

NEBRASKA FOOTBALL

2021 RECRUITING CLASS

SCHOLARSHIP ADDITIONS (20)

NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/LAST SCHOOL)
Koby Bretz	DB	6-2	195	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)
Ru'Quan Buckley*	DL	6-5	280	Wyoming, Mich. (Godwin Heights)
Marques Buford Jr.*	DB	6-0	190	DeSoto, Texas (Trinity Christian/St. Thomas More [Conn.] Prep)
James Carnie*	TE	6-5	220	Roca, Neb. (Norris)
Gabe Ervin Jr.*	RB	6-1	190	Buford, Ga. (Buford)
Thomas Fidone II*	TE	6-5	220	Council Bluffs, Iowa (Lewis Central)
Mikai Gbayor	LB	6-2	220	Irvington, N.J. (Irvington)
Kamonte Grimes	WR	6-3	200	Naples, Fla. (Palmetto Ridge)
Heinrich Haarberg*	QB	6-5	190	Kearney, Neb. (Catholic)
Shawn Hardy II	WR	6-3	190	Kingsland, Ga. (Camden County)
Wynden Ho'ohuli	LB	6-3	220	Mililani, Hawaii (Mililani)
Randolph Kpai*	LB	6-3	185	Sioux Falls, S.D. (Washington)
Henry Lutovsky*	OL	6-6	320	Crawfordsville, Iowa (Mount Pleasant)
Seth Malcom*	LB	6-3	205	Tabor, Iowa (Fremont-Mills)
Latrell Neville	WR	6-4	195	Fresno, Texas (Hightower)
Teddy Prochazka*	OL	6-9	280	Elkhorn, Neb. (South)
AJ Rollins	TE	6-6	230	Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)
Jailen Weaver	DL	6-8	320	Antioch, Calif. (Antioch)
Malik Williams	DB	6-0	190	Atlanta, Ga. (Buford)
Branson Yager*	OL	6-8	330	Grantsville, Utah (Grantsville)

*-enrolled at Nebraska in January

STATE BREAKDOWN

- Nebraska (5)
- Georgia (3)
- Iowa (3)
- Texas (2)
- California (1)
- Florida (1)
- Hawaii (1)
- Michigan (1)
- New Jersey (1)
- South Dakota (1)
- Utah (1)

POSITION BREAKDOWN

- Linebackers (4)
- Defensive Backs (3)
- Offensive Line (3)
- Tight Ends (3)
- Wide Receivers (3)
- Defensive Line (2)
- Running Back (1)
- Quarterback (1)

WALK-ON COMMITMENTS (20)

NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/LAST SCHOOL)
Michael Booker III	DB	6-1	195	Grand Prairie, Texas (South Grand Prairie)
Derek Branch	DB	5-11	175	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
Grant Buda	LB	6-0	205	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
Alex Bullock	WR	6-2	190	Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)
Maddox Burton	DL	6-4	285	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
Blake Closman	DB	5-10	190	Elkhorn, Neb. (Millard North)
AJ Collins	DB	5-10	170	Bennington, Neb. (Creighton Prep)
Sam Hoskinson	OL	6-0	245	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn South)
Christian (C.J.) Lilienkamp	DB	6-0	170	Bellevue, Neb. (Bellevue West)
Grant Lohr	RB	6-0	185	Tulsa, Okla. (Jenks)
Joey Mancino	OL	6-3	300	Holmdel, N.J. (Holmdel)
Kelen Meyer	PK	6-3	190	Ord, Neb. (Ord)
Evan Meyersick	TE	6-5	185	Omaha, Neb. (Millard West)
Weston Reiman	OL	6-2	290	Weeping Water, Neb. (Weeping Water)
Beau Schaller	OL	6-2	265	Waukee, Iowa (Waukee)
Matthew Schuster	RB	5-9	170	Cozad, Neb. (Cozad/Ashland-Greenwood)
Jarrett Synek	QB	6-0	190	Hastings, Neb. (Hastings)
Taveon Thompson	WR	6-4	200	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
Payton Weehler	DB	6-3	190	Blockton, Iowa (Mt. Ayr)
Aiden Young	RB	5-9	175	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn)

STATE BREAKDOWN

- Nebraska (15)
- Iowa (2)
- New Jersey (1)
- Oklahoma (1)
- Texas (1)

POSITION BREAKDOWN

- Defensive Back (6)
- Offensive Line (4)
- Running Back (2)
- Wide Receiver (2)
- Defensive Line (1)
- Linebacker (1)
- Place-Kicker (1)
- Quarterback (1)
- Tight End (1)

The walk-ons listed above have been admitted to the UNL and paid their enrollment deposit

SCHOLARSHIP BIOS

KOBY BRETZ

DEFENSIVE BACK | 6-2 | 195
OMAHA, NEB. | WESTSIDE HS

Koby Bretz is one of five Nebraska natives in the Huskers' signing class, including three from the Omaha area. Bretz helped Omaha Westside to a state runner-up finish as a junior and a state championship as a senior.

In his senior season, Bretz had 54 tackles, 1.0 tackle for loss, three interceptions, four passes defended, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery, according to MaxPreps. On offense, Bretz led Westside with 37 catches for 583 yards and eight touchdowns, and he added nearly 200 return yards. In Westside's state championship game win, Bretz made nine tackles, broke up three passes, had three catches for 78 yards and a touchdown and had 80 return yards. Bretz was named to the Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska and Lincoln Journal Star Super-State teams as a senior. As a junior, Bretz earned honorable-mention all-state honors from both the World-Herald and Journal Star. Bretz was also an accomplished diver for Westside. He took second place at the state meet as a sophomore and third place as a junior.

Bretz chose Nebraska over several other scholarship offers, including Buffalo, Kansas State and Wyoming. He was ranked among the top 50 safeties nationally by Rivals.

RU'QUAN BUCKLEY

DEFENSIVE LINE | 6-5 | 280
WYOMING, MICH. | GODWIN HEIGHTS HS

Ru'Quan Buckley is only the fourth Michigan native to sign with Nebraska since 1974. He was a standout offensive and defensive lineman for Godwin Heights High School. Buckley enrolled at Nebraska in January, and he is the youngest member of the Huskers' recruiting class, as he won't turn 18 until October of 2021.

A 2020 Sports Illustrated All-America candidate, Buckley started all four seasons for Godwin Heights, including as a 13-year old freshman. The first player in school history to sign with a Big Ten school, Buckley made 74 tackles as a senior with 22 tackles for loss and 11 sacks in only seven games. On offense, Buckley was one of eight offensive linemen statewide named to the Michigan Coaches Association's 2020 Dream Team.

Buckley was ranked as the No. 16 high school senior in Michigan by the Detroit News. He was ranked among the nation's top 40 strongside defensive ends in the 247Sports Composite rankings. He had an impressive list of offers, choosing Nebraska over Cincinnati, Florida State, Michigan State and Minnesota.

MARQUES BUFORD JR.

DEFENSIVE BACK | 6-0 | 190
DESOTO, TEXAS | TRINITY CHRISTIAN HS
ST. THOMAS MORE (CONN.) PREP

Marques Buford Jr. spent the fall semester at St. Thomas More Prep School in Connecticut, where he played a limited schedule of six games due to the pandemic. Buford is the nation's top-ranked prep school recruit, marking the second straight year the Huskers have signed the No. 1 prep school recruit from St. Thomas More Prep after Alante Brown inked with NU in December of 2019. Buford enrolled at Nebraska in January.

Buford spent the first two seasons of his high school career at Bolingbrook High School in Chicago and his final two seasons at Trinity Christian High School in Texas. Buford recorded more than 90 tackles with five interceptions in his two seasons at Trinity Christian, which both culminated with state championships. As a senior in 2019, Buford made 40 tackles and intercepted three passes, in addition to totaling 412 receiving yards and seven touchdowns, according to MaxPreps. He was an all-district and all-state performer in each of his two seasons at Trinity Christian. Buford started for Bolingbrook as a freshman wide receiver before becoming a two-way player as a sophomore.

The nation's top-rated prep school recruit, Buford chose Nebraska over Cal, Iowa, Ole Miss, Pittsburgh, Texas A&M and Washington State. Buford's coach at St. Thomas More Prep was Jason Manson, who was a college teammate of Nebraska defensive coordinator Erik Chinander at Iowa.

JAMES CARNIE

TIGHT END | 6-5 | 220
ROCA, NEB. | NORRIS HS

James Carnie is the first scholarship player to sign with Nebraska out of Norris High School in at least 40 years. One of five Nebraska natives in the Huskers' signing class, Carnie is one of three talented and athletic tight ends in the 2021 class. Carnie enrolled at Nebraska in January.

Carnie helped the Titans to state tournament quarterfinal appearances as both a junior and senior, and he helped Norris achieve a No. 1 ranking in Class B as a senior. He caught 38 passes for 594 yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior, while also being a defensive standout. Following his senior season, Carnie was named to the Lincoln Journal Star Super-State team and the Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska team. He was also the co-captain of the Class B all-state team. Carnie also ran track at Norris, competing in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes and the 400-meter relay.

Carnie was ranked as the No. 3 recruit in the state and among the top 15 tight ends nationally by 247Sports. He chose Nebraska over Iowa and Kansas State.

GABE ERVIN JR.

RUNNING BACK | 6-1 | 190
BUFORD, GA. | BUFORD HS

Gabe Ervin Jr. is a standout running back from Buford High School in Georgia. He is one of two players to sign with Nebraska from Buford High, along with teammate Malik Williams. Ervin was a 2020 Sports Illustrated All-America candidate. He enrolled at Nebraska in January.

Ervin helped Buford to the Class 6A state championship, winning a state title in Georgia's second-largest class one season after he helped the Wolves to a Class 5A state championship. Ervin ran for more than 1,000 yards as a senior, including 40 carries for 333 yards and five touchdowns in the state playoffs. For his efforts as a senior, Ervin was named a first-team all-state selection by Georgia High School Football Daily. As a junior, Ervin rushed for more than 1,200 yards and 15 touchdowns while averaging nearly seven yards per carry and helping the Wolves to a state title in Georgia's third-largest class.

Ervin had more than two dozen scholarship offers, choosing Nebraska over Arizona State, Duke, Georgia and Michigan State, among others. He was ranked among the top 25 running backs in the nation by Rivals.

THOMAS FIDONE II

TIGHT END | 6-5 | 220
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA | LEWIS CENTRAL HS

Thomas Fidone II signed with Nebraska as the country's top tight end recruit and a top 40 national recruit overall, the highest-rated recruit to sign with the Huskers since 2008. Fidone was a high school All-American for Lewis Central High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa, as he was selected for the 2021 All-American Bowl, which features the nation's top 100 seniors. Fidone was also the lone tight end on the 2020 Sports Illustrated All-America first team. He enrolled at Nebraska in January.

A second-team preseason USA Today All-American, Fidone put up big numbers in his senior season en route to first-team All-America accolades at the conclusion of the season. He caught 43 passes for 845 yards and 10 touchdowns in 10 games, according to the Des Moines Register. Despite facing constant double and triple teams, Fidone averaged 84.5 receiving yards per game and 19.7 yards per catch, an average that ranked fourth in the state according to the Register. For his efforts, Fidone was named to the All-Iowa Elite team in addition to being an all-state selection. As a junior, Fidone had 39 receptions for 576 yards and seven touchdowns to help the Titans reach the state semifinals. Fidone caught more than 100 passes in his prep career while amassing more than 1,500 receiving yards and more than 20 touchdowns.

Fidone was rated as the No. 1 tight end in the 2021 recruiting class by both Rivals and 247Sports. Rivals listed Fidone as the No. 31 overall recruit in the country, while 247Sports tabbed Fidone as the nation's No. 41 recruit. He was the consensus pick as the top recruit in the state of Iowa. Fidone held offers from nearly every major program in the country and chose Nebraska over Iowa, LSU, Michigan, Notre Dame and Penn State.

MIKAI GBAYOR

LINEBACKER | 6-2 | 200
IRVINGTON, N.J. | IRVINGTON HS

Mikai Gbayor (pronounced muh-KIE BAY-er) is the second New Jersey native to sign with Nebraska in the past three seasons. Gbayor was a standout linebacker for Irvington High School, where he was named a 2020 All-America candidate by Sports Illustrated.

Gbayor made 56 tackles, including 29 for a loss, with nine sacks in his senior season at Irvington. For his efforts, he was named to the USA Today All-New Jersey first team. Gbayor was also a nominee for the 2020 USA Football Heart of a Giant Award. As a junior, Gbayor made 86 tackles with 32 TFLs and 14 sacks. Gbayor was named the Essex County defensive player of the year as a junior.

Gbayor was ranked among the top 10 recruits in the state of New Jersey by 247Sports and was regarded as the nation's No. 21 inside linebacker by Rivals. Gbayor had offers from several other top schools, and chose Nebraska over Kentucky, Michigan State, Ole Miss and West Virginia.

KAMONTE GRIMES

WIDE RECEIVER | 6-3 | 200
NAPLES, FLA. | PALMETTO RIDGE HS

Kamonte Grimes joins the Nebraska program as a high school All-American. A talented wide receiver, Grimes starred for Palmetto Ridge High School in Florida. One of 250 national finalists for Sports Illustrated All-America honors, Grimes was selected for the 2021 All-American Bowl, which features the nation's top 100 seniors. Grimes was the first player from Palmetto Ridge High School selected for the All-American Bowl.

Grimes finished his high school career with more than 1,500 receiving yards, according to MaxPreps. He caught 97 passes for 1,524 yards and 17 touchdowns. As a senior, Grimes caught 29 passes for 372 yards and nine touchdowns, helping Palmetto Ridge to a 9-1 record and a trip to the semifinals of the Class 6A state playoffs. He was a first-team all-conference pick as a senior. As a junior, Grimes caught 28 passes for 578 yards and five touchdowns. He made 21 catches and totaled 223 yards with one touchdown as a sophomore, while also scoring a pair of rushing touchdowns. Grimes also saw action on the varsity team as a freshman, totaling 19 receptions, 351 receiving yards and two touchdowns.

Grimes was ranked among the nation's top 60 wide receivers. He chose Nebraska over Kentucky, Maryland, Miami and Michigan.

HEINRICH HAARBERG

QUARTERBACK | 6-5 | 190
KEARNEY, NEB. | CATHOLIC HS

A three-year starter for Kearney Catholic High School, Heinrich Haarberg is the first in-state scholarship quarterback to sign with Nebraska since 2001. He was a 2020 Sports Illustrated All-America candidate. Haarberg enrolled at Nebraska in January.

As a senior, Haarberg completed 55 percent of his passes for 1,857 yards and 19 touchdowns, according to the Kearney Hub. He added 556 rushing yards, scoring 10 touchdowns on the ground and averaging 6.0 yards per carry. For his efforts, Haarberg was named the Hub Territory 11-Man Player of the Year in addition to being an Omaha World-Herald second-team All-Nebraska honoree and a Lincoln Journal Star second-team Super-State selection. Haarberg was an honorable-mention all-state selection by both the World-Herald and Journal Star as a junior, when he threw for 1,869 yards and 23 touchdowns and ran for 426 yards and four scores. Haarberg first became Kearney Catholic's starting quarterback during his sophomore season. He also starred at the Nebraska Class C state track and field championships as a sophomore, finishing second in the 200-meter dash and the 400-meter relay and third in the 100-meter dash and high jump.

Haarberg was ranked among the nation's top 20 dual-threat quarterbacks by 247Sports. He had more than a dozen scholarship offers and chose Nebraska over Boston College. His father, Rod, was a walk-on fullback at Nebraska in the early 1990s.

SHAWN HARDY II

WIDE RECEIVER | 6-3 | 190
KINGSLAND, GA. | CAMDEN COUNTY HS

Shawn Hardy II is one of three Georgia natives in Nebraska's signing class. He comes to Lincoln after amassing more than 2,000 career receiving yards for Camden County High School.

A 2020 Sports Illustrated All-America candidate, Hardy had 109 receptions in his prep career for 2,023 yards and 18 touchdowns, according to MaxPreps. He caught 29 passes for 446 yards and three touchdowns in only seven games as a senior. Hardy had 44 catches for 782 yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior after catching 36 passes for 795 yards and five touchdowns as a sophomore.

Hardy was ranked among the top 80 wide receivers in the country by ESPN. He chose Nebraska after receiving several other prominent offers, including Kentucky, LSU and Ohio State.

WYNDEN HO'OHULI

LINEBACKER | 6-3 | 220
MILILANI, HAWAII | MILILANI HS

A consensus choice as the top prospect in Hawaii, linebacker Wynden Ho'ohuli (pronounced WIN-dinn HO-uh-WHO-lee) committed to Nebraska in early January. The 6-3, 220-pound Ho'ohuli is the first Hawaiian prep player to sign with Nebraska since 1999. Ho'ohuli was regarded as Hawaii's top prospect despite the state not playing high school football during the 2020 fall season.

Ho'ohuli was a standout for Coach Rod York at Mililani High School in 2019, helping the Trojans to an 8-5 record and a trip to the state playoffs. Ho'ohuli played multiple positions on defense, making impact plays as an inside linebacker, outside linebacker and safety. For his efforts as a junior, Ho'ohuli was a second-team all-state selection at linebacker by the Honolulu Advertiser. Ho'ohuli transferred to Mililani High after spending his sophomore year at St. Louis High School.

Ho'ohuli is regarded as a four-star prospect with Rivals ranking him as the nation's No. 13 outside linebacker and among the nation's top 200 prospects overall. Ho'ohuli checks in as the No. 10 inside linebacker recruit in the 247Sports Composite rankings, which also slots him as the No. 153 overall prospect. Ho'ohuli was selected to participate in the U.S. Army All-American Game and was also named to the prestigious Tacoma Tribune Top 100 in the West list.

RANDOLPH KPAI

LINEBACKER | 6-3 | 185
SIOUX FALLS, S.D. | WASHINGTON HS

Randolph Kpai (pronounced kuh-PIE) comes to Nebraska as the top player in South Dakota and one of the top linebacker prospects in the country. Kpai starred for Washington High School, becoming the fourth player from the school to sign with Nebraska in the past decade. Kpai enrolled at Nebraska in January.

Kpai was recognized as one of the top players in the country as he earned second-team All-America honors from Sports Illustrated as a senior. He finished his prep career with 218 tackles, 30 tackles for loss, 10 sacks, two forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries, according to the Argus Leader. As both a junior and senior, Kpai was named to the Argus Leader Elite 45 team, which honored the top 45 players in the state regardless of class. Kpai made 79 tackles with 9.5 tackles for loss, four sacks and two forced fumbles as a senior. As a junior, he recorded 63 tackles, 12.5 tackles for loss, three sacks and two fumble recoveries. As a sophomore, Kpai helped Washington finish as the state runner-up.

The consensus top prospect in South Dakota, Kpai was regarded as a four-star recruit in the 247Sports Composite rankings, which tabbed Kpai as the nation's No. 15 outside linebacker recruit and No. 253 overall prospect. Kpai had numerous scholarship offers and chose Nebraska over his other finalists Iowa and Minnesota.

HENRY LUTOVSKY

OFFENSIVE LINE | 6-6 | 320

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IOWA | MOUNT PLEASANT HS

Henry Lutovsky is one of the top offensive line recruits in the region and was a 2020 Sports Illustrated All-America candidate while playing for Mount Pleasant High School in Iowa. Lutovsky enrolled at Nebraska in January.

A two-time all-state pick by the Des Moines Register, Lutovsky was named to the 2020 All-Iowa Elite team, which recognizes the best players in the state regardless of class. He also earned all-state honors from the Iowa Print Sports Writers Association as a senior after helping the Panthers average 352.6 yards and 26.1 points per game.

Lutovsky was regarded as the nation's No. 13 offensive guard by Rivals. He chose Nebraska over Georgia, Iowa State and Missouri, among others.

SETH MALCOM

LINEBACKER | 6-3 | 205

TABOR, IOWA | FREMONT-MILLS HS

Seth Malcom played eight-man football for Fremont-Mills High School in Iowa and was named a 2020 Sports Illustrated All-America candidate. A versatile athlete, Malcom was a weapon on both offense and defense for the Knights. He enrolled at Nebraska in January.

Malcom was a two-time all-state selection and earned a spot on the 2020 Des Moines Register All-Iowa Elite team, which recognizes the best players in the state regardless of class. As a senior, Malcom had 92.5 tackles, 70 solo tackles and 17 tackles for loss while helping the Knights to a runner-up finish in the state playoffs. On offense, he rushed for 1,606 yards and scored 24 total touchdowns. Malcom also earned a spot as a linebacker on the eight-man all-state team as a junior.

Malcom had offers from several other schools including Boise State, Iowa, Iowa State, Kansas State, Minnesota and Wyoming. Malcom's parents both played college sports. His father, Alex, was a second-team All-America football player at Peru State and his mother, Tracy, played college volleyball.

LATRELL NEVILLE

WIDE RECEIVER | 6-4 | 195

FRESNO, TEXAS | HIGHTOWER HS

Latrell Neville chose Nebraska over several other top programs after starring as a wideout for Hightower High School in Texas. A 2020 Sports Illustrated All-America candidate, Neville is still competing in his senior season with his team in the state playoffs.

In eight games his senior season, Neville had 21 catches for 270 yards en route to earning first-team all-district accolades. In his junior season, Neville finished with 30 catches for 276 yards and two touchdowns, with Neville accounting for nearly one-third of the Hurricanes' receiving yards. The team finished third in the district and reached the state playoffs.

Neville received offers from several top programs, including Alabama, Auburn, Florida, LSU, Ohio State, Oklahoma and Texas A&M.

TEDDY PROCHAZKA

OFFENSIVE LINE | 6-9 | 280

ELKHORN, NEB. | SOUTH HS

One of the top 75 prospects in the country, Teddy Prochazka is the highest rated of Nebraska's five in-state scholarship recruits. A 2020 Sports Illustrated All-America candidate, Prochazka joins the Huskers as an offensive lineman after he was a two-way lineman for Elkhorn South High School. Prochazka enrolled at Nebraska in January.

Prochazka was a three-year starter on offense and two-year starter on defense. As a senior, he helped Elkhorn South to a state runner-up finish when he was named to the Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska and Lincoln Journal Star Super-State first teams. Prochazka was one of the most decorated Nebraska high school players during his career, as he was also an All-Nebraska first-team selection in 2019, one of only five juniors to make the team. He was also named a first-team Super-State selection by the Lincoln Journal Star as a junior and was a second-team Super-State pick as a sophomore.

Prochazka was ranked among the nation's top 75 recruits by Rivals, which regarded him as the 11th-best offensive tackle in the country and the No. 73 player overall. The 247Sports Composite rankings listed Prochazka among the nation's top 250 overall prospects and top 20 offensive tackles. Prochazka had numerous offers and chose Nebraska over Arizona State, Iowa and Michigan among many others.

AJ ROLLINS

TIGHT END | 6-6 | 230

OMAHA, NEB. | CREIGHTON PREP

AJ Rollins is the first Creighton Prep product to sign with the Huskers since 2005. Rollins is an intriguing prospect who had seen himself playing college basketball until the summer before his senior year of high school.

Rollins was one of 250 finalists to be a 2020 Sports Illustrated All-American, and he was named a second-team Super-State selection by the Lincoln Journal Star. He helped the Junior Jays to the state quarterfinals as a senior. As a junior, Rollins caught 13 passes for 169 yards and two touchdowns. He was also a standout on the basketball court, averaging 11.2 points and 6.1 rebounds per game as a junior.

Rollins was ranked among the nation's top 45 tight ends in the 247Sports Composite rankings. He chose Nebraska over Iowa State and Missouri, among others. Rollins' cousin is Iowa State running back Breece Hall.

JAILEN WEAVER

DEFENSIVE LINE | 6-8 | 320

ANTIOCH, CALIF. | ANTIOCH HS

Jailen Weaver joins the Nebraska program from California, and he brings great size, strength and athleticism to the Husker defense. Weaver has yet to play his senior season, as Antioch High School postponed the football season until February due to the pandemic.

According to MaxPreps, Weaver made 46 tackles with 9.0 sacks and 12.0 tackles for loss in 10 games as a junior, when he was an honorable-mention All-Metro selection by the San Francisco Chronicle. He saw his first varsity action as a sophomore, totaling 24 tackles, 1.0 sack and 3.0 TFLs.

Weaver's athleticism was on display as he also played basketball and competed in track and field for Antioch. In a junior track season shortened by the pandemic, Weaver won the shot put and finished second in the discus at the Pittsburg Relays, where he also ran a 100-meter leg for the school's sprint medley relay team. As a sophomore, Weaver won three titles and added four runner-up finishes in both the shot put and discus, and he qualified for the state championship in the discus after a third-place finish at the North Coast Section Meet of Champions. Weaver was a two-time shot put and three-time discus meet champion as a freshman.

Ranked among the top 50 players in California by Rivals, Weaver chose Nebraska over several other Power Five offers, including Arizona, Arizona State, Indiana and Tennessee.

MALIK WILLIAMS

DEFENSIVE BACK | 6-0 | 190

ATLANTA, GA. | BUFORD HS

A standout in the secondary, Malik Williams is one of two talented signees to sign with Nebraska from Buford High School in Georgia, along with his teammate Gabe Ervin.

Williams played a key role in Buford winning the Class 6A state championship his senior season. As a junior, Williams helped Buford win the 2019 Class 5A state title before the Wolves moved up a class. Williams also competes in track and field for the Wolves. He holds the school record in the long jump (23-2) after breaking the long-standing school record held by Tim Wansley, a former Georgia standout who went on to play in the NFL.

Williams had a more than a dozen scholarship offers from Power Five schools but chose Nebraska over Texas, Florida and Louisville. His older brother LeAnthony is a defensive back at Clemson.

BRANSON YAGER

OFFENSIVE LINE | 6-8 | 330

GRANTSVILLE, UTAH | GRANTSVILLE HS

Branson Yager was an imposing two-way lineman for Grantsville High School in Utah, where he was a 2020 Sports Illustrated All-America candidate. He is the first Utah native to sign with Nebraska out of high school since 2012 and just the third this century. Yager enrolled at Nebraska in January.

Yager spent three seasons on varsity for Grantsville and helped the team reach the playoffs all three years. He played in 23 games in his career and recorded 24 pancake blocks and 26 tackles. He also had one fumble recovery. Yager was named a first-team all-state selection as a senior.

Yager was ranked among the top 10 players in the state of Utah and the top 50 offensive tackles nationally by Rivals. He chose Nebraska over BYU, California, Iowa State, Vanderbilt and Virginia.

WALK-ON BIOS

MICHAEL BOOKER III

DEFENSIVE BACK | 6-1 | 195

GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS | SOUTH GRAND PRAIRIE HS

Michael Booker III is one of several second-generation Huskers in the 2021 Nebraska walk-on class. The Grand Prairie, Texas, product is the son of Michael Booker Jr., who played defensive back at Nebraska and was a first-round pick in the 1997 NFL Draft. The younger Booker helped South Grand Prairie High School to a 6-3 record in 2020, as the team reached the Class 6A Division 1 playoffs. Booker's play also head Coach Brent Whitson's team to the state playoffs during the 2019 season. Booker's father, Michael, was a member of two Husker national championship teams in 1994 and 1995, and was the Defensive MVP of the 1996 Fiesta Bowl against Florida. Booker was the 11th selection of the 1997 NFL Draft by the Atlanta Falcons and played five seasons in the NFL with the Falcons and Titans.

DEREK BRANCH

DEFENSIVE BACK | 5-11 | 175

LINCOLN, NEB. | SOUTHEAST HS

Derek Branch joins the Husker program as a defensive back from Lincoln Southeast High School. Branch was a key member of the Knight defense for the past three seasons, helping Southeast to three consecutive state quarterfinal appearances. As a senior, Branch was the leading receiver for an 8-1 Southeast team, finishing with 18 receptions for 181 yards and four touchdowns, while also rushing for a score. Defensively, he had 56 tackles, three interceptions and four pass breakups. Branch returned one of his interceptions for a touchdown. He was named an honorary captain of the Lincoln Journal Star all-city football team in addition to being a first-team Super-State selection and second-team Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska pick. Branch was an honorable-mention all-state selection as a junior in helping the Knights to a 9-2 record. He had 45 tackles, two interceptions and four pass breakups, while adding nine receptions on offense. Branch also excelled on defense as a sophomore, making 38 tackles, while intercepting a pass and adding two breakups and two fumble recoveries. Branch is the son of Troy Branch, a Husker linebacker from 1990 to 1993. The younger Branch had interest from Ivy League schools, including Cornell.

GRANT BUDA

LINEBACKER | 6-0 | 205

LINCOLN, NEB. | SOUTHWEST HS

Grant Buda was a standout linebacker for Lincoln Southwest High School, where he helped the Silver Hawks to the second round of the 2020 state playoffs. As a senior, Buda totaled 94 tackles with 14 tackles for loss, four sacks, two interceptions and a fumble recovery, according to MaxPreps. On offense, he caught seven passes for 91 yards and two touchdowns. For his efforts, Buda was named an honorable-mention all-state selection and a first-team all-city pick by the Lincoln Journal Star. His grandfather, Joe Buda, played for Nebraska in the 1960s. Grant's great uncle, Sandy Buda, was the head football coach at UNO from 1978 to 1989.

ALEX BULLOCK

WIDE RECEIVER | 6-2 | 190

OMAHA, NEB. | CREIGHTON PREP

Alex Bullock was a two-way standout for Creighton Prep who joins Nebraska as a wide receiver. Bullock caught 54 passes for 765 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior, according to the Omaha World-Herald. On defense, Bullock intercepted five passes and had eight pass breakups to go along with 35 tackles. For his efforts, he was named a World-Herald first-team All-Nebraska selection and first-team Lincoln Journal Star Super-State pick. Bullock was a World-Herald honorable-mention all-state pick as a junior. He chose to walk on at Nebraska after receiving interest at wide receiver from other FBS schools and a scholarship offer to play defense for FBS program South Dakota State. Alex's brother, John, is a redshirt freshman outside linebacker at Nebraska.

MADDOX BURTON

DEFENSIVE LINE | 6-4 | 285

LINCOLN, NEB. | SOUTHEAST HS

Maddox Burton was one of the top defensive linemen in the state while starring at Lincoln Southeast High School. In his senior season, Burton recorded 47 tackles and one fumble recovery en route to earning first-team Super-State honors from the Lincoln Journal Star. Burton was also a first-team all-state pick as a senior after earning honorable-mention all-state accolades from the Omaha World-Herald as a junior. He was a first-team all-city pick as both a junior and senior. Burton helped the Knights to the quarterfinals of the state playoffs as a sophomore, junior and senior.

BLAKE CLOSMAN

DEFENSIVE BACK | 5-10 | 190

ELKHORN, NEB. | MILLARD NORTH HS

Blake Closman played both safety and wide receiver for Millard North High School. He saw action in 18 games for the Mustangs over his junior and senior seasons. Closman finished his career with 108 total tackles, which included 63 solo tackles, according to MaxPreps. He averaged 6.0 tackles per game and also recorded 8.0 tackles for loss, all during his senior season. Closman also added nine career interceptions and four pass deflections. On offense, he had nine career receptions for 158 yards with two touchdowns. Closman helped the Mustangs to back-to-back Class A state tournament appearances in 2019 and 2020. Millard North lost in the first round in 2019 before advancing to the second round in 2020. Closman was recognized as a second-team Super-State pick by the Lincoln Journal Star as a senior.

AJ COLLINS

DEFENSIVE BACK | 5-10 | 170
BENNINGTON, NEB. | CREIGHTON PREP HS

AJ Collins was a two-way player for the Junior Jays. As a senior, he made 47 tackles with two tackles for loss and three pass breakups on defense while catching nine passes for 62 yards on offense. His played helped Creighton Prep advance to the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. Collins chose to walk on at Nebraska over a Division II scholarship offer from Quincy University and offers from NAIA schools Mount Marty and Morningside.

SAM HOSKINSON

OFFENSIVE LINE | 6-0 | 245
OMAHA, NEB. | ELKHORN SOUTH HS

Sam Hoskinson joins the Nebraska program after a standout career at Elkhorn South High School. Hoskinson played both ways for the Storm, working on the offensive line primarily at center. On defense, he was a linebacker for Elkhorn South and his play helped the Storm to a 10-2 record in 2020 and a Class A state runner-up finish. Hoskinson also helped Elkhorn South to a 7-4 record and a Class A playoff appearance in 2019. Hoskinson's blocking helped a powerful Storm rushing attack that averaged better than 275 yards per game. Hoskinson also excels in baseball for Elkhorn South. Sam is the son of Matt Hoskinson who was a three-year letterwinner on the offensive line (1995-96-97) and member of three Nebraska national championship teams.

CHRISTIAN (C.J.) LILIENKAMP

DEFENSIVE BACK | 6-0 | 170
BELLEVUE, NEB. | BELLEVUE WEST HS

Christian (C.J.) Lilienkamp joins Nebraska from Bellevue West High School, which was one of the state's top prep programs during his career. The Thunderbirds made the semifinals of the state playoffs in Lilienkamp's sophomore season, won the state title in his junior year and earned the No. 1 seed and advanced to the quarterfinals in his senior season. As a senior, Lilienkamp finished second on the team with 54 tackles from his safety spot. He also had four interceptions and added four pass breakups. For his efforts, Lilienkamp was selected as an honorable-mention all-state performer by both the Omaha World-Herald and the Lincoln Journal Star. He chose to walk on at Nebraska over scholarship offers from NAIA schools Morningside and Midland.

GRANT LOHR

RB | 6-0 | 185
TULSA, OKLA. | JENKS HS

Grant Lohr is one of several second-generation Huskers in the 2021 walk-on class. The son of former NU defensive lineman Jason Lohr, Grant has been a standout at powerhouse Jenks High School in Tulsa the past two seasons. During his senior season, Lohr was a first-team all-state pick by the Tulsa World and the District 6A-1 co-offensive player of the year. Lohr rushed for 1,355 yards and 22 touchdowns, while adding 257 receiving yards and three touchdown catches. On defense, Lohr made 44 total tackles, had five sacks and added three interceptions, one of which he returned for a touchdown. Lohr helped Jenks to a 12-1 record and a Class 6A-1 state title. During his junior year, Lohr earned honorable-mention all-metro honors as a defensive back, helping Jenks to a trip to the state playoffs. Lohr's father, Jason, was a four-year letterman for Nebraska from 1998 to 2003. He played in 45 career games and made 92 career tackles.

JOEY MANCINO

OFFENSIVE LINE | 6-3 | 300
HOLMDEL, N.J. | HOLMDEL HS

Lineman Joey Mancino joins the 2021 Nebraska walk-on class after an outstanding prep career at Holmdel High School in New Jersey. The 6-3, 300-pound Mancino played on both sides of the ball during his prep career for Coach Jeff Rainess. Holmdel posted a 7-1 record in 2020, with the team averaging better than 200 rushing yards per game behind Mancino's powerful work on the offensive line. Mancino earned first-team New Jersey All-Shore honors as a senior and was also an all-division selection. During Mancino's junior year, Holmdel posted a 6-4 record and advanced to the playoffs. Mancino had scholarship offers from FCS schools Wagner and Stetson, and opportunities to walk-on at Rutgers, Wake Forest, Florida Atlantic and Texas Tech among others.

KELEN MEYER

PLACE-KICKER | 6-3 | 190
ORD, NEB. | ORD HS

Kelen Meyer was a standout kicker for Ord High School, helping the Chanticleers to the Nebraska Class C2 state title as a senior. According to MaxPreps, Meyer made 110 of his 116 career extra points (95 percent) and connected on 16-of-25 field goals. He showed off a strong leg with a 58-yard field goal as a senior that tied for the second-longest field goal in state history. Meyer also tied a Class C-2 record with three field goals against Central City. Meyer made 8-of-14 field goals as a senior and 7-of-10 attempts as a junior. Meyer also averaged more than 58 yards on 92 kickoffs as a senior. As a punter, Meyer averaged 39.4 yards per punt in his career, including 40.2 yards as a senior. In addition to handling Ord's kicking duties, Meyer also started at wide receiver and defensive back. Meyer was a consensus first-team all-state pick as a senior. He was also an Omaha World-Herald all-state selection as a sophomore and an honorable-mention pick as a junior. Meyer also wrestles for Ord. He is a three-time state qualifier and finished fourth in the 170-pound weight class at the 2020 Class C state tournament, when the Chanticleers finished as the runner-up. Meyer is also a two-time state qualifier in golf. He chose to walk on at Nebraska over a scholarship offer from Doane.

EVAN MEYERSICK

TIGHT END | 6-5 | 185
OMAHA, NEB. | MILLARD WEST HS

Evan Meyersick joins Nebraska as a tight end after playing wide receiver for Millard West High School. Meyersick did not play football until his junior season with the Wildcats. He had six catches for 124 yards during the regular season as a senior. Meyersick also played basketball for Millard West. He averaged nearly 11 points and five rebounds per game as a junior, according to MaxPreps. Meyersick averaged 8.2 points and 2.9 rebounds per game as a sophomore and 3.5 points and 1.5 rebounds per game as a freshman. Meyersick chose to walk on at Nebraska over Division II scholarship offers from Wayne State and Augustana.

WESTON REIMAN

OFFENSIVE LINE | 6-2 | 290

WEEPING WATER, NEB. | WEEPING WATER HS

Weston Reiman played both offensive and defensive line for Weeping Water High School. He played in 15 games and racked up 39 total tackles with 24 solo tackles, according to MaxPreps. He also recorded 3.0 sacks, one interception and one touchdown. As a senior Reiman helped Weeping Water reach the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. Reiman was named a 2020 all-state selection by both the Lincoln Journal Star and the Grand Island Independent after being an honorable-mention all-state pick by the Journal Star as both a sophomore and junior. Reiman chose Nebraska over Division II offers from Chadron State and Culver-Stockton.

BEAU SCHALLER

OFFENSIVE LINE | 6-2 | 265

WAUKEE, IOWA | WAUKEE HS

Offensive lineman Beau Schaller was a standout performer at Waukee High School in Iowa, just outside of Des Moines. Schaller's play as a senior helped Waukee to a 7-3 record and a trip to the third round of the Class 4A state playoffs. Schaller was the leader of the Warriors' offensive line that helped the offense rank fifth in the state in total yards per game. He also handled the snapping duties on the field goal team, which was one of the most efficient in school history. Schaller earned first-team Class 4A all-state honors from both the Des Moines Register and the Iowa Print Sports Writers Association. Schaller was also a starter for Waukee in 2019, when the Warriors posted a 7-5 record and reached the Class 4A state playoffs. Schaller is also a member of the Waukee wrestling team.

MATTHEW SCHUSTER

RUNNING BACK | 5-9 | 170

COZAD, NEB.

COZAD HS | ASHLAND-GREENWOOD HS

Matthew Schuster played three varsity seasons for Cozad High School before playing his final season at Ashland-Greenwood. The running back played in 25 games and finished with 2,065 rushing yards, 430 carries and 11 rushing touchdowns at Cozad. He also recorded 12 receptions for 80 yards at Cozad. In his senior season at Ashland-Greenwood, Schuster helped the Bluejays to a perfect 9-0 regular-season record and a No. 1 seed in the Class C-1 state playoffs. He was named an all-state honoree for his efforts. As a junior for Cozad in 2019, Schuster had 139 carries for 837 yards and four touchdowns, according to MaxPreps. He helped the Haymakers earn a spot in the Class C-1 state playoffs and was recognized as an honorable-mention all-state performer. Schuster finished with 201 carries for 770 yards and four touchdowns as a sophomore. In his freshman season, Schuster had 90 carries for 458 yards and three touchdowns. Schuster chose Nebraska over walk-on offers from Northern Illinois, Wyoming and Ohio. He is the son of former Husker fullback, Brian Schuster, who was a two-time national champion at Nebraska in the mid-1990s.

JARRETT SYNEK

QUARTERBACK | 6-0 | 190

HASTINGS, NEB. | HASTINGS HS

Jarrett Synek was a prolific passer for Hastings High School. He finished his career with 5,622 passing yards and threw 65 touchdowns, according to MaxPreps. He averaged 181.4 passing yards per game and went 339-for-598 through the air, completing nearly 57 percent of his passes. On the ground, Synek had 201 carries for 919 yards and three touchdowns. Synek finished with over 2,500 passing yards in each of his final two seasons. As a senior, Synek finished with 2,903 yards and 33 touchdowns en route to earning second-team All-Nebraska honors from the Omaha World-Herald and second-team Super-State recognition from the Lincoln Journal Star. As a junior, Synek helped lead the Tigers to the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. That season, Synek threw for 2,524 yards and 29 touchdowns, and he earned all-state honors from the Journal Star. Synek also plays basketball.

TAVEON THOMPSON

WIDE RECEIVER | 6-4 | 200

LINCOLN, NEB. | SOUTHEAST HS

Taveon Thompson joins Nebraska as a wide receiver after being a two-way player at Lincoln Southeast High School, where he helped the Knights to the quarterfinals of the state playoffs as a sophomore, junior and senior. As a senior, Thompson made 45 tackles with three interceptions in addition to catching 14 passes for 265 yards and two touchdowns while averaging 18.9 yards per reception. For his efforts, he was named an honorable-mention all-state selection by both the Lincoln Journal Star and the Omaha World-Herald. Thompson was also a first-team all-city pick by the Journal Star. He chose to walk on at Nebraska over an FBS scholarship offer from Charlotte and Division II scholarship offers from Southwest Minnesota State and Minnesota State. Thompson also played basketball for Southeast, averaging 8.7 points and 5.0 rebounds per game as a junior, according to MaxPreps.

PAYTON WEEHLER

DEFENSIVE BACK | 6-3 | 190

BLOCKTON, IOWA | MT. AYR HS

Payton Weehler was a versatile performer for Mt. Ayr High School, helping the Raiders reach the state playoffs in each of his final two seasons. Weehler played quarterback and linebacker, and his play helped Mt. Ayr to a 6-1 record in 2020 and a trip to the Class 1A playoffs. Weehler was a second-team Class 1A all-state selection as a linebacker. Weehler also helped Mt. Ayr post a 7-3 record and reach the state playoffs in 2019. Weehler also plays basketball.

AIDEN YOUNG

RUNNING BACK | 5-9 | 175

OMAHA, NEB. | ELKHORN HS

Aiden Young joins Nebraska after helping Elkhorn High School to a Class B state championship as a senior. Young rushed for 110 yards, including a 46-yard touchdown run, and returned a kickoff for a 76-yard touchdown in the Antlers' state championship win over Aurora. Young finished his senior season with more than 1,500 rushing yards and 24 rushing touchdowns, according to the Omaha World-Herald. For his efforts, he was named a first-team Super-State selection by the Lincoln Journal Star as a senior. As a junior, Young was named an honorable-mention all-state selection by both the Journal Star and the Omaha World-Herald. Young chose to walk on at Nebraska after also receiving several Division II scholarship offers.