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# Despite team's problems, three Nebraskans happy at K-State

By Steve Thomas  
Staff Reporter

**Editors note: This is the seventh of an eight-part series dealing with Nebraskans playing football at other colleges.**

The Kansas State football program has its share of problems. Losses to Wichita State, Northern Iowa, Texas Christian, North Texas State and Oklahoma coupled with the resignation of Coach Jim Dickey top the list, but one Nebraskan doesn't regret his decision to become a Wildcat.

Rockey Dvorak of Chadron, is listed as the Wildcats' second team offensive tackle after starting in Kansas State's first two games. Dvorak said a football career at Nebraska was never really a possibility.

"I wasn't offered a scholarship at Nebraska," Dvorak said. "They wanted me to walk-on, but I felt like I needed more time. I didn't even think about playing college football until I was a junior or senior in high school."

For Dvorak, more time meant playing junior college football at Garden City, Kan., where he earned all-league honors as a defensive tackle. Dvorak said by-passing major college football straight out of high school was a good move.

"I got a lot of valuable experience

playing (junior college) football," Dvorak said. "I played at a small school in high school and going to a junior college made it a smoother transition."

Decision time came again for Dvorak after playing out his two years at Garden City. Dvorak settled on Kansas State after looking at Kansas, Iowa State and Illinois. The switch from junior college to major college wasn't the only adjustment for Dvorak; the 6-5, 280-pound junior moved from defense to offense at the tackle position.

Two factors influenced Dvorak in making his decision to play his college football in Manhattan for the Wildcats.

"The main reason was that I wanted to play in the Big Eight Conference," Dvorak said. "Academics also had a lot to do with my decision. I figure football can only go on so long."

Although Dvorak is a Nebraska native, he said he hasn't given much thought to the Nov. 2 contest with Nebraska in Manhattan.

"I guess it hasn't really hit me yet," he said. "Maybe it will the week of the game. Right now, I'm just trying to concentrate on our next game."

Size is definitely one of Dvorak's strong points, but he's quick to admit his need for improvement in speed and technique.

Dvorak is joined at Kansas State by two other Nebraskans. Will McCain, a

freshman from Omaha South, is listed as a defensive lineman for the Wildcats. McCain, at 6-4, 240-pounds, was an all-conference selection, the team captain and the lifter of the year his senior year of high school.

Brad Fulner, a 6-foot, 240-pound sophomore from Omaha Westside also is a defensive lineman for Kansas State. Scoring fewer points than the opposition is something new for Fulner, who played on Westside's state championship team his senior year. Fulner can bench press 400 pounds, so strength is his top asset. Dvorak said McCain and Fulner are young, and haven't seen playing time as a result.

The three Nebraskans find themselves on a Kansas State team that consistently finds itself on the bottom of the Big Eight totem pole. Former coach Dickey, who was instrumental in recruiting Dvorak, stepped out after a disappointing 10-6 loss to Northern Iowa. Dvorak said he couldn't say whether the coaching change would have a positive or negative effect on the team.

"It's hard to evaluate right now," Dvorak said. "One week just isn't enough time to make any judgments," he said.

Under the reign of new coach, Lee Moon, the Wildcats have dropped games to TCU, 24-22, to North Texas State, 22-10, and 41-6 to Oklahoma.

# Closer to home, Buffaloes lure Nebraskan to scenic neighbor

By Brian Keenan  
Staff Reporter

**Editor's note: This is the eighth of an eight-part series.**

Although NU dominates in the recruiting of top notch Nebraska prospects, they do not have a total monopoly.

Some very good athletes go to other schools for various reasons. Currently, two Nebraskans are on the roster of the University of Colorado Buffaloes.

Dean Davis, an offensive guard from Scottsbluff is on the Buffalo roster. A former all-state lineman for Scottsbluff High, Davis is a redshirt freshman.

"When I was young, I wanted to come to Nebraska just like every kid in the state," Davis said. "However, I weighed everything before I made my decision to go to Colorado."

Davis was recruited in a year in which Nebraska had a limited number

of scholarships and only four were left for in-state recruits. Originally, Davis was asked to walk-on at Nebraska, but because other recruits signed with other schools, he was offered a Cornhusker scholarship.

"I was recruited pretty heavily by Nebraska," Davis said. "There was a combination of many things which led me to make my decision to go to Colorado."

Among the many factors Davis said he considered, was the coaching staff and their attitude toward him, the nearness to his home, the chance to play earlier in his career and the scenery.

"I thoroughly went over everything that was a factor before I made my decision," Davis said. "That's the reason none of my friends razz me at all because they knew all the thought that went into my decision."

At the beginning of the year, the Colorado press guide said that Davis leads the list of Colorado's "USDA" offensive line candidates. Currently Davis is working with the second team, although, he said, he is very close in ability to the starter. He said he has a good chance to start next year.

"I'm really happy with my decision to go to Colorado," he said. "I like the school and the people. I also love the new offense that we put in. It (the new offense) makes it a lot easier on the offensive lineman because the blocking assignments are easy for me."

Ken Lightner is a defensive tackle from Hastings. Lightner, a senior and the brother of Husker tackle Kevin Lightner, was an all-state lineman for Adams Central High School for two years. A part-time starter last year, Lightner is currently ineligible to play according to his mother.

# Like humor with your hot dog?

**HOT DOG** from Page 9

for those who bought my dogs. I also got part of a section to cheer the only man who gave me a tip — a quarter.

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