

NU official says Nebraska TV contract doubtful

# Bryant shocked by Notre Dame contract

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

An official representing the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Athletic Department expressed shock when he learned that Notre Dame had signed its own TV contract.

Don Bryant, UNL's assistant athletic director and director of sports information, said he was "shocked and surprised" by Notre Dame's decision because the Fighting Irish gave no indication that they were thinking about pulling out of the College Football Association TV contract.

The CFA contract gave ABC and

ESPN the exclusive rights to televise all home and away games the contract covered. The contract, which Bryant said had been agreed upon but not signed, covered 64 teams -- including Notre Dame.

Notre Dame's new contract calls for NBC to begin televising all of its home games beginning in 1991. Sources close to the scene in South Bend, Ind., told the Associated Press that the Fighting Irish would receive approximately \$2.5 million a game, or a total of \$75 million over five years.

Bryant said he doesn't know what the ramifications of Notre Dame's

actions will be.

"Nobody knows anything about it now," Bryant said. "Everybody wants to know: 'Will they try to cherry pick?' 'Will anybody do this?' Nobody knows."

Bryant said the UNL Athletic Department has not been contacted or seriously thought about negotiating its own contract. He said a contract would need approval by UNL Athletic Director Bob Devaney and Martin Massengale, NU interim president and UNL chancellor, before it could be put into effect.

UNL Athletic Director Bob Devaney was out of town Tuesday and

could not be reached for comment.

Bryant said he doubts Notre Dame's action will send any Big Eight schools scrambling to negotiate their own contracts. He said Big Eight schools have the same TV appeal as Notre Dame, which is a major-college independent.

"That's not a knock on the Big Eight," Bryant said. "It's just you can't compare a Big Eight school with Notre Dame in terms of a home schedule."

While Big Eight schools feasted on such teams as Missouri, Kansas, and Kansas State last season, Notre Dame played a schedule that included

USC, Michigan, Michigan State and Penn State. The Fighting Irish also squared off against Colorado in the 1990 Orange Bowl, a game which they won to claim the No. 2-ranking in the country.

Bryant said Notre Dame will not be affected if no other schools sign their own contracts. That appears unlikely, as the Miami Hurricanes expressed interest in negotiating a similar deal immediately after learning of the Fighting Irish's package.

"I assume it will all work out," Bryant said. "Notre Dame can still go play any CFA team, and they can invite anyone to play them."

## Nebraska football recruiting class one of nation's best, analyst says

By Nick Hytrek  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's football program is again among the nation's elite in the recruiting category.

Allen Wallace, recruiting analyst and publisher of SuperPrep magazine, said the 19 recruits who have given verbal commitments to Nebraska form a class that ranks among the lower half of the top-10 classes in the country. The recruits cannot sign their letters of intent until Feb. 14.

Wallace said Nebraska's most-touted recruits are running back Calvin Jones, lineman Rob Zatechka and defensive back Carl Richardson, all of whom earned SuperPrep All-America honors. Those players, he said, could help Nebraska regain its place in the postseason top 10 by making impacts during their freshman seasons.

Nebraska's string of 19 consecutive top-10 finishes in The Associated Press or United Press International polls was snapped when Florida State defeated the Huskers 41-17 in the 1990 Fiesta Bowl.

Wallace said Jones is Nebraska's top in-state recruit. He said the 6-foot, 198-pound I-back from Omaha Central High School is a "dominant player who could have gone anywhere he wanted."

Jones, who chose Nebraska over Tennessee, Texas and Nevada-Las Vegas, has excellent size and speed, but has not met Proposition 42 standards, Wallace said.

Proposition 42 requires all scholarship athletes to meet certain academic requirements before they can play or receive financial assistance.

Wallace said Zatechka also has good size. The 6-6, 275-pound lineman is one of the best in the country. Richardson, who originally had

committed to Miami, announced Monday that he would be a Husker. Wallace said Richardson (6-1, 185) is the only prospective recruit who could make a solid varsity contribution next season.

Wallace said the rest of Nebraska's recruiting class isn't as talented as those three players, but includes several players who were ranked as the best at their positions in their home states.

The top recruit with that honor, Wallace said, is Todd Gragnano, who was listed as the best prep quarterback in California. He said Gragnano reminds him of San Francisco 49ers quarterback Joe Montana.

"At times, it doesn't look like he belongs on the field," Wallace said. "But he keeps making the plays."

Wallace said Gragnano has great instincts and has the ability to turn mistakes into first downs.

Nebraska also has a verbal commitment from Matt Jones, who is ranked as the best quarterback in Indiana. Wallace excluded Jones, a SuperPrep All-Midwest selection, from his elite list because he was completely ignored by Notre Dame.

Nebraska's final recruit listed as the best position player in his state is Donta Jones, a 6-4, 215-pound linebacker from Pomfret, Md. Wallace said Jones will be a great player because of his speed and strength.

Wallace said Nebraska also has commitments from several players who are solid and will contribute in a few years. One such player is Corey Dixon, a 5-10, 175-pound wingback from Dallas.

Dixon was a SuperPrep All-Southwest selection whom Wallace called one of Nebraska's best recruits. He said speed is Dixon's greatest asset.

Dixon was the 1988 Texas state champion in the 400-meter dash.

Wallace said defensive back Cedric Collins is another outstanding athlete. The 6-foot, 180-pound player from Slidell, La., was a SuperPrep All-Southwest performer.

Collins, who intercepted 21 passes during his prep career, is a quick player who is versatile enough to be an effective special teams contributor, Wallace said.

But Collins may not meet Proposition 42 requirements, Wallace said. Nebraska signed two "solid" recruits from California: linebacker Brian Havens and lineman Brenden Stai.

Havens was Gragnano's teammate at Los Alamitos, and Stai (6-4, 260) is from Anaheim. Both players were SuperPrep All-Far West selections and were recruited by Southern Cal and UCLA.

Wallace said fellow lineman Joel Gesky from Chicago is not a great prospect but has potential. Gesky (6-4, 270) was a SuperPrep All-Midwest selection. He was named the most valuable player in his conference, and has a 400-pound bench press.

Wallace said defensive back Ed Stewart of Chicago also is not a great prospect. Stewart, a 6-1, 195-pounder, earned All-Conference honors this year.

One prospect Wallace said he thinks has more potential than Stewart and Gesky is 6-5, 235-pound lineman Terry Connealy of Hyannis.

"He's not as good as Rob Zatechka," Wallace said. "But he is an excellent eight-man football player."

Wallace also liked Zach Wiegert, a 6-4, 256-pound lineman from Fremont-Bergan. Wiegert's brother Erik is a reserve offensive lineman at Nebraska.

Wallace said Zach Wiegert has potential.

"He will only be 17 years old as a

### NU Football Recruits

The following high school seniors have said they will accept football scholarships to attend UNL.

P-Player	Ht.	Wt.	H.S.
<b>NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS</b>			
DL-Terry Connealy	6-5	235	Hyannis
RB- Calvin Jones	6-0	198	Omaha Central
L- Jon Pederson	6-3	238	Grand Island
FB- Cory Schlesinger	6-1	200	Columbus
TE- Jay Spearman	6-4	205	Sutton
L- Zach Wiegert	6-4	256	Fremont Bergan
L- Rob Zatechka	6-6	275	Lincoln East
<b>OUT-OF-STATE PLAYERS</b>			
CB- Cedric Collins	6-0	180	Slidell, La.
WB- Corey Dixon	6-4	260	Dallas
L- Joel Gesky	6-1	195	Chicago
QB- Todd Gragnano	6-1	185	Los Alamitos, Calif.
LB- Brian Havens	6-3	220	Los Alamitos, Calif.
L- Bill Humphrey	6-2	230	Libertyville, Ill.
LB- Donta Jones	6-4	215	Pomfret, Md.
QB- Matt Jones	6-1	187	Michigan City, Ind.
DB- Carl Richardson	6-1	185	Dallas
L- Brenden Stai	6-4	260	Anaheim, Cal
DB- Ed Stewart	6-1	195	Chicago
<b>JUNIOR COLLEGE TRANSFERS</b>			
WB- Kenny White	5-10	170	Dodge City, Kan.

Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

freshman," Wallace said, "so he will gain some weight."


Wiegert could play offense or defense, but probably will wind up on offense because of his lack of foot speed, Wallace said.

Jon Pedersen, a 6-3, 238-pound lineman from Grand Island, has great


quickness but needs to put on weight, Wallace said, as does Jay Spearman, a 6-4, 205-pound tight end.

Cory Schlesinger, a 6-1, 200-pound fullback from Columbus and the last of Nebraska's committed recruits, is capable of playing several positions, Wallace said.

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**Nee**  
Continued from Page 7  
This coach must recruit young men who are talented on the court and in the classroom. This coach will have to be an ambassador for the state, sell

**Ignite**  
Continued from Page 7  
Nee said that lineup is temporary because Nebraska will eventually reinsert 7-2 center Rich King back into a starting role. King has started 17 of Nebraska's 19 games, and leads the Huskers in scoring with an average of 16.6 points per game. Nee said he was happy with King's

**in brief**  
**SPORTS**  
**Two NU rowers gain top-10 finishes**  
Two members of the Nebraska rowing team recorded top-10 finishes during the Rocky Mountain Oyster Sprints Saturday in Denver. Nebraska's Ron Vokoun finished seventh in the men's lightweight portion of the 2,500-meter indoor competition with a time of 9:02.4

minutes. Vokoun is a junior engineering major from Kearney.

The Cornhuskers' other top performer was Charles Richardson, a freshman from Newport who finished fifth in the heavyweight division with a time of 8:56. Richardson

had advanced to the finals by finishing second in his heat with a 8:44.6 clocking.

Nebraska's next competition is Saturday, when the Huskers travel to Lawrence, Kan., to compete in the Kansas Indoor Invitational.

program needs to get the superstars of tomorrow into Lincoln. So where do we find a young Dean Smith, Bobby Knight or John Thompson?

We already have. Mihaven is a senior History major and a Daily Nebraskan sports columnist and writer.