

# Nee recruits two more top HS prospects

by **Kent Endacott**  
Staff Reporter

The top high-school, power forward prospect in Ohio and a forward from the Chicago area are among the latest recruits to sign with Nebraska.

DaPreis Owens, a 6-foot-9, 215-pound forward from Mansfield (Ohio) Senior High and Carl Hayes, a 6-7 forward from Weschester (Ill.) St. Joseph High School, signed national letters of intent during the NCAA's early signing period on Monday.

Owens and Hayes join Lewis Geter, a 6-6 forward from Linden McKinley High School in Columbus, Ohio, as the Cornhuskers signees.

Owens said he decided to sign with Nebraska while flying home from a

weekend recruiting trip to Tennessee.

Owens said Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee and Husker assistant coach Lynn Mitchem began recruiting him in the middle of his junior season. Nee was coaching at Ohio University when they first met, he said.

"Him (Nee) and coach Mitchem, they recruited me way better than anybody else," Owens said. "They recruited me the hardest."

Owens, who was also recruited by Ohio State, DePaul, and Cleveland State, averaged 22 points and 6 rebounds per game last season. He was named first-team All-State by both The Associated Press and United Press International following his junior season.

Mansfield Senior High basketball coach Joe Prats said Nee told him Owens will be able to step in and play immediately.

"I think he's got the tools to contribute early," Prats said. "The biggest thing is just upper body strength."

Owens said he played against Geter last year, and is excited about playing with him at Nebraska.

"My team has played against Linden McKinley," Owens said. "He (Geter) can play. I think we will be very good teammates."

Hayes will also have a familiar teammate at Nebraska, as he will rejoin former high school teammate and current Husker freshman guard Clifford Scales.

St. Joseph coach Gene Pingatore said Nee projects Hayes as a power forward.

"He has the ability to go inside and out," Pingatore said. "Nee sees him as a power forward. If he has any weaknesses, it's that he needs to get more consistent on defense. He goes for the block too much."

Hayes, who was also recruited by Colorado and Texas-El Paso, finished with 66 blocks while averaging 9 points and 7 rebounds per game last season.

Pingatore said Hayes runs the floor well, has a good shot and excellent jumping ability.

Pingatore said Hayes chose Nebraska because of "a good feeling." "I think he could become a great

player in the Big Eight," Pingatore said. "He said it was just a feeling he had about Nebraska, and that's good enough for me. If it wasn't, I wouldn't let him sign."

Owens said he hopes Nee will help him develop into a professional prospect.

"I would love to go ahead and play on the next level," Owens said. "I still have a lot to learn. I'm just going to listen."

Prats said Owens told him he's very comfortable with his decision. He said Owens has the ability to become an All-America if he keeps developing.

"He's the best big player (in Ohio)," Prats said. "He's got mobility and all the tools."

# Big Eight coaches say defense will decide championship

By **Tim Hartmann**  
Senior Reporter

An old football adage states that "defenses win championships," and coaches in the Big Eight say that statement will be true this season.

Nebraska and Oklahoma, the top two teams in the country, will meet Saturday at Memorial Stadium to determine the 1987 Big Eight Championship.

Kansas State coach Stan Parrish, Oklahoma State coach Pat Jones, Colorado coach Bill McCartney, Kansas coach Bob Valesente, Missouri coach Woody Widenhofer and Iowa State offensive line coach Steve Morton all said defensive play will decide the game even though Nebraska and Oklahoma are ranked first and second nationally in total offense.

"In most big, big games like that it comes down to defense," Parrish said,

"and I don't think it will be any different."

The coaches also agreed that turnovers and injuries will play a big role in the game. Oklahoma has two key injuries going into the game — quarterback Jamelle Holieway is out for the year after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his knee, and fullback Lydell Carr is doubtful after suffering a knee strain.

Morton said the loss of Holieway

and Carr will especially hurt Oklahoma because the Sooners run the wishbone offense, which depends heavily on those two positions.

Parrish said the loss of Holieway and Carr will have a definite effect on the outcome of the game.

"I felt in my mind Oklahoma would be a slight favorite before the injuries," Parrish said. "I think my perception from what I read is I think they've damaged their team more mentally

than anything. With that in mind, I'm kind of leaning more towards Nebraska right now."

McCartney said he is sure "turnovers will decide the game."

McCartney said that although both teams have strong defenses, Nebraska seems to have a particularly strong defensive line.

Other coaches thought Oklahoma was slightly quicker on defense.

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