

# 2017 Nebraska Football Recruiting Class

## Alphabetical Listing:

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School
Austin Allen	TE	6-8	210	Aurora, Neb.	Aurora HS
Broc Bando*	OL	6-5	280	Lincoln, Neb.	IMG Academy (Brandenton, Fla.)
Elijah Blades	DB	6-2	170	Pasadena, Calif.	John Muir HS
Jaylin Bradley	RB	6-0	180	Bellevue, Neb.	Bellevue West HS
Damion Daniels	DT	6-2	310	Dallas, Texas	Bishop Dunne HS
Tristan Gebbia*	QB	6-3	180	Calabasas, Calif.	Calabasas HS
Willie Hampton	LB	6-1	225	West Palm Beach, Fla.	American Heritage HS
Brenden Jaimes	OL	6-5	250	Austin, Texas	Lake Travis HS
Keyshawn Johnson Jr.*	WR	6-1	195	Mission Viejo, Calif.	Calabasas HS
Tyjon Lindsey	WR	5-9	160	Corona, Calif.	Bishop Gorman HS (Las Vegas, Nev.)
Jaevon McQuitty*	WR	5-11	190	Columbia, Mo.	Battle HS
Ben Miles	FB	6-1	210	Baton Rouge, La.	Catholic HS
Kurt Rafdal	TE	6-7	230	Carmel, Ind.	Carmel HS
Avery Roberts*	LB	6-1	220	Wilmington, Del.	Concord HS
Matt Sichterman	OT	6-5	270	Kings Mills, Ohio	Kings HS
Deontre Thomas	DT	6-3	280	Mustang, Okla.	Mustang HS
Guy Thomas	DE	6-3	200	Miami, Fla.	Booker T. Washington HS
Chris Walker	OL	6-8	275	Lincoln, Neb.	Lincoln East HS
Andrew Ward	LB	6-1	200	Muskegon, Mich.	Muskegon HS
Deiontae Watts	DT	6-3	300	Plano, Texas	Plano East HS

\*-enrolled at Nebraska in January

## The Class Breakdown:

**By State:** **Nebraska (4):** Allen (Aurora); Bando, Walker (Lincoln), Bradley (Bellevue); **California (4):** Blades (Pasadena), Gebbia (Calabasas), Johnson Jr. (Mission Viejo), Lindsey (Corona); **Texas (3):** Jaimes (Austin), Daniels (Dallas), Watts (Plano); **Florida (2):** Hampton (West Palm Beach), G. Thomas (Miami); **Missouri (1):** McQuitty (Columbia); **Louisiana (1):** Miles (Baton Rouge); **Indiana (1):** Rafdal (Carmel); **Delaware (1):** Roberts (Wilmington); **Ohio (1):** Sichterman (Kings Mills); **Oklahoma (1):** D. Thomas (Mustang); **Michigan (1):** Ward (Muskegon).

### By Position (First Position Listed):

**Offense (12):** QB-Gebbia; RB-Bradley; FB-Miles; WR-Johnson Jr., Lindsey, McQuitty; TE-Allen, Rafdal; OL-Bando, Jaimes, Sichterman, Walker.

**Defense (8):** DL-Daniels, D. Thomas, G. Thomas, Watts; LB-Hampton, Roberts, Ward; DB-Blades.

## Walk-Ons

Nebraska has secured commitments from nine prospects who plan to join the program as walk-ons for the 2017 season.

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School
Andrew Bunch*	QB	6-1	190	Thompson Stations, Tenn.	Independence HS/Scottsdale CC
Ethan Cox	ATH	5-11	175	Blair, Neb.	Blair HS
Cole Frahm	PK	6-5	210	Omaha, Neb.	Burke HS
Trent Hixson	OL	6-4	260	Omaha, Neb.	Skutt Catholic HS
Ben Lingenfelter	DL	6-5	265	Cherokee, Iowa	Washington HS
Cody Liske	LB	6-0	200	Bennington, Neb.	Bennington HS
Hunter Miller	OL	6-5	275	Stromsburg, Neb.	Cross County HS
Jordan Paup	DE	6-4	230	Central City, Neb.	Central City HS
Dylan Reynolds	WR	6-0	170	Broken Bow, Neb.	Broken Bow HS

## **Austin Allen**

### **TE, 6-8, 210, Aurora, Neb. (Aurora HS)**

Austin Allen is regarded as the consensus top prospect in the state of Nebraska in the 2017 recruiting class. Allen is a multi-sport standout at Aurora High School who will join the Huskers as a tight end.

The 6-8, 210-pound Allen had his senior season limited by injury, but was part of a Huskie team that posted an 8-3 record and reached the quarterfinals of the Class B playoffs. Before being injured, Allen showed his skills on both sides of the ball for Coach Kyle Peterson catching five passes and making five tackles and two sacks.

In his junior season, Allen starred on both offense and defense. He caught 41 passes for 507 yards and eight touchdowns, helping his team to a 12-1 record and a Class B runner-up finish. Allen also made 51 tackles, including five tackles for loss and had five interceptions from his linebacker position. Allen earned first-team Class B all-state honors as a linebacker from both the Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star. Allen was also a three-time first-team all-district selection and was the honorary captain of the All-Heartland team.

Allen also saw significant time as a sophomore for the Huskies, catching 14 passes and helping his team to a state playoff berth. On the basketball court, Allen was a first-team Class B all-state pick as a junior as he averaged better than 15 points per game. He was an honorable-mention all-state choice as a sophomore.

In addition to being the top ranked player in Nebraska, Allen was ranked among the nation's top 25 tight ends by both Scout.com and ESPN. Allen only visited Nebraska, but also had offers from Iowa, Iowa State, UCLA and UCF.

Allen is the son of Andrew and Renae Allen, and he was born on Nov. 10, 1998. Allen's father was a walk-on for the football team in 1981, before transferring to Doane College. Allen has also a member of the Aurora National Honor Society and a four-year Honor Roll selection.

## **Broc Bando**

### **OL, 6-5, 280, Lincoln, Neb. (IMG Academy)**

Offensive lineman Broc Bando joined the Nebraska program in January as one of five mid-year scholarship enrollees. Bando comes to the Huskers from IMG Academy in Bradenton, Fla., but is a Lincoln native who began his prep career at Lincoln Southeast High School.

The 6-5, 280-pound Bando was part of one of the nation's top prep teams the past two years at IMG. Playing for Coach Kevin Wright, Bando was a standout at both offensive guard and tackle, helping the Ascenders to an 11-0 record in 2016.

IMG Academy finished the year ranked No. 3 in the nation in the USA Today high school rankings. Behind a strong offensive line, IMG Academy averaged nearly 390 yards per game and scored better than 35 points per contest.

Bando was also part of a perfect season at IMG Academy in 2015, as the school posted a 9-0 record and was ranked among the nation's top 10 prep teams. Bando began his career at Lincoln Southeast in 2014, when he had 30 tackles and two sacks as a defensive lineman and earned honorable-mention All-City honors from the Lincoln Journal Star. Bando also threw the shot put as a freshman and sophomore at Southeast.

Bando is ranked as one of the nation's top 50 offensive guards in the 247 Sports composite rankings and is ranked among the top offensive line prospects in Florida. Bando had offers from numerous schools including Louisville, Mississippi State, Georgia, Georgia Tech and Kansas State, before selecting the Huskers.

Bando was born on Oct. 2, 1998, and is the son of Shannon Hanke.

## **Elijah Blades**

### **6-2, 170, DB, Pasadena, Calif. (John Muir HS)**

Elijah Blades was one of the final pieces in Nebraska's 2017 recruiting class, announcing his decision on Signing Day. The 6-2, 170-pound California native is among the top defensive back prospects in the nation.

Blades was a standout for Coach Antyone Sims at John Muir High School in Pasadena, Calif. As a senior, Blades helped his team to a 6-5 record and a trip to the state playoffs. Blades routinely locked down one side of the field, as teams rarely threw in his direction.

Blades was a second-team All-California selection by USA Today and was second-team all-state among Medium Schools according to Cal-Hi Sports. Blades also had a standout junior season for Muir High and was a member of the varsity team as a sophomore.

Blades is ranked among the top 50 overall prospects in the country by 247 Sports and among the top 100 by Rivals.com, while also being a member of the ESPN 300. Blades is regarded as the third-best cornerback in the nation by 247 Sports and No. 7 by Rivals.com. He is also regarded among the top 12 players in California by both 247 Sports and Rivals.com.

Blades originally committed to Florida, also visited Utah and Washington State and considered USC. Blades was born on June 12, 1999.

## **Jaylin Bradley**

### **RB, 6-0, 180, Bellevue, Neb. (Bellevue West HS)**

The top skill player in the state of Nebraska in 2016, running back Jaylin Bradley joins the Husker class from Bellevue West High School. The 6-0, 180-pound Bradley had a record-setting senior season and led the Thunderbirds to the Class A state title.

Bradley helped Bellevue West and Coach Michael Huffman to a perfect 13-0 record in 2016, while rushing for 2,915 yards and 50 touchdowns on 324 carries, an average of 9.0 yards per carry. Bradley also caught 19 passes for 238 yards and a touchdown and averaged nearly 25 yards on 11 kickoff returns. Bradley's play helped the T-Birds average nearly 500 yards of total offense per game in 2016.

Bellevue West capped its state title run with a 43-6 victory over Omaha North in the state title game at Memorial Stadium. Bradley put on a show, rushing 36 times for 249 yards and five touchdowns in the contest.

As a junior, Bradley rushed for 1,712 yards, while averaging 8.8 yards per carry. He had 19 rushing touchdowns on the season and also caught seven passes, helping Bellevue West to an 11-1 record and a trip to the state semifinals.

Bradley helped his school to a 6-4 record and a state playoff berth as a sophomore in 2014, rushing for 671 yards and 11 touchdowns. He also caught 10 passes and had a touchdown reception. Bradley was a member of the varsity as a freshman and finished his high school career with 5,308 rushing yards.

Bradley was an All-Nebraska and All-Metro selection by the Omaha World-Herald in both 2015 and 2016. He was also a member of the Lincoln Journal Star's Super State team in each of his final two seasons and was an honorary captain of the team as a senior.

Bradley is ranked as the No. 2 prospect in Nebraska by Rivals.com and is listed among the top 70 running backs in the nation by 247Sports. Bradley only visited Nebraska. Bradley also competed in wrestling and track during high school.

He was born on May 3, 1998, and is the son of Solomon and Theresa Bradley.

## **Damion Daniels**

### **6-2, 310, DT, Dallas, Texas (Bishop Dunne HS)**

Damion Daniels was one of the final pieces in Nebraska's 2017 class, announcing his decision to be a Husker on Signing Day. The 6-2, 310-pound Daniels brings an impressive background to the Nebraska defensive line.

Daniels was a standout defender for Bishop Dunne High School and Coach Michael Johnson. As a senior, Daniels finished with 78 tackles, 26 tackles for loss and nine sacks. He also forced three fumbles and had a blocked punt. His play helped Bishop Dunne to an 8-6 record and a trip to the finals of the Division 1 Texas Private and Parochial School playoffs. A team captain in 2016, Daniels was the TAPPS Defensive MVP in 2016 and earned first-team all-state honors.

Daniels also earned first-team all-state honors in 2015, when his play helped Bishop Dunne to a 12-1 record, a district championship and state runner-up honors. As a sophomore, Bishop Dunne earned the TAPSS state title and posted a 12-1 record.

Daniels is ranked among the top 25 defensive tackles in the nation by both Rivals.com and ESPN, while Scout.com lists him as the No. 7 defensive tackle in the Lone Star State. He is also listed among the top 55 players in Texas by Rivals.com, ESPN and in the 247 Sports composite rankings.

Daniels also competes in track for Bishop Dunne, throwing the shot put and discus. He was second in the district in the shot put in 2016.

Daniels chose Nebraska over Colorado and Texas-San Antonio and had dozens of other offers. He was born on Aug. 31, 1999, and is the son of Tony Daniels and Rhonda Daniels.

## **Tristan Gebbia**

### **QB, 6-3, 180, Calabasas, Calif. (Calabasas HS)**

Quarterback Tristan Gebbia (pronounced JEB-ee-uh) is regarded as one of the nation's top quarterback prospects in the 2017 class. Gebbia joined the Huskers in January and is one of five scholarship recruits who will compete in spring ball.

Gebbia finished his career at Calabasas High School as the second-leading passer in California prep history, throwing for 13,109 yards and 141 touchdowns in his career. As a senior, Gebbia threw for 5,338 yards and 61 touchdowns, while completing better than 70 percent of his passes. He also rushed 77 times for 293 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Gebbia's play led Coach Casey Clausen's team to a 14-1 record. Calabasas captured the Southern Section Division 5 championship, before losing in the Division 2-AA Regional Final to San Diego Madison by a score of 60-53 in overtime. Despite the loss, Gebbia shined in the regional final, throwing for 557 yards and seven touchdowns. Gebbia's outstanding play at quarterback helped Calabasas average nearly 450 yards of total offense per game.

Gebbia quarterbacked the Coyotes to a 14-2 record in his junior season, leading the team to a Southern Section Western Division title. Gebbia threw for more than 4,440 yards and 45 touchdowns during his junior campaign, while also rushing for 146 yards and five touchdowns.

The 6-3, 180-pounder first started as a sophomore, when he threw for 3,336 yards and 35 touchdowns, as Calabasas posted a 6-6 record.

Gebbia is ranked among the nation's top quarterback prospects, including a No. 10 ranking among pro-style quarterback in the 247 Composite rankings. He is the No. 6 pro-style quarterback according to Rivals.com and No. 12 by ESPN. He is listed as the nation's No. 115 overall prospect by Rivals.com and among the top 25 players in California by multiple recruiting services. He was an honorable-mention Parade All-American, and was named as a first-team Medium School all-state pick by Cal-HI Sports.

Gebbia chose Nebraska over Ole Miss, Washington, Washington State and West Virginia, and he was a high school teammate of fellow 2017 newcomer Keyshawn Johnson Jr. at Calabasas High. Gebbia also played basketball in high school.

Gebbia was born on June 1, 1998, and is the son of Richard and Kimberly Gebbia.

## **Willie Hampton**

### **LB, 6-1, 225, Plantation, Fla. (American Heritage HS)**

Willie Hampton comes to Nebraska from Plantation, Fla., where he starred on a state championship team in his senior season. Hampton is one of three linebackers in the Huskers' 2017 recruiting class.

The 6-1, 225-pound Hampton helped American Heritage High School to a perfect 14-0 record and a Class 5A state title in 2016. Hampton had 71 tackles, including 14 tackles for loss, and six sacks for Coach Pat Surtain's team. Hampton also had an interception that he returned 55 yards for a touchdown and caused two fumbles on his way to second-team Florida 5A all-state honors.

Hampton began his prep career at Oxbridge Academy. During his junior season, Hampton had 47 tackles, including 10 tackles for loss, while adding nine sacks, a fumble recovery and a fumble caused. His play helped his team to a 9-3 record. Hampton had 38 tackles, four tackles for loss and three sacks as a sophomore, helping his team to a 10-1 record.

Hampton was ranked among the nation's top 50 outside linebackers by both ESPN and 247 Sports, while also being ranked as one of the top 85 players in Florida.

Hampton committed to NU in September and only visited the Huskers, but also had offers from Indiana, UCF, FAU and Western Michigan. Hampton was born on March 16, 1998, and he is the son of Kim Ridley.

## **Brenden Jaimes**

### **OL, 6-5, 250, Austin, Texas (Lake Travis HS)**

Brenden Jaimes (pronounced HIGH-mus) brings a championship pedigree to the Nebraska program. A Texas native, Jaimes is part of an impressive collection offensive linemen in the Huskers' 2017 recruiting class.

The 6-5, 250-pound Jaimes was a standout on the offensive line at Lake Travis High School in Austin. Jaimes paved the way for an offense that averaged nearly 500 yards per game, including better than 290 passing yards per game. Lake Travis posted a 15-1 record en route to a Class 6A, Division 1 state title. Coach Hank Carter's team was also ranked among the nation's top prep teams in 2016.

Jaimes was named the District Offensive Lineman of the Year and was a Class 6A honorable-mention all-state choice. Jaimes was also a standout in 2015, when Lake Travis posted a 15-1 record and was the Class 6A state runner-up.

Jaimes is ranked among the top 300 overall prospects in the nation by Scout.com, which also listed him as one of the nation's top 30 offensive tackles and the third-best tackle prospect in Texas. He was also listed among the top 50 tackles in the nation by both ESPN and 247 Sports. Jaimes committed to the Huskers in April and only visited Nebraska. He also had offers from Baylor, Cal, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa State, TCU, Texas and Texas Tech to name a few schools.

Jaimes was born on May 28, 1999.

## **Keyshawn Johnson Jr.**

### **WR, 6-1, 195 Calabasas, Calif. (Calabasas HS)**

Keyshawn Johnson Jr. joined the Nebraska program at the start of the spring semester in January and is one of five mid-year enrollees who will participate in spring ball. The 6-1, 195-pound Johnson joins his high school teammate, quarterback Tristan Gebbia, in NU's 2017 recruiting class.

Johnson is the son of former NFL great Keyshawn Johnson, who played 11 seasons of pro football after being the first selection in the 1996 NFL Draft.

The younger Johnson had a highly productive career at Calabasas High School for Coach Casey Clausen. Johnson caught 157 passes in his three seasons for the Coyotes, totaling more than 2,300 receiving yards and 20 receiving touchdowns.

In his senior season, Johnson helped Calabasas to its second consecutive Southern Section title. Johnson caught 48 passes for 812 yards, an average of nearly 17 yards per catch, and had 11 receiving touchdowns. Johnson's play in 2015 also contributed to a section championship for the Coyotes. He led the team with 68 receptions for 944 yards, while snaring six touchdowns. Johnson also made a big impact as a sophomore when he caught 41 passes for 572 yards with three touchdowns.

Johnson only made a visit to Nebraska and committed to the Huskers in March of 2016. Johnson is ranked among the top 40 overall prospects in California by ESPN, Rivals.com and in the 247 composite rankings. He is also listed among the top 50 receiver prospects in the nation by each of those recruiting services.

Johnson was born on June 16, 1998, and is the son of Keyshawn Johnson Sr. and Shikiri Hightower.

## **Tyjon Lindsey, WR**

### **5-9, 160, Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman HS)**

Tyjon Lindsey comes to Nebraska from Bishop Gorman High School in Las Vegas, traditionally one of the nation's top high school programs. The 5-9, 160-pound Lindsey is a key piece of an impressive group of receivers in the Huskers' 2017 class.

Lindsey was part of a Bishop Gorman squad that posted a 44-0 record from 2014 to 2016 under coaches Kenny Sanchez (2015, 2016) and Tony Sanchez (2014). As a senior, Lindsey was limited because of an injury but was part of a team that posted a 15-0 record and won the Class 4A state title. The Gaels won the 4A title game by a margin of 84-8.

The playmaking ability of Lindsey was on full display in 2015. He caught 45 passes for 1,117 yards and 14 touchdowns. He also contributed 237 punt return yards and had an interception and two pass breakups on the defensive side. Lindsey was a first-team All-Nevada selection by the Las Vegas Review Journal, and was a first-team all-Southwest League choice. Lindsey helped Bishop Gorman to a 14-0 record and a state title.

As a sophomore in 2014, Lindsey had 34 receptions for 884 yards and 15 touchdowns. He also had 281 punt return yards and 107 kickoff return yards as the Gaels posted a 15-0 record. Lindsey also earned first-team All-Nevada honors as a sophomore for his all-around skills.

Lindsey was recognized as the top player in Nevada by both ESPN and the 247 Sports composite rankings. He is ranked among the top 10 receivers in the nation by Rivals.com, Scout.com and in the 247 composite rankings. He is also listed as high as the No. 50 overall player in the nation by 247 Sports and is also among the top 80 players by Rivals.com, ESPN and Scout.com.

Lindsey was originally committed to Ohio State, before choosing Nebraska. He had dozens of offers, including Alabama, Cal, Louisville, Michigan, Michigan State, Notre Dame, Ole Miss, Penn State, USC, UCLA and Washington to name a few. Lindsey also competes in track and was ranked as the top 300 meter hurdler in Nevada.

Lindsey was born on Jan. 7, 1999, and is the son of Kimberly Jackson.

## **Jaevon McQuitty**

### **WR, 5-11, 190, Columbia, Mo. (Battle HS)**

Receiver Jaevon McQuitty joins the Nebraska program as one of the most prolific wideouts in the Midwest region. The 5-11, 190-pound McQuitty joined the Huskers in January and is one of five 2017 signees to enroll at mid-year.

McQuitty starred at Battle High School for Coach Justin Conyers the past four seasons, the first four years of the school's existence. McQuitty finished his career at Battle with 147 receptions, 2,649 receiving yards and 311 touchdowns. He holds all but two of nine school receiving records.

McQuitty had a strong senior season despite battling an injury near season's end. McQuitty earned first-team All-State honors from the Missouri Coaches Association and second-team All-Missouri honors from USA Today. He caught 39 passes for 854 yards and 12 touchdowns, including seven catches for 247 yards and four touchdowns against Vianney. His play helped Battle High reach the semifinals of the Class 5 playoffs while posting a 14-1 record.

In his junior season in 2015, McQuitty posted huge numbers with 58 receptions for 1,077 yards, an average of nearly 19 yards per reception. McQuitty also reached the end zone 12 times, including a 99-yard touchdown reception. McQuitty earned first-team all-state honors and helped the Spartans to an 11-3 record and a state playoff appearance.

McQuitty was part of a Class 5 state championship team at Battle in 2014. He was a regular at receiver as a sophomore, catching 12 passes for 136 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

McQuitty is ranked as the No. 1 player in Missouri by ESPN, and the second-ranked player in the state in the 247 composite rankings. He is listed among the top 50 receivers in the country by every recruiting service and was listed as the nation's No. 300 overall prospect in the 247 composite rankings.

McQuitty only visited Nebraska, but had multiple offers including Michigan, Missouri, Iowa and Iowa State. He was born on July 16, 1999, and is the son of James McQuitty and Sonya Johnson.

## **Ben Miles**

### **FB, 6-1, 210, Baton Rouge, La. (Catholic HS)**

Ben Miles comes to Nebraska regarded as one of the nation's top fullback prospects. Miles starred at Catholic High School in Baton Rouge, La.

As a senior, Miles helped Catholic High to a 10-3 record and a trip to the quarterfinals of the Division I state playoffs. As a senior, Miles had 49 carries for 236 yards and two touchdowns. He also caught 22 passes for 223 yards and two touchdowns and was a powerful blocker. Miles was a team captain during his senior season and was an all-district choice as an offensive athlete.

Miles was also a key part of Catholic High's success in 2015. The team posted a 10-3 record and went on a playoff run that led to a Division I state championship. Miles was also a varsity team member during the 2014 campaign when Catholic High reached the state quarterfinals.

Miles is regarded among the top three fullbacks in the nation by all major recruiting outlets. He is also ranked as the No. 22 overall prospect in Louisiana by ESPN and as the No. 34 player in Louisiana by Rivals.com.

Miles did not take any other visits, but had numerous offers, including Boston College, LSU, Michigan State and Purdue.

Miles was born on Aug. 31, 1998, and is the son of Les and Kathy Miles. His father, Les, is the former head coach at LSU and Oklahoma State.

## **Kurt Rafdal**

### **6-7, 230, TE, Carmel, Ind. (Carmel HS)**

Tight end Kurt Rafdal was one of the final pieces in the Huskers' 2017 recruiting class, committing to the Huskers three days prior to Signing Day.

The 6-7, 230-pound Rafdal was a standout offensive play-maker for Coach John Herbert at Carmel High School in Indiana. As a senior, Rafdal helped the Greyhounds to a 10-4 record and a Class 6A state championship, with Rafdal making eight catches in the title game at Lucas Oil Stadium. Rafdal was a first-team AP Class 6A all-state selection and an All-Indiana pick by USA Today.

Rafdal helped his team to a 10-3 record and a trip to the state semifinals in 2015. He was also a member of the varsity team at Carmel High in 2014, when the team posted a 15-1 record and was the Class 6A state runner-up.

Rafdal is ranked as the No. 17 tight end in the nation and the No. 6 overall prospect in Indiana by ESPN. He is also listed among the nation's top 35 tight ends and top 10 prospects in Indiana by Rivals.com and Scout.com. Rafdal chose the Huskers over Auburn, Indiana and Iowa. He was born on July 21, 1999.

## **Avery Roberts**

### **LB, 6-1, 220, Wilmington, Del. (Concord HS)**

Avery Roberts comes to Nebraska as one of the top-ranked prospects on the Eastern Seaboard in 2017. The 6-1, 220-pound Roberts is a standout linebacker who is the consensus top player in Delaware.

Roberts, who joined Nebraska in January, is the Huskers' first signee from Delaware since at least 1974. Nebraska has never had a football letterwinner from Delaware.

Roberts was a dominant defender at Concord High School for Coach Greg Mitchell. Roberts compiled 423 career tackles, including 24 sacks, while adding three interceptions and scoring a pair of defensive touchdowns.

In his senior season, Roberts helped Concord High to a 7-4 record and a trip to the state quarterfinals. Roberts had 135 tackles, 18 tackles for loss, eight sacks, four fumble recoveries and three forced fumbles as a senior. Roberts' play also led the school to a 6-4 record in 2015 and a 7-5 record and a state quarterfinal appearance during his sophomore season in 2014. Roberts also played on the varsity team as a freshman in 2013.

The 2016 Delaware Defensive Player of the Year, Roberts was a four-time all-conference selection, a three-time first-team All-Delaware selection and a USA Today All-Delaware pick. Roberts is ranked as the top 2017 prospect in his home state by Rivals.com, ESPN and in the 247 composite rankings. He is also listed as the No. 6 inside linebacker in the 247 composite rankings and as the No. 13 inside linebacker by ESPN. Roberts is listed as the No. 8 outside linebacker in the nation by Rivals.com, who also lists him as the No. 83 overall prospect in the country.

Roberts chose Nebraska over Penn State and had dozens of offers from around the country. Roberts was born on Oct. 8, 1997, and he is the son of Germaine and Charles Roberts.

## **Matt Sichterman**

### **OL, 6-5, 270, Kings Mills, Ohio (Kings HS)**

Ohio prospect Matt Sichterman is part of an impressive group of offensive linemen in Nebraska's 2017 recruiting class.

The 6-5, 270-pound Sichterman was a standout at Kings High School in Kings Mills, Ohio, where he starred for Coach Andy Olds' team. As a senior, Sichterman started at right tackle and helped the team to an 8-3 record and a trip to the Division II playoffs. Sichterman earned the top grade among Kings High linemen and led the squad in knockdown blocks.

Sichterman earned all-state special mention accolades for his play, was a first-team All Tri-State pick and was a first-team All-Southwest District selection.

As a junior, Sichterman helped key a 12-3 season for Kings High, which culminated with a trip to the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. Sichterman was also credited with the most knockdown blocks in 2015. He played tight end prior to his junior season.

Sichterman combined his on-field play with outstanding achievement off the field. He was named the Eastern Cincinnati Conference recipient of the "That's My Boy" award, given by the National Football Foundation and recognizing players for athletic and academic success and community involvement. He also earned the Anthony Munoz Scholar Lineman of the Year Award. He is also a starting post player for the Kings' basketball team.

Sichterman is ranked among the top 300 overall prospects in the nation by Scout.com, which listed him as one of the top 20 guard prospects. Both Rivals.com and the 247 Sports composite rankings list Sichterman as one of the top 25 players in Ohio.

Sichterman only visited Nebraska, but had dozens of offers including Boston College, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Northwestern, Pittsburgh, Purdue, Rutgers and West Virginia to name a few.

Sichterman was born on Feb. 26, 1999, and is the son of Mark and Judy Sichterman. Sichterman is one of three triplets, with his sister, Megan, having signed to swim at Tennessee, and his brother, Dan, inking a football scholarship at Iowa State.

## **Deontre Thomas**

### **DT, 6-3, 280, Mustang, Okla. (Mustang HS)**

Oklahoma native Deontre Thomas is part of an impressive group of defensive line prospects in the Huskers' 2017 recruiting class.

During his senior season Thomas helped Mustang High School to an 8-4 record and a trip to the Class 6A state semifinals. Thomas racked up 79 tackles and eight quarterback sacks for Coach Jeremy Dombek's team.

Thomas' play for the Broncos was recognized as he earned first-team all-state honors from the Daily Oklahoman and USA Today.

Mustang High also reached the state playoffs and posted an 8-4 record in 2015 in Thomas' junior season. Thomas also played varsity ball as a sophomore, helping Mustang to an 8-4 mark and a trip to the state semifinals.

The 6-3, 280-pound Thomas is ranked among the nation's top 200 overall players according to 247 Sports. The service also listed Thomas as the nation's No. 11 defensive tackle and as the No. 5 prospect in the state of Oklahoma. Thomas is also ranked among the top 45 defensive tackles in the country by Rivals.com and ESPN.

Thomas only visited Nebraska, but had numerous offers including Arizona State, Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa State, Kansas State, Michigan, Ole Miss, Texas A&M, TCU and Texas Tech.

Thomas was born on April 30, 1998, and he is the son of Cameal and Frank Thomas.

## **Guy Thomas**

### **DE, 6-3, 205, Miami, Fla. (Booker T. Washington HS)**

Guy Thomas joins the Nebraska program from prep powerhouse Booker T. Washington High School in Miami. The 6-3, 205-pound Thomas is part of an impressive group of defensive linemen in the Huskers' 2017 recruiting class.

Thomas was a standout defender for Coach Tim Harris during the 2016 season at Booker T. Washington. His play helped the team to a 9-4 record and a trip to the semifinals of the Class 4A state playoffs. For his efforts, Thomas was a second-team Florida 4A all-state pick.

Thomas helped Booker T. Washington to a Class 4A state championship in the 2015 campaign. Thomas racked up 54 tackles, including 14 sacks and forced three fumbles.

Thomas is ranked among the top 25 weakside defensive ends in the country by Rivals.com, ESPN and the 247 Sports composite rankings. He was also listed among the top 55 prospects in Florida by both ESPN and Rivals.com.

Thomas also visited Pittsburgh, Maryland and Louisville, and had offers from dozens of schools. He was born on Aug. 5, 1999.

## **Chris Walker**

### **OL, 6-8, 275, Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln East HS)**

Chris Walker was a two-way standout on the line at Lincoln East High School and is one of four in-state prospects in the Huskers' 2017 recruiting class. The 6-8, 275-pound Walker is expected to start his Nebraska career on the offensive line.

Walker helped the Spartans to an impressive postseason run in 2016, as Coach John Gingery's team reached the Class A state semifinals and finished with a 7-5 record. Along the way, Walker's dominant blocking helped East average 227 rushing yards per game, while producing a 1,500-yard rusher. On defense, Walker had 75 tackles, seven sacks and a blocked field goal.

Walker's skills on both sides of the ball were recognized. He was a first-team All-Nebraska selection as an offensive lineman by the Omaha World-Herald, while the paper also listed him as a Class A all-state defensive lineman. Walker was a Super State pick by the Lincoln Journal Star as an offensive lineman.

Walker was an honorable-mention all-state pick during his junior season when he recorded 43 tackles on defense and started on the offensive line.

Walker is a consensus choice as one of the top five prospects in Nebraska. He originally committed to Wyoming, before choosing the Huskers, and also had an offer from Ohio. Walker was born on June 12, 1998.

## **Andrew Ward**

### **LB, 6-1, 200, Muskegon, Mich. (Muskegon HS)**

Andrew Ward is one of three outstanding linebackers in the Huskers' 2017 recruiting class. Ward joins the Huskers from Muskegon High School in Muskegon, Mich.

The 6-1, 200-pound Ward was a dominant defensive force as a senior for Coach Shane Farfield. Ward racked up 122 total tackles in 2016, including 52 solo stops and 70 assists. His play helped the Big Reds to a 12-2 record, and the school fell just short of a state title, dropping a one-point decision in the Division 3 state title game. Ward also starred as a junior in 2015, helping Muskegon to a 9-3 record and a state playoff appearance. Ward had 90 tackles during his junior campaign.

As a senior, Ward earned first-team Division 3 Michigan all-state honors from the Associated Press and was a second-team All-Michigan choice by USA Today. He was also the Muskegon Chronicle Defensive Player of the Year and an all-conference selection. Ward was ranked among the top 25 prospects in Michigan by Rivals.com and 247 Sports. He was also ranked among the top 20 inside linebackers in the nation according to Scout.com.

Ward made his only official visit to Nebraska, but had dozens of offers, including Arizona, Indiana, Iowa State, Penn State, Virginia Tech, Washington State and Western Michigan to name a few. Ward also played basketball during his prep career.

Ward was born on June 1, 1999, and he is the son of Trina Piggee and Andrew Ward.

## **Deiontae Watts**

### **DT, 6-3, 300, Plano, Texas (Plano East HS)**

Deiontae Watts is part of a strong group of defensive linemen in the Huskers' 2017 class. The 6-3, 300-pound Watts comes to Nebraska from Plano East High School in the Dallas area.

Watts helped Coach Jerry McCullough's team to a 6-5 record and a state playoff berth in the Class 6A ranks in 2016. Watts' season was limited by injury but he made his presence felt with 30 tackles, six tackles for loss, two sacks, one forced fumble and 13 quarterback hurries in just six games. He was recognized for his effort with a second-team all-district selection.

Watts also had an injury-shortened season for the Panthers in 2015. He played in just five games, but finished with 20 tackles, four tackles for loss, three sacks and nine quarterback hurries. His play helped Plano East to a 7-4 record.

Watts is ranked as the No. 3 defensive tackle prospect in Texas and among the nation's top 25 defensive tackles by Scout.com. In the 247 Sports composite rankings, Watts checked in as one of the top 60 prospects in Texas and as the No. 31 defensive tackle recruit in the nation.

Watts also visited Baylor and Colorado and had dozens of other offers including Arkansas, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas and Texas A&M to name a few.

Watts is the son of Sandra Watts and Donald Franklin Sr. He was born on Nov. 20, 1997.

## 2017 Walk-on Commitments

### Andrew Bunch

#### QB, 6-1, 190, Thompson Station, Tenn.

#### (Independence HS/Scottsdale CC)

Andrew Bunch is a dual-threat quarterback who transferred from Scottsdale Community College after playing high school football at Independence in Thompson Station, Tenn. During his freshman campaign at Scottsdale for Coach Doug Madoski, Bunch threw for 1,331 yards and 13 touchdowns in nine games. He completed 55.7 percent of his passes, third-best among quarterbacks in the Arizona Community College Athletic Conference. At Independence High, Bunch proved to be a threat both in the air and on the ground as a three-year starter from 2013 to 2015. He amassed 7,747 passing yards, 79 passing touchdowns, 1,140 rushing yards and 21 rushing touchdowns during his career. As a senior in 2015, Bunch helped Independence and Coach Scott Blade to a perfect 15-0 record and the Tennessee Division I Class 5A state title. During his final season for the Eagles, Bunch accumulated 3,405 passing yards, 41 passing touchdowns, 520 rushing yards and nine rushing touchdowns. As a junior in 2014, Bunch threw for 2,802 yards and 24 touchdowns, while rushing for 501 yards and 12 touchdowns. As a sophomore in 2013, he had 1,497 passing yards and 13 touchdowns. Bunch made one varsity appearance as a freshman and threw one touchdown pass. Bunch earned all-state honors as both a junior and senior in high school. He was also the Offensive MVP of the state championship game in 2015. He was born on Oct. 24, 1997, and is the son of David and Dawn Bunch.

### Ethan Cox

#### ATH, 5-11, 175, Blair, Neb. (Blair HS)

Ethan Cox played multiple roles on both sides of the ball for Coach Bryan Soukup and the Blair High School football team. A dual-threat quarterback, Cox rushed for over 950 yards and passed for 3,953 yards in three seasons for the Bears. During his senior season, Cox played in nine games, throwing 1,728 yards and 19 touchdowns, while averaging a quarterback rating of 97.4. His play helped Blair High to the Class B state quarterfinals. Cox also spent part of his sophomore and senior seasons on defense, where he recorded one sack, seven interceptions and three pass deflections. On special teams, he had 19 punts in 24 games, including a long of 64 yards during his senior campaign. Cox also served as a return man for the Bears and notched a total of 13 kickoff returns for touchdowns and four punt returns in three seasons. He finished his career with 4,904 total yards in 24 games, while accounting 59 touchdowns. He holds nearly all the passing records at Blair High. Cox was first-team Class B all-state pick by the Omaha World-Herald as an athlete. Cox also played basketball and baseball and ran track at Blair. He qualified for the state meet in the 300 meter hurdles in 2016. He was born on Feb. 9, 1999, and is the son of Tom and Lisa Cox. Cox had offers from Nebraska-Kearney and Tulane.

### Cole Frahm

#### PK, 6-5, 210, Omaha, Neb. (Burke HS)

Cole Frahm handled field goals, extra points and kickoffs for Omaha Burke from 2014 to 2016. For his career, Frahm made 26-of-42 attempts, with his longest from 39 yards, while making 92-of-97 PAT attempts. As a senior in 2016, Frahm helped Omaha Burke and Coach Paul Limongi to an 8-3 record and a berth in the Nebraska Class A state playoffs, where the Bulldogs advanced to the quarterfinals before being eliminated. Frahm went 8-for-14 on field goal attempts and made 46-of-47 PATs during his final season at Burke. As a junior in 2015, he made 11-of-17 field goals and 25-of-27 PATs. In 2014, Frahm helped the Bulldogs to the state playoffs, going 7-for-11 on field goals and 21-of-23 on PATs. Frahm was named to the Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska team in 2016 and was an All-Metro pick in both 2015 and 2016. He was an honorable-mention all-state choice as a junior. Frahm also plays goalie for the Burke soccer team and earned honorable-mention all-state honors as junior. He is the son of Gerald and Bonnie Frahm and was born on Jan. 21, 1999. Frahm is a cousin of former Nebraska place-kicker Dale Klein. Frahm had scholarship offers from South Dakota State and Augustana.

### Trent Hixson

#### 6-4, 260, OL, Omaha, Neb. (Skutt Catholic HS)

Trent Hixson played in 13 games as a senior at Skutt Catholic, helping his team to a 10-3 record and a Class B state runner-up finish. He recorded 96 total tackles, including 10 for a loss, three sacks and a fumble recovery for Coach Matt Turman. Hixson was named second-team Super State and first-team All-Class B by the Lincoln Journal Star in 2016. He was also an Omaha World Herald first-team All-Class B performer as both a junior and senior. He was also a Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha World Herald All-Class B defensive lineman as a junior in 2015. Hixson racked up 67 tackles and four tackles for loss during his junior season and had 57 tackles and 3 TFL on a state championship team as a sophomore in 2014. Hixson finished with 214 career tackles, the second-most in Skutt history. Hixson played in two games as a sophomore on the offensive line, and he also recorded four total tackles on defense. Hixson was also on the wrestling team in high school and finished fifth in Class B at 285 pounds in 2016. Hixson was born on April 10, 1999, and is the son of Rick and Micki Hixson. Hixson had offers from South Dakota and the Air Force Academy.

### Ben Lingenfelter

#### DL, 6-5, 265, Cherokee, Iowa (Washington HS)

Ben Lingenfelter was a Des Moines Register first-team All-Iowa performer in 2016, playing for Coach Travis Schipper at Washington High School. His position coach was former NFL offensive lineman Adam Timmerman. Lingenfelter helped Washington High to a playoff appearance in 2015, and finished with 280 career tackles and 18.5 career sacks. Lingenfelter played in six games as a junior, recording 30 solo tackles, including three for a loss. He also had three sacks on the season and one fumble recovery. Lingenfelter spent his freshman and sophomore years at Neligh-Oakdale High School in Neligh, Neb. He played in 10 games as a sophomore, posting 86 total tackles, including 28 solo tackles and one sack. In nine games as a freshman, Lingenfelter made 61 tackles, including 36 solo stops. He was a member of Washington's speech team which won state his junior year, and was an academic all-state selection with a 4.0 cumulative grade-point average. Lingenfelter also competes in basketball and track. He earned honorable-mention all-state honors in basketball and placed fourth in the discus at the 2016 state track meet. Lingenfelter has strong Husker ties, as his brother, Luke (2011), cousin, Newton (2005), and uncle, Bob (1974-76), all played football for Nebraska. He is the son of Burt and Kim Lingenfelter, and was born on Jan. 6, 1999. Lingenfelter had scholarship offers to South Dakota, Northern Iowa and Tulane, as well as a walk-on offer at Stanford.

## **Cody Liske**

### **6-0, 200, LB, Bennington, Neb. (Bennington HS)**

Cody Liske was a four-year varsity player for Coach Greg Bohn and the Bennington High School football team. Liske played defense all four years for the Badgers. In his final two seasons, Liske played in 20 games, notched one interception, recovered two fumbles and recorded 174 tackles. He helped the Badgers to the Class B playoffs in 2016. As a sophomore, he was responsible for 23 tackles, including 15 solo stops. Liske played offense for Bennington in his final two seasons, rushing for 657 yards as a senior and 599 yards a junior. He found the end zone 13 times over the course of the two seasons. As a senior, he caught six passes for 78 yards, including one touchdown. Liske earned first-team all-conference honors, first-team all-area honors and honorable-mention all-state honors in both 2015 and 2016. He was also an academic all-state honoree in 2016. On the track, Liske was the Class B 100-meter dash runner-up in 2016. He was born on Nov. 2, 1998, and is the son of Matthew and Tiffany Liske.

## **Hunter Miller**

### **OL, 6-5, 275, Stromsburg, Neb. (Cross County HS)**

Hunter Miller played both offensive and defensive line for Coach Ty Twarling at Cross County High School in Stromsburg, Neb. Miller helped the Cougars to state playoff appearances each of the past three seasons. On defense, Miller recorded 83 tackles during his junior and senior seasons, including 21 solo stops. Miller played in nine games for the Cougars during each of the 2015 and 2016 seasons. As a senior, he was responsible for 56 tackles, eight tackles for loss, one sack, one interception and two blocked field goals. His play in 2016 earned Miller first-team Class C-2 all-state honors. In 2015, Miller earned honorable mention all-area accolades. As the 2014 Cross County High School Lifter of the Year, Miller holds numerous school lifting records. Miller is also a member of the wrestling, baseball and track teams. During his freshman and sophomore wrestling campaigns, Miller claimed the Crossroads Conference title and was a state qualifier as a junior. Miller also set Cross County's freshman win record. As a member of the track team, Miller set the school shot put record in 2015 and was a state qualifier. He is the son of Grant and Amy Miller and was born on Oct. 16, 1998. Miller had a scholarship offer to Northern Colorado.

## **Jordan Paup**

### **DE, 6-4, 230, Central City, Neb. (Central City HS)**

Jordan Paup was a Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha World Herald first-team All-Class C-2 performer as a senior. He recorded 74 total tackles, including 55 solo stops in 10 games as a senior for Central City in 2016, helping his team to the first round of the state playoffs. Paup had 29 of his tackles for loss, and also made 13 sacks, and recovered two fumbles, returning one for a touchdown. As a junior in 2015, Paup played in 11 games, making 109 total stops, including 75 unassisted and 18 for a loss to go along with 7.5 sacks as he helped Central City to the state quarterfinals. The Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha World Herald first-team All-Class C-1 performer recovered one fumble and intercepted one pass as a junior. In 2014, 30 of Paup's 55 total tackles were solo stops. He also recorded 3.5 sacks and recovered three fumbles as a sophomore. Paup also participated in basketball in high school and qualified for state in track in the shot put as a junior.

## **Dylan Reynolds**

### **WR, 6-0, 170, Broken Bow, Neb. (Broken Bow HS)**

Dylan Reynolds recorded 14 receptions for 369 yards and six touchdowns and also had one rushing touchdown as a senior for Coach Mike Garner at Broken Bow High. On defense, Reynolds made 46 total tackles and had three interceptions. He also returned punts and kickoffs. In 2015, Reynolds helped his team to an 8-1 regular-season record and the first round of the state playoffs. He earned honorable-mention all-state honors in Class C-1 for his play. The big-play threat averaged 47.9 yards per reception as a junior. He also had three rushes for 87 yards. On defense, Reynolds recorded 28 tackles, three interceptions and a pair of fumble recoveries. He also averaged 24 yards on 10 punt returns and 27.8 yards on 12 kick returns and set a Nebraska Class C1 record with a 98-yard kick return for a touchdown. Reynolds also played in two games as a sophomore, catching one pass for 15 yards. Reynolds also plays basketball and runs track at Broken Bow and has qualified for the state track meet each of the past three years. Reynolds was born on June 27, 1998, and he is the son of Todd and Lori Reynolds.