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Tip to NU: Withdraw Rodgers offer

For almost every ray of hope, there seems to be at least two disappointments surrounding Terry Rodgers.

Rodgers, the son of former Nebraska wingback Johnny Rodgers, remains unsigned two months after the NCAA allows prep athletes to accept scholarship offers.

The mystery is exclusively the work of Johnny Rodgers, a former Heisman Trophy winner.

his son to Nebraska.

Even though all of Terry's tuition, room, board and books would be paid for by his athletic scholarship, Rodgers said he was concerned with other costs, such as a set of winter clothes and tire chains.

I can understand how a person who lost his entertainment magazine to bankruptcy and who now owns a promotional company titled "John Wayne Sports Promotions" could be concerned with economics, but this thing simply has gone too far.

If Rodgers is so concerned with costs outside of the athletic scholarship, why doesn't he send his son to one of the other two schools he has narrowed his choices down to, say USC?

There had been rumors that the Trojans had withdrawn their scholarship offer after they, like me, became impatient with the games Rodgers is playing.

But you can bet that if Terry Rodgers gives even the slightest hint that he is interested in signing with USC, Trojan coach Ted Tollner would jump at the chance of signing the prep running back from Sweet Water High School.

Rather than just take what is offered, Rodgers is trying to make a yard out of an inch by getting more than is being bargained for by either Nebraska, Ohio State or USC.

While this may sound surprising to some, it really comes as no surprise at all to me when you consider your source.

Rodgers fathered two sons — Kevin and Terry — when he was still in high school in Omaha, and his robbery attempt of a gas station while he was

still a member of the Nebraska football team certainly proves that he was no saint off the field.

Rodgers also was recently charged with using a firearm to commit a felony when he pointed a small pistol at a cable TV worker to stop him from disconnecting the cable at his home.

All of these actions, keep in mind, come from a man who was once so praised as a Cornhusker that Nebraska fans worshipped the ground he walked upon.

Terry has been quoted in both the San Diego Times and the San Diego Union that he is "interested" in Nebraska, but Johnny has apparently botched any attempts for the Cornhuskers to sign him to a letter of intent by refusing.

With Johnny Rodgers holding all the cards in the deck, maybe it's time Nebraska learned its lesson from such a ridiculous situation and withdrew its scholarship offer.

It's true that the freshman squad would be left without a scholarship I-back for next season, but I'm sure Nebraska coaches are expecting great things from two walk-on running backs they have received verbal commitments from: Darwin Snyder of Winnebago and Table Rock's Jim Gilbert.

So, after a full analysis of the situation, I really see no need for Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne to continue to make his phone calls to Rodgers' home in hopes that a miracle has occurred and Johnny has come to his senses.

The situation, to put it bluntly, has gotten out of hand.



Jeff Apel

As strange as it might sound, it appears that Johnny Rodgers is trying to use his son for leverage in his efforts to start a college players' union.

This union, which Rodgers already has co-founded, is trying to make collegiate athletes professional by giving them a monthly salary to cover their "expenses."

The idea may sound justifiable, but Rodgers knows that his players' union has about as much chance of getting anywhere with the NCAA as Oklahoma does of being declared the favorite athletic program in Nebraska.

So, in an effort to increase his virtually non-existent odds, Rodgers is trying to use his son — who is compared by many to the likes of Marcus Allen — as bait to get an 'inside track' on getting such legislation passed.

The last time I talked to Johnny Rodgers in his home in California, he was concerned about the cost of sending

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