

Huskers reel in California's best

By Mitch Sherman
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska football team's newest recruiting class doubled in size Monday, as the Cornhuskers received verbal commitments from five high school players.

Three products of California headlined the list of new recruits. The Cornhuskers have 10 commitments so far this season.

Nebraska is allowed to award 25 scholarships this year, but recruiting coordinator Dave Gillespie said it would probably give only 23, and about five scholarships would be saved for players already on campus. The signing period begins Feb. 2.

Constantine Dumitrescu, from Moreau High School in Hayward, Calif., is the biggest player to commit to Nebraska so far this year.

The 6-foot-5-inch, 310-pound offensive tackle, who was born and lived for nine years in Bucharest, Romania, chose the Huskers over California, Iowa and UCLA.

"They have a great tradition for academics and for football," Dumitrescu said. "I liked everything about (the football program). They have a great coach, and it's a very good opportunity for me."

Dumitrescu was listed as second team All-Alameda County last season and was on the Long Beach Press-Telegram's Best of the West list.

Nebraska also received a commitment from defensive back Tray Crayton, who intercepted six passes and made more than 100 tackles last season despite missing three games with a sprained ankle.

The 6-foot-3-inch, 170-pound High School All-American from El Camino High School in Oceanside, Calif., also started at quarterback and recorded more than 1,700 yards in total offense.

"The academics and the tutoring program were very impressive," Crayton said. "And everyone knows about the football."

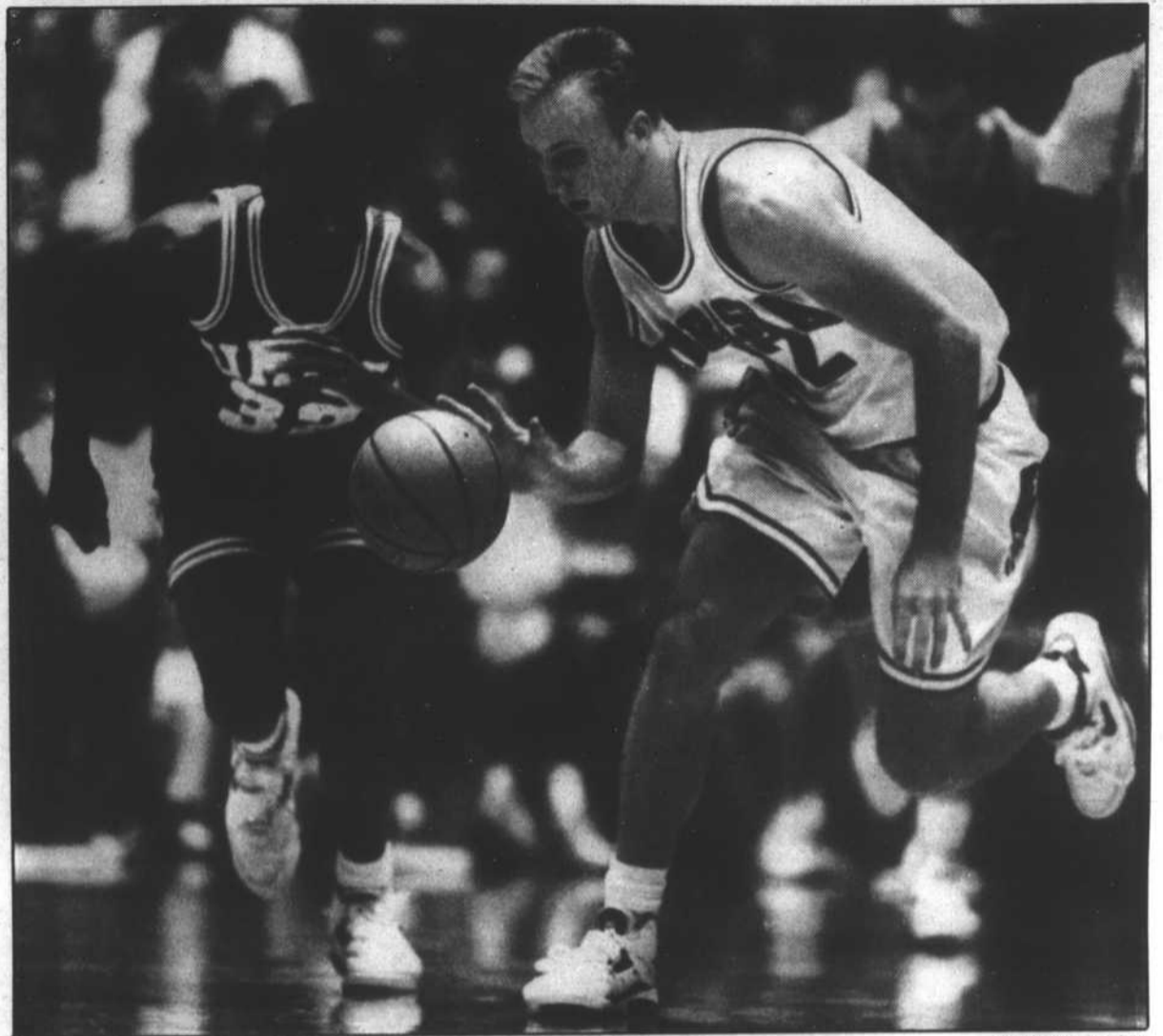
"I'm going to do whatever I can to help get them back to a national championship game."

In addition to Crayton and Dumitrescu, the Huskers also received commitments from John Elder, a quarterback from Sioux City (Iowa) West High School; Jay Foreman, a defensive back and running back from Eden Prairie, Minn.; and Derrick Roy, a tight end from Montclair Academy in Van Nuys, Calif.

The 6-foot-3-inch, 180-pound Elder, who is regarded by recruiting analysts as the best quarterback in Iowa, completed 91 of 172 passes for 1,481 yards and 12 touchdowns last season.

Foreman is the son of Chuck Foreman, a former star for the Minnesota Vikings and the Miami Hurricanes. At 6 feet 3 inches and 195 pounds, Jay Foreman ran for more than 1,000 yards and 14 touchdowns and intercepted two passes as a senior.

Roy, who may get a chance to contribute at tight end for the Huskers next fall, caught 27 passes for 500 yards and three touchdowns. The 6-foot-4-inch, 223-pound tight end was named a High School All-American by several publications. Roy also was named to the Long Beach Press-Telegram's Best of the West list.



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska's leading scorer, Eric Piatkowski, heads upcourt during the Huskers' 92-71 win over Missouri-Kansas City on Saturday.

Track team loses Thomas

By Todd Cooper
Senior Editor

Junior All-American long jumper Robert Thomas told the Daily Nebraskan Tuesday that he was leaving Nebraska's track and field team.

Thomas, who holds school records in the indoor and outdoor long jump and the indoor triple jump, said he decided to transfer because he was frustrated with the lack of concern given to his academic pursuits by Cornhusker coach Gary Pepin.

"I think there was a lot of miscommunication between Coach and I about how important academics was to me," Thomas, a family psychology major, said. "It seems like academics aren't stressed enough here."

Cornhusker track and field coach Gary Pepin said Tuesday night that Thomas' remarks — and his departure — were frustrating.

"I'm very disappointed that Robert is no longer on the team," Pepin said. "But this wasn't over any one

single issue. It is something that came about as a result of time."

Pepin wouldn't specify what was behind Thomas' departure, but said he was shocked by Thomas' criticisms.

"I have never, ever wanted anything but good things for him academically," Pepin said. "I don't think you would find anybody that didn't feel like I thought academics are important. I think they are very important. That's what we stress with our athletes."

Pepin said he hoped Thomas did "great academically" wherever he went.

"I wish nothing but the best for Robert," he said.

Thomas said he might sit out a year and transfer to Arkansas or another Big Eight school.

"Robert's a marvelous talent," Pepin said. "But whatever Robert decides to do, I hope he gets a degree and does something marvelous."

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

Despite beating Colorado by 39 points last Saturday, Nebraska coach Danny Nee said the Cornhuskers didn't have room to relax when the two teams met again Wednesday night.

Just 10 days after the Huskers routed Colorado 106-67 for their biggest win since March 2, 1900, Nebraska must travel to Boulder, Colo., and take the Buffaloes' best shot at revenge.

"The first game is one game and it's completely over with," Nee said. "The second game has nothing to do with the first. We have to be ready to play."

"Obviously, they're going to be ready to play. It's a road game and it will be very difficult."

The Big Eight has been no stranger to upsets in the past. The most recent conference upset came Monday night as Kansas State beat top-ranked Kansas 68-64 in Lawrence, Kan.

Nee warned that the cellar-dwelling Buffs are just as capable of pulling

off an upset as any other Big Eight team.

"From top to bottom in the Big Eight, on a given night, there is no team that can't beat another team," he said. "Colorado at Colorado is going to be a hard game for us. Regardless of what happened in Lincoln, we have to approach the game as the game that we're playing right now."

However, Nee said he felt more confident on the road with this year's Nebraska team than he had with Husker teams of the past.

"I'm very comfortable with our team on the road because they play the same," Nee said. "They play very consistent and they don't panic. If I had one characteristic to describe our basketball team, it's that I think we're mentally tough, and we don't get shook up real easy."

Nee said the short time between games with Colorado should not concern the Huskers.

"The thing about playing Colorado and the timing that we do is that we're going to end up going to seven

Big Eight sites and what rotation we go in is irrelevant," Nee said. "Once in awhile it is going to happen where you play (the same team) in a very short period of time."

If the Huskers are going to stampepe past the Buffaloes again, Nebraska needs to shut down Colorado guard Donnie Boyce, Nee said.

Boyce was held to 16 points on a 5-of-22 shooting performance in the first game.

"I still feel that the key to the game is Donnie Boyce," he said. "He's an excellent player."

Nee said he hoped his team was prepared enough to stay focused on Colorado without looking ahead to next Monday's match-up with Missouri in Lincoln.

"Our guys are ready to play," he said. "They're going to come out with guns blaring. They're going to come out ready to play, and I think our guys are just anxious to play. They have the mentality to take it one game at a time."

Unfair judgments upset star players on the sports scene

"Why me? Why now? Why?" — Nancy Kerrigan.

These words first came from the mouth of Nancy Kerrigan, but these days everybody is asking the same questions.

Everybody.
Figure skater Nancy Kerrigan's answer to why she was brutally attacked after a practice session Jan. 6 may come soon.

Shawn Eckardt, a bodyguard of Kerrigan's main competition, Tonya Harding, has admitted his involvement in Kerrigan's attack.

Eckardt said that Jeff Gillooly, Harding's ex-husband, financed the attack that took place at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Detroit.

Harding won the title and a trip to Lillehammer, Norway, for the Winter Olympics next month.

But that trip to Norway may be called off if Harding had any involve-

ment in the clubbing of Kerrigan, who was a leading contender to win the U.S. title before the attack.

"Why me? Why now? Why?" — Tonya Harding.

Harding has to be asking herself these questions after hearing reports that she may be kicked off the Olympic team.

U.S. Olympic officials met Sunday, but took no action on whether to allow Harding to skate.

The question is why would Harding foolishly be associated with an attack on Kerrigan when it was likely that she would be one of the top two at the U.S. Championships?

If she was at all involved in the attack, then she would be facing some heavy consequences.

No Olympics.
No skating for awhile.
No respect.



Tim
Pearson

No gold medal.

"Why me? Why now? Why?" — College basketball coaches.

Coaches are crying because their request for another scholarship was turned down.

The Black Coaches Association wondered why this was happening to them. The defeat of the proposal to raise the scholarship limit from 13 to 14 would prevent a minority player from attending college, they said.

Entrance requirements have been toughened too, which also angered many coaches.

Coaches like Georgetown's John

Thompson are upset that 301 scholarships will be taken away.

"Why me? Why now? Why?" — Chicago White Sox manager Gene Lamont.

Lamont may have to make his toughest cut ever at the end of March. Michael Jordan, now that he's conquered the basketball world, apparently thinks that baseball is next on the list. Sorry Michael. Stick to golf.

"Why me? Why now? Why?" — All CBS football employees.

Fox stole the NFL football deal from the tight grip of CBS, which had covered the NFC for what seemed like a millennium.

Things have become so desperate that Greg Gumbel and Terry Bradshaw, NFL Today studio hosts, have resorted to doing skits on the David Letterman show.

And the season is not even over

yet. You still have one week left guys.

"Why me? Why now? Why?" — Buddy Ryan.

The Houston Oilers defensive coordinator has been through a long season. He's been through a 12-round fight, but this time, unlike when he punched offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride earlier this season, he was knocked to the mat.

Ryan and his touted defense couldn't withstand Joe Montana and the Chiefs as Kansas City won 28-20.

Enough hype about Ryan and his defensive brilliance. He's out of the playoffs. But watch out for his right uppercut.

"Why me? Why now? Why?" — Everybody's asking the questions. Let's hope they find the answers they're looking for.

Pearson is a sophomore news-editorial major and is a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.