straight trip to the state finals. The 6-3, 185-pound Tolbert caught 56 passes for 875 yards and 12 touchdowns to help lead a powerful offensive attack. In 2012, Tolbert was one of the top targets in the passing game, and his play helped Edna Karr to a perfect 14-0 season and the Class 4A state title. Edna Karr also reached the state finals during Tolbert's sophomore season, compiling an 11-4 record. Tolbert is ranked among the top 50 players in Louisiana in the 247 Sports composite rankings. He only visited Nebraska, but also had offers from Utah, Kent State and Tulane. Tolbert was born on Jan. 15, 1996, and is the son of Randy Tolbert.

## Jaevon Walton

### 6-0, 235, LB, New Orleans, La. (Edna Karr HS)

Jaevon Walton was the first of three teammates from Edna Karr High School in New Orleans to join the Huskers' 2014 recruiting class, committing to Nebraska last fall. He was later joined by high school teammates Glenn Irons and Jariah Tolbert, marking the first time since 1989 Nebraska has signed three players from the same high school. The 6-0, 230-pound Walton was a highly productive player from his linebacker spot for Coach Nathaniel Jones at Edna Karr. As a senior, Walton made more than 100 tackles, including seven in the state championship game at the Superdome. Walton earned first-team Class 4A LSWA all-state honors and was an All-Metro selection by the New Orleans Advocate. Walton first emerged as a starter at linebacker for Edna Karr as a sophomore in 2011, when the school finished with an 11-4 record and a runner-up showing in the Class 4A playoffs. Walton then moved to Alabama for his junior year to live with his father, former Alabama and NFL standout John Copeland. After one year in Alabama, Walton returned to New Orleans for his senior season. Walton is ranked as the No. 28 player in Louisiana by Rivals.com, and he is listed among the nation's top 60 inside linebackers in the 247 Sports composite rankings and by Scout.com. Walton took his only official visit to Nebraska, but also had offers from Missouri, Southern Miss, Tulane and Louisiana-Lafayette. Walton was born on July 27, 1995, and is the son of John Copeland. Walton's father was an All-American at Alabama, and helped the Crimson Tide to the 1992 national championship. He was the fifth pick in the 1993 NFL Draft by Cincinnati, and went on to play eight seasons with the Bengals, recording 24 career sacks.

## Mikale Wilbon

### 5-8, 190, RB, Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute)

Chicago prep standout Mikale Wilbon joins the Nebraska program after an impressive career as a running back at De La Salle Institute. The 5-9, 190-pound Wilbon is part of an exciting group of offensive skill players in the Huskers' 2014 class. Wilbon joins offensive lineman Tanner Farmer as signees from the Illinois prep ranks, giving Nebraska seven signees from Illinois in the past five years. That follows a five-year period from 2005 to 2009 when Nebraska did not have a signee from the state. Wilbon posted impressive numbers each of the past two years despite battling injuries in both 2012 and 2013. As a senior, Wilbon helped Coach Dan O'Keefe's team to a 6-6 record and a trip to the Class 6A state playoffs. Wilbon rushed for better than 1,200 yards in six games before being sidelined by injury. Wilbon was limited to four games as a junior, but managed 863 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns in his time on the field. Wilbon burst onto the scene and earned attention from recruiters in 2011 when he rushed for better than 1,600 yards as a sophomore. Rivals.com lists Wilbon among the top 175 overall prospects in the country and the No. 9 prospect in the state of Illinois. Both Rivals.com and 247 Sports also listed Wilbon among the top 20 running backs in the country in the 2014 class. Wilbon chose Nebraska over an impressive list of scholarship offers, including Arizona, Arizona State, Arkansas, Cincinnati, Georgia Tech, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi State, Missouri, Penn State, Purdue, Syracuse and Vanderbilt. Wilbon is the son of Fredrick Meriweather and Kelly Wilbon, and he was born on Dec. 22, 1994.

## DeAndre Wills

### 6-3, 250, DE, Lineville, Ala. (Central of Clay County HS)

DeAndre Wills is a talented prospect from Alabama who is part of an impressive group of defensive line signees in the Huskers' 2014 recruiting class. Wills was one of the final players to join the NU class, committing to NU just before Signing Day. The 6-3, 250-pound Wills was a standout for Coach Kris Herron at Central of Clay County High School in Lineville, Ala. Wills' play as a senior helped his team to a 10-4 record and a trip to the quarterfinals of the Alabama Class 4A state playoffs. Wills was a two-way standout, registering 37 tackles and nine sacks from his defensive end position, while also grabbing nine touchdown receptions as a tight end. Wills also had an impressive performance as a junior, helping his team to a 10-2 record and a berth in the state playoffs. Wills' play gained him attention from college recruiters, and he was named to the AlabamaVarsity.com all-state honorable-mention list before his senior season. Wills is regarded as one of the top 50 overall prospects in Alabama according to the 247 Sports composite rankings, and he is among the top 80 defensive end prospects in the nation. Wills also had offers from Clemson and Ole Miss. He was born on Oct. 21, 1994, and is the son of Angelia Simmions. His grandmother is Marie Simmions.

## Walk-On Student-Athletes

Nebraska has secured commitments from 18 prospects who plan to join the walk-ons for the 2014 season.

## Noah Arneson

### 6-3, 300, DL, Omaha, Neb. (Omaha Gross HS)

Noah Arneson was a standout on both lines for Coach Tim Johnk at Omaha Gross High School. The 6-3, 300-pound Arneson made 45 tackles as a senior, including four tackles for loss and four sacks. His play helped Gross reach the Class B state playoffs in 2013. Arneson was a key part of Gross' success in 2012, when the Cougars posted a 12-1 record and won the Class B state championship. Arneson earned first-team Class B all-state honors as an offensive lineman from both the Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha World-Herald. Arneson also earned All-River City Conference and all-area honors. Arneson is the son of Dave and Cindy Arneson, and he was born on Nov. 11, 1995.

## Alex Boryca

### 6-2, 220, LB, Cozad, Neb. (Cozad HS)

Alex Boryca joins Nebraska as a walk-on after a standout career at Cozad High School, where he starred at linebacker and also saw action at running back. Boryca's play as a senior helped Coach Brian Cargill's team to a perfect 13-0 record and the Class C-1 state title in 2013. Boryca racked up 115 tackles during his senior season, including 51 solo stops. He also had 11 tackles for loss, five sacks and forced a fumble. Boryca made seven tackles in the state title game victory over Ashland-Greenwood. He also saw action at running back as a senior rushing 28 times for 127 yards and seven touchdowns, including two TD runs in the state championship game. Boryca also caught four passes out of the backfield. Boryca helped the Haymakers to the state playoffs in both 2011 and 2012. For his play as a senior, Boryca was a first-team Class C-1 all-state pick by the Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star. He was also named the Kearney Hub's 2013 Hub Territory Defensive Player of the Year. Boryca is the son of Adam and Becky Boryca, and he was born on Oct. 11, 1995.

## Cole Conrad

### 6-5, 280, OL, Fremont, Neb. (Archbishop Bergan HS)

Cole Conrad is one of several in-state line prospects in Nebraska's 2014 walk-on class. Conrad helped Archbishop Bergan High School to an 8-2 record in 2013, including a trip to the second round of the Class C-2 state playoffs. Conrad's dominant play on the offensive line for Coach Seth Mruz helped power an offense that averaged nearly 270 rushing yards per game. On defense, Conrad made 27 tackles, including three tackles for loss, a sack and a fumble recovery. Conrad was also a key part of Bergan's success in 2012, when the Knights posted an 8-3 record and reached the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. For his play in 2013, Conrad earned first-team Class C-2 all-state honors as an offensive lineman from the Associated Press, Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star. He was also the honorary defensive captain of the Fremont Tribune's all-area team. Conrad is the son of Jim and Christy Conrad and he was born on July 24, 1995.

## Ryan Freudenberg

### 6-5, 290, OL, Norfolk, Neb. (Lutheran-Northeast HS)

Ryan Freudenberg will join the Nebraska program as a walk-on after a standout prep career at Lutheran-Northeast High School. Freudenberg's play on the offensive and defensive lines helped Coach Darin Suckstorf's team reach the state playoffs every year during Freudenberg's high school career. As a senior, Freudenberg helped Lutheran-Northeast to a 9-2 record and trip to the quarterfinals of the Class C-2 playoffs. During his junior season, the team advanced to the state semifinals and posted an 11-2 record and advanced to the state semifinals. As a senior, Freudenberg was a first-team Class C-2 all-state pick as an offensive lineman by the Associated Press, Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star. He is the son of Mark and Shelley Freudenberg, and he was born on Dec. 21, 1995.

## **Nolan Graham**

### **5-11, 195, DB, Firth, Neb. (Norris HS)**

Nolan Graham joins the Nebraska program as a walk-on and is expected to begin his Husker career in the defensive backfield. Graham excelled at safety for Coach Jim Jacobsen at Norris High School, helping the Titans to the state playoffs the past three seasons. As a senior, Graham made 141 total tackles, including four tackles for loss and a sack. He also had an interception that he returned for a touchdown, and his play helped Norris to a 6-4 record in 2013. Graham was also a key defender for Norris in 2012, when the school posted a 10-3 record and reached the finals of the Class B state playoffs. As a senior, Graham was an honorable-mention Class B all-state selection, and was a member of the Beatrice Daily Sun All-Sunland Team. Graham is a standout in the classroom and earned a UNL Regents Scholarship. He is the son of Jim and Ami Graham, and he was born on March 24, 1996.

## **Blake Holtmeier**

### **6-2, 190, WR, Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic HS)**

Blake Holtmeier was a versatile performer at Kearney Catholic High School throughout his prep career and is set to join the Huskers as a wide receiver prospect. The 6-2, 190-pound Holtmeier caught 28 passes for 543 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior, averaging better than 19 yards per catch. He also had 75 tackles, two interceptions and six pass breakups from his secondary spot. On special teams, Holtmeier served as the punter and punt return man for Coach Dave Colling's team. Holtmeier's play helped Kearney Catholic to a 7-3 record in 2013, and a trip to the second round of the Class C-1 state playoffs. Holtmeier also helped the Stars to a 10-2 record in 2012, and to an 11-2 record and trip to the Class C-2 state championship game in 2011. Holtmeier was a first-team Class C-1 all-state pick on offense by the Omaha World-Herald and Huskerland Prep Report, while earning all-state honors on defense by the Associated Press and Lincoln Journal Star. Holtmeier was born on Dec. 8, 1995, and he is the son of Doug and Brigitte Holtmeier.

## **Cameron Jakub**

### **5-11, 170, DB, Columbus, Neb. (Columbus HS)**

Cameron Jakub was a two-way standout for Coach Craig Williams at Columbus High School, and joins the Nebraska program as a walk-on defensive back. Jakub played in the secondary and started at quarterback for the Discoverers. As a senior, Jakub showed his dual-threat ability and athleticism at quarterback. He rushed for 780 yards and 12 touchdowns, while passing for 717 yards and nine scores. He is the son of Jamie and Krista Jakub, and he was born on Jan. 9, 1995.

## **Matt Jarzynka**

### **6-4, 220, DE, Loup City, Neb. (Loup City HS)**

Matt Jarzynka is one of several talented in-state line prospects in the Huskers' 2014 walk-on class. Jarzynka played both offensive and defensive line at Loup City High School for Coach Nick Hodge, and he is expected to begin his Husker career as a defensive end. Jarzynka's play as a senior earned him Class D-1 honorable-mention all-state accolades from both the Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star. He was also named to the All-Heartland Small School Super Squad first team as a defender. Jarzynka's play as a junior, helped Loup City to an 8-3 record and a trip to the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. He is the son of Mike and Susan Jarzynka, and he was born on June 8, 1995.

## **Bo Kitrell**

### **6-1, 210, FB/LB, Ashland, Neb. (Ashland-Greenwood HS)**

Bo Kitrell joins the Nebraska program as a walk-on after a standout career on both sides of the ball at Ashland-Greenwood High School. Kitrell could play either fullback or linebacker for the Huskers. As a senior, Kitrell rushed 100 times for 578 yards and seven touchdowns, while catching six passes, including a touchdown. On defense, he recorded an impressive 206 tackles, including 10 tackles for loss and two sacks. He added two interceptions, three fumble recoveries and three forced fumbles for Coach Ryan Thompson's team. Kitrell also handled punting duties for the Bluejays. Kitrell's play helped Ashland-Greenwood to an 11-2 record and a Class C-1 state runner-up finish. Kitrell was also a key defensive performer in 2012, when Ashland-Greenwood posted a 7-3 record and made it to the second round of the state playoffs. As a senior, Kitrell was a first-team Class C-1 all-state pick on defense by the Associated Press, Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star, and also made the World-Herald's All-Omaha area team. Kitrell was also an academic all-state selection. He was born on Sept. 13, 1995, and is the son of Barry and Amy Kitrell. Bo's father played fullback for Nebraska, lettering in 1988.

## **Creighton Koley**

### **6-0, 185, DB, Omaha, Neb. (Skutt Catholic HS)**

Creighton Koley joins the Nebraska program as a walk-on defensive back after a standout prep career at Class B powerhouse Omaha Skutt Catholic. Koley was a standout on both sides of the ball for Coach Matt Turman before being sidelined by injury late in the season. Koley's play helped Skutt Catholic to a 12-1 record and a Class B state championship in 2013. Koley was the honorary captain of the Huskerland Class B all-state defense, and was a first-team Class B all-state defender by the Associated Press and the Omaha World-Herald. He was named to the Lincoln Journal Star's first-team Class B all-state offense as an athlete. Koley was also a standout for the Skyhawks during his junior season, when Skutt posted a 9-2 record and advanced to the second round of the Class B playoffs. Koley earned All-Omaha area honorable-mention recognition from the World-Herald as a junior. Koley is the son of Tom and Kathy Koley, and he was born on Sept. 11, 1995.

## **Nate Meduna**

### **6-5, 220, TE, Wahoo, Neb. (Bishop Neumann HS)**

Nate Meduna was a versatile performer at Wahoo Bishop Neumann High School and will join the Nebraska program as a tight end prospect. The 6-5, 220-pound Meduna caught 19 passes for 471 yards as a senior, an average of nearly 25 yards per reception. He also caught six touchdown passes for Coach Tim Turman's team. On defense, Meduna racked up 62 tackles, including 22.5 tackles for loss and four sacks, and he forced two fumbles, while recovering three others. Meduna served as the punter for the Cavaliers, averaging better than 36 yards per boot. Meduna's play helped Bishop Neumann to a 7-4 record and a trip to the quarterfinals of the Class C-1 playoffs. Meduna was a first-team Class C-1 all-state defensive player by the Associated Press and the Lincoln Journal Star. The Fremont Tribune named him to its All-Area team as a punter. Meduna was also an academic all-state selection. He was born on Feb. 22, 1996, and is the son of Jeff and Kelly Meduna.

## **Trent Ortmeier**

### **6-6, 270, OL, West Point, Neb. (Guardian Angels Catholic HS)**

Trent Ortmeier is part of a strong group of in-state line prospects in Nebraska's 2014 walk-on class. The 6-6, 270-pound Ortmeier was a standout on both lines for Coach Dave Ridder at Guardian Angels Central Catholic in West Point. Ortmeier helped pave the way for a powerful offensive attack, while disrupting opposing offenses from his defensive line spot. Ortmeier's play as a senior helped the Bluejays to an 8-2 record and a trip to the second round of the Class D-1 state playoffs. Ortmeier helped Guardian Angels to a 7-2 record as a junior and was a part of teams that advanced to the state finals in both 2010 and 2011. As a senior, Ortmeier earned first-team Class D-1 all-state honors as an offensive lineman from both the Omaha World-Herald and the Lincoln Journal Star. He is the son of Steve and Mary Ortmeier, and was born on March 22, 1996.

## **Dylan Owen**

### **6-5, 240, DL, Westchester, N.Y. (Bridgton Academy/Somers HS)**

Dylan Owen is one of two out-of-state prospects in Nebraska's 2014 walk-on class, joining the Huskers after spending the 2013 season at Bridgton Academy in Maine. Owen is originally from Westchester, N.Y., and graduated from Somers High School in Lincolndale, N.Y., in 2013. As a senior at Somers High, Owen made 61 tackles, including 45 solo stops, while adding three sacks and a pass breakup. His play helped Somers to a 10-1 record, before losing in the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. As a senior at Somers, Owen earned New York Class A All-state first-team honors on defense, and he was also named to the MSG Varsity All-Section 1 first-team defensive unit. Owen is the son of Richard and Charlyse Owen, and he was born on Dec. 18, 1995. Owen is related to former Nebraska offensive lineman Jerry Minnick, who earned All-America honors in 1952.

## **Brady Pelzer**

### **5-11, 170, WR, Bellevue, Neb. (Bellevue East HS)**

Brady Pelzer was a standout performer on both sides of the ball at Bellevue East High School, and joins the Huskers as a receiver prospect. As a senior, Pelzer caught 38 passes for 628 yards and caught nine touchdown passes. He also rushed for 315 yards on just 40 carries and scored five touchdowns on the ground. Pelzer also saw action in the secondary for Coach Jerry Lovell's team and had 16 tackles, while adding an interception and four pass breakups. His play helped the Chieftans advance to the Class A state playoffs for the first time in nine seasons. Pelzer was an honorable-mention Class A all-state selection as a senior, and earned all-district honors. Pelzer was an academic all-state honoree in 2012. He is the son of Steve Pelzer, and was born on May 11, 1996.

## **Garrett Poppen**

### **6-1, 215, LB, Giltner, Neb. (Giltner HS)**

Garrett Poppen joins the Nebraska program as a linebacker prospect after starring on both sides of the ball at Giltner High School. Poppen recorded more than 225 tackles in his career for Coach Jeff Ashby, including 124 tackles during his senior season. Poppen also rushed for 1,150 yards and 17 touchdowns as a senior, and caught 23 passes, including two touchdowns. He also handled kickoff duties for the Hornets. His play as a senior helped Giltner to a 9-2 record and a trip to the quarterfinals of the Class D-2 state playoffs. Poppen was also a standout performer during his junior season in 2012, helping Giltner to a perfect 13-0 record and a state championship. Poppen totaled more than 1,600 rushing yards and had 24 rushing touchdowns, while also catching 61 passes with 13 touchdowns during his career. As a senior, Poppen was a second-team All-Nebraska defensive selection by the Omaha World-Herald, while earning first-team Class D-2 all-state honors from the World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star. Poppen earned all-district honors as both a sophomore and junior. He is the son of John and Kris Poppen, and was born on Oct. 9, 1995.

## **Bryan Reimers**

### **6-5, 205, TE, Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln East HS)**

Bryan Reimers is one of two players from Lincoln staying home to join the Huskers as members of the 2014 walk-on class. The 6-5, 205-pound Reimers lined up at wide receiver for Lincoln East and had 27 receptions for 596 yards as a senior, an average of 22.1 yards per catch. Reimers also hauled in 12 touchdown catches in 2013, helping the Spartans to an 8-2 record and a trip to the Class A state playoffs. Reimers was an All-Nebraska second-team pick by the Omaha World-Herald and a second-team Super State selection by the Lincoln Journal Star. Reimers also earned All-City honors from the Lincoln Journal Star. Reimers is the son of Bryce and Suzanne Reimers, and he was born on May 28, 1996.

## **Austin Rose**

### **6-1, 220, RB, Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln North Star HS)**

Austin Rose is one of two Lincoln products in the Huskers' 2014 walk-on class, joining the Nebraska program after a standout career at Lincoln North Star High School. The 6-1, 220-pound Rose was limited by injury during his senior season, but still earned honorable-mention all-state recognition from the AP, Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star. Rose put up big numbers for Coach Mark Waller in 2012, rushing for 1,403 yards and 22 touchdowns, while averaging better than 6.5 yards per carry. Rose helped the Navigators to a 7-3 record and a trip to the Class A state playoffs. Rose was also a defensive standout in helping North Star to one of its finest seasons in school history. Rose earned second-team Super State honors and first-team Class A all-state honors for his play in 2012. He was also named to the All-Heartland Conference team and to the Journal Star's All-City team. Rose was born on Oct. 6, 1995, and is the son of Deb Rose. Rose is the nephew of former Nebraska safety Mike Minter.

## **Jack Van Almen**

### **6-1, 215, LB, Rochester Hills, Mich. (Stoney Creek HS)**

Jack Van Almen is one of two out-of-state products among Nebraska's 2014 class of walk-ons. The 6-1, 215-pound Van Almen joins the Huskers as a linebacker prospect after an outstanding prep career at Stoney Creek High School in Rochester Hills, Mich. Van Almen finished his senior season with 87 tackles, including 3.5 sacks, helping his team to a 6-4 record and a trip to the state playoffs. Van Almen earned Division 1 All-State honors for his play and was a Detroit News All-Metro North honorable-mention selection. He also earned All-Oakland County honorable-mention recognition as a senior and was an all-league pick both as a junior and senior. Van Almen is the son of Rick and Alex Van Almen and he was born on March 27, 1996.