

# Lewis heavily recruited by top football teams

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"Wow what is going on here." Lewis, a USA Today Kansas player-of-the-year and an All-State selection, made a recruiting visit to Kansas State. He said the K-State alumni in Scott City understood his decision to attend Nebraska. Lewis said he knew a lot about Kansas State and Nebraska before he was recruited. Rick Lewis, Lance's brother, attended Kansas State, and

Lance attended a football camp at Nebraska. "I came up before my senior year to a football camp and that is what kind of made up my mind," Lance said. "I mean, after that I thought, 'Wow, that kind of ruins all the fun of all these (recruiting) trips I wanted to take.' I really don't want to take one now that I've seen what Nebraska has to show me." Lance said all the Big Eight schools recruited him, as did Iowa,

Arizona State and UCLA. But, Lance said, he took recruiting trips to just Nebraska and Kansas State. He said that being six hours away from home was another advantage to attending Nebraska. "My brother came to watch me last weekend," Lance said. "I got to hear him tell me what I did wrong and then I got to go to meetings and hear coaches tell me what I did wrong. It was kind of fun." Lance said his brother has helped him on and off the field. When he saw Rick being recruited, Lance said, it gave him encouragement that he also could be recruited. Rick was recruited when Lance was in 7th grade. Lance said that gave him the chance to see the recruiting

tactics of different colleges. Rick was recruited by Nebraska, but only as a walk-on. So he attended Kansas State where he started last season for the Wildcats, Lance said. Rick's decision to play for Kansas State didn't help the Wildcats in its recruiting of Lance. "I was just there (at Kansas State) so much watching all his games it just wouldn't have been an experience to go there, it seems like," Lance Lewis said. "It was like my second home. I wanted to go somewhere where not all the coaches knew me." Lewis said he also wanted to attend a program with a winning tradition. Kansas State's last winning season was in 1982. Lewis said it's exciting to be a part

of the Husker program and that he isn't trying to make the starting team right away. He said he already has accomplished his first goal at Nebraska, which was to make the traveling squad. "I'm 3rd team right now and they (the coaches) want to bring me along slow," Lewis said. "All along they thought I might have a chance to play a little bit. It's kind of a day by day deal." Lewis said he doesn't deserve a starting position right now. He realized that when senior Tyreese Knox switched to fullback and moved ahead of Lewis on the depth chart after one week of practice. He said he can see a starting role in a couple of years, but if people were injured, he would be ready to step in.



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## UNLV dreams to become reality Saturday at Memorial Stadium

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currently a running back for the National Football League's Cincinnati Bengals. "That's one of the things that we felt going into the season . . . that Tommy was a good replacement for Icky," Nunnely said. "He's an excellent running back." Nunnely said the Rebels have a "decent" quarterback to go with Jackson. Redshirt freshman Charles Price completed 9 of 16 passes for 158 yards and a touchdown against Ohio. His touchdown pass was an 80-yard strike to Mike Reddick, the 4th-long-

est touchdown pass in Rebel history. It was also the first touchdown pass the Rebels have completed this year.

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— Nunnely

But Nunnely said stopping Nebraska quarterback Steve Taylor will

be necessary. Taylor, a senior from Fresno, Calif., rushed for 116 yards on 17 carries in last week's 47-16 win against Arizona State. But the Huskers' quality running backs to go with Taylor make him even more dangerous, Nunnely said. I-backs Ken Clark and Terry Rodgers gained 122 and 113 yards, respectively, against the Sun Devils. "If you stop Steve, he pitches and the back runs for 100 yards," Nunnely said. "If you stop the pitch, he hands off and the fullback gains big yardage. They have so many variations on offense that they can attack you with anything you try to do defensively."

## Psychiatric analysis suggested before dealing with angry athletes, coaches

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traveling, though, is having fans at opposing universities stare in silent wonder at your portable VDT, on which your story will be written and sent back to the office's system. If the press section is not separated from the fans, they will often read over your shoulder and tell you how to improve your story. Deadlines. Over your head, like a hungry vulture, hangs the deadline, waiting to unravel the very fabric of your sanity. It has no sympathy. It has no mercy. You can't reason with it, and you can't escape it. It's always there, bringing tears to your eyes, a throb to your head and high blood pressure to your veins. Enough said. Angry coaches. The first thing a DN sports writer will learn is that you can't please everybody. When you're talking about Husker coaches, you may as well give up — you won't please anybody. Coaches are close cousins of sports writers. They are immersed in sports and stress. The big difference is what they're paid. Coaches generally make more than we do. Not that all of them deserve to, but it just works out that

way. If you write your opinion, as I do every week, you'll get bagfuls of letters and cartfuls of complaining and sniffing — and that's just from coaches. Angry athletic department officials. The only difference between mad athletic directors and mad coaches is that the ADs are paid more and know more about sports — just ask some of them. Angry players. Players often are upset by things that are written about them, but my experience has been that most players don't get involved in opinion columns. They know more than the coaches do about what's being written, and they know when the columns are correct. More often than not, players have laughed about a column blasting them. They'll say the DN was right and then proceeded to tell us more than what we wrote in the first place. This usually happens right after their coach calls the DN office to deny everything in the column. Angry sports information directors. This goes along with the trials and tribulations of traveling to cover sporting events. "Misplaced" media credentials, standing room only press box accommodations and dirty looks are all sports information specialties. Not here at Nebraska, mind you, but nearly everywhere else. College of Journalism professors. Sports writers, to them, are the enemy. Journalism professors see a certain amount of evilness in the eyes of those who make their living going to football and basketball games. They'll try to steer you away from this field. They will constantly convey to you the merits of a career as a farm feature writer at The Hooterville Bugle as opposed to a job as a nationally syndicated columnist for The Chicago Tribune and a contributor to Sports Illustrated. Beware! Recognition. This isn't always what it's cracked up to be. It's nice to be recognized, but not always. Someone may say, "Hi. Good story today" to you on campus, which is nice, but then you spend the rest of the day

wondering who it was and why they know you. What did she really think of my column? Is she single? Does she have a boyfriend on the football team? Will he be waiting in the bushes outside my apartment when I get home? That's how ulcers are formed. Stereotypes. Sports writers are drunken, stressed-out loonies who used to play sports. Now, their organized athletic careers are over because of injuries or whatever, and they just can't seem to get away from the field or the court or the diamond or the pool. Right? Well . . . Internships. After you've written for the DN for a while, you try to snag an internship at some hot daily newspaper during the summer. Most DN sports writers have had at least one internship. They've worked at places like The Chicago Tribune, the Omaha World-Herald, The Raleigh News and Observer and so on. But the most interesting things are the rejection letters. The Boston Globe sends out the funniest ones. They've gotten rejection down to an art — you'd have to see it to believe it. Heartbreaks. Face it, you'll never get every story you get a tip on and you'll never live a month without being scooped. In 1985, when I started working at the DN, a Husker freshman football player told me of his recruiting adventures. He named six different schools that offered him, among other things, \$25,000 signing bonuses, cars, monthly payments, jewelry, clothes and anything else necessary for a normal, happy, healthy college life. For various reasons, the story never ran. Now, all but one of the schools are either on NCAA probation or are being investigated. None of them were when I heard of it three years ago. Of course, that's only the beginning of what a student sports writer's life is like. There's more, but this is a decent, law-abiding newspaper (stop laughing!), so I won't write about it. If you choose this profession, consult your family psychiatrist first.

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