

Nebraska's football commitments

Name	Yr.	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
Butler, Ted	Fr.	OL	6-1	240	Lincoln Southeast
Crayton, Tray	Fr.	S	6-2	195	Oceanside, Calif.
Dumitrescu, Constantine	Fr.	OL	6-5	300	Hayward, Calif.
Elder, Jon	Fr.	QB	6-3	195	Sioux City, Iowa
Erstad, Darin	So.	P/K	6-2	195	Jamestown, N.D.
Foreman, Jay	Fr.	WB/DB	6-3	195	Eden Prairie, Minn.
Jackson, Sheldon	Fr.	TE	6-3	205	Diamond Bar, Calif.
Knuckles, Brian	Jr.	IB	5-11	195	Charlotte, N.C.
Livingston, John	Jr.	WR	6-0	175	San Marcos, Calif. (Transfer from Arizona State)
McFarlin, Octavious	Fr.	S	6-0	180	Bastrop, Texas
Reddick, David	Fr.	WB	5-10	175	Camden, N.J.
Roy, Dorrick	Fr.	TE	6-4	220	Inglewood, Calif.
Rucker, Mike	Fr.	OLB	6-6	225	St. Joseph, Mo.
Toline, Travis	Fr.	OLB	6-4	220	Wahoo
Wade, Brandt	Fr.	OL	6-3	275	Springfield
Warfield, Eric	Fr.	SE/S	6-1	175	Texarkana, Ark.
Wiggins, Shevin	Fr.	CB/WB	5-11	170	Palmetto, Fla.
Wiltz, Jason	Fr.	DT	6-4	280	New Orleans, La.
Wistrom, Grant	Fr.	OLB	6-5	230	Webb City, Mo.

Exhausted Osborne gets  
19 recruits' signatures

By Mitch Sherman  
Staff Reporter

After reviewing the list of newly signed Husker football players with the media Wednesday afternoon, Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne had one thing left to say:

"I just want to take a shower."  
It was obvious that Osborne was worn out after weeks on the road, late nights on the phone and countless trips to high school athletes' homes. "This was one of the most difficult recruiting years we have ever had," Osborne said. "I can't remember a year that took more work and travel. We were with a lot of good players, and so many came right down to the end."

Of the 20 players expected to sign with the Cornhuskers on Wednesday, 19 came through. The Huskers signed

16 high school seniors, one college sophomore and two junior transfer students.

Only Amp Campbell, a USA TODAY All-American defensive back from Sarasota (Fla.) Riverview High School, did not sign a letter of intent. John Sprague, Campbell's high school coach, said late Wednesday afternoon that Campbell had not signed with another school.

"He's awaiting his test results," Sprague said. "He is going to take the ACT and the SAT again."

"After he gets his results, then he'll decide between Nebraska and Colorado."

Sprague said Campbell would attend one of the two schools, even if he didn't get the required 17 on his ACT or 700 on his SAT.

Osborne said this year's class, which includes only three players from

Nebraska, was a solid all-around class. The only disappointing factor about the class, Osborne said, is that the Huskers signed only one quarterback, Jon Elder from Sioux City (Iowa) West High School.

"We wanted to get two quarterbacks," Osborne said. "Elder is a good quarterback. He has good speed and he has a strong arm, but he is not a sprinter. Hopefully, we can redshirt him next year, but if one of our top three quarterbacks goes down, we're going to have to use him."

The Huskers, who have only two quarterbacks on scholarship, lost three top high school quarterbacks to other schools. Hines Ward, a highly touted quarterback from Georgia, chose Georgia over Nebraska. Donovan McNabb of Chicago chose Syracuse over the

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Nee hopes change in lineup will end NU losing streak

By Derek Samson  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska coach Danny Nee is looking for a cure to the three-game losing streak that is plaguing Nebraska after a 12-2 start.

During his weekly press conference Wednesday, Nee said the Huskers' poor shooting was an obvious reason for their slump, but regaining their shooting touch might not be easy.

"It will come back, but 'when' is what we're concerned with," he said. "Our offense is shooting and attacking the basket. When that goes down, it affects us."

The three-game losing streak includes home losses of 79-76 to Oklahoma and 89-73 to Missouri. Nebraska lost 86-81 at Colorado to start the skid.

Nebraska shot a season-low 33 percent in Saturday's loss to Oklahoma, worse than the previous low of 40 percent against Missouri. Nebraska made only two of 26 three-point attempts against Missouri.

"The shooting is something that happened the last couple of games," Nee said. "We're just off. We're not hitting threes or twos. We're off in every category."

"We try to teach to have a little more patience and to keep the confidence."

Nee said the coaches were concerned with the players' confidence.

"When you lose, things change," Nee said. "I think you can get very fragile. I think we're very fragile right now because of our shooting. The guys lose their confidence very quickly, but they can gain it back very quickly also."

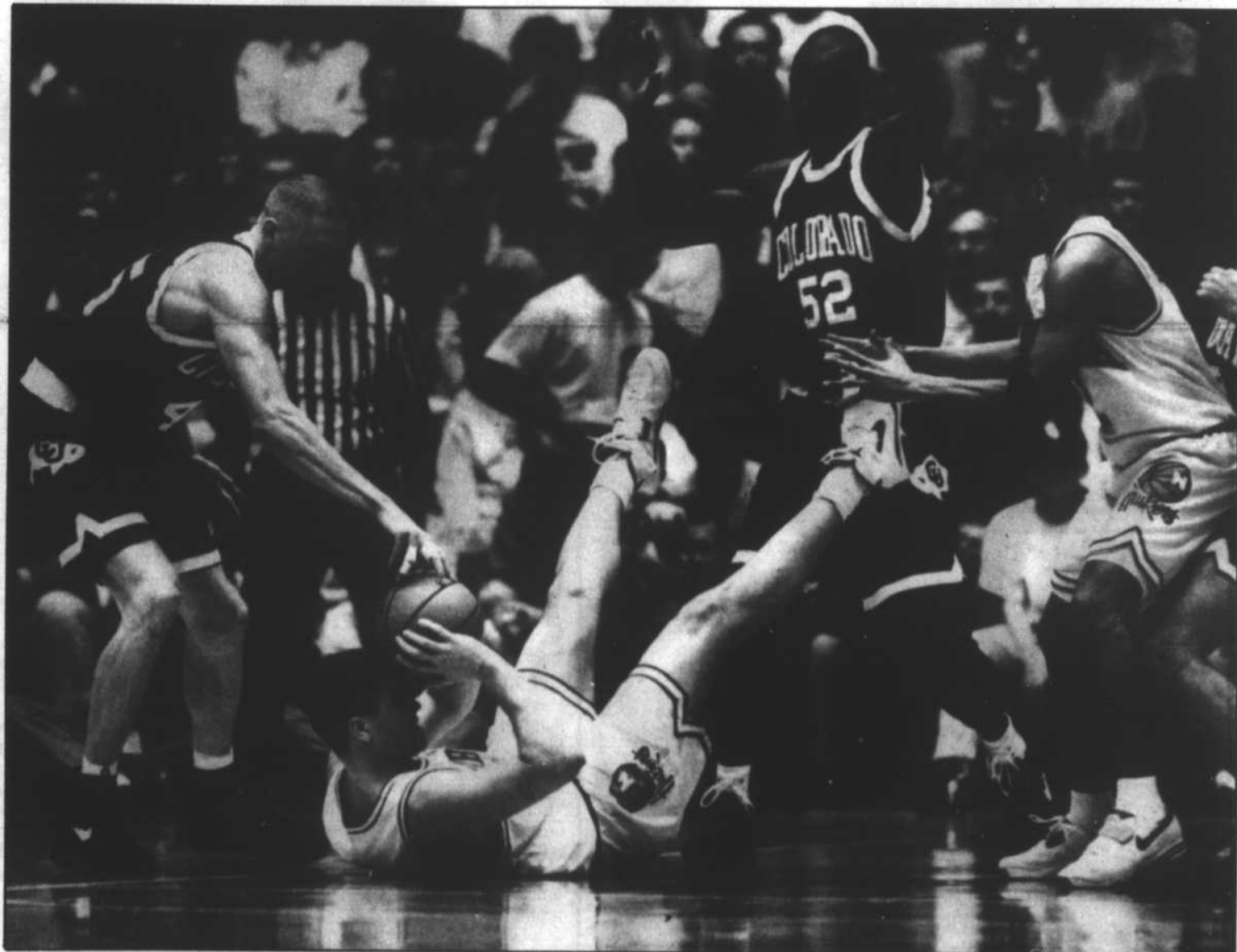
Nee will make one change to his lineup to try to get his team untracked. Senior forward Bruce Chubick, at 6 feet 7 inches and 232 pounds, will move to center in order to fill Nebraska's gap in the low post.

Nee said he moved Chubick because defenses were catching up with Nebraska's spread-out style of play.

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Nee



William Lauer/DN

Nebraska's Bruce Chubick (on floor) will move to the low post against Kansas Sunday, Cornhusker men's basketball coach Danny Nee said.

Guns and violence are entering forbidden territory

You shouldn't have to read this. Not on the sports page, at least.

And I shouldn't have to write about it in this

section. The violence and morbidity of today's world belong on the front page and in obituaries.

Not on the pages in-between.

Unfortunately, the violence we used to relegate to big-city ghettos is penetrating our neighborhoods, universities and athletic programs.

As well as our bedrooms.

That's where Ed McPherran, an assistant basketball coach at Lincoln East High School, was sleeping on Jan. 22, when a bullet ripped through his front window, another wall and lodged in his headboard, reportedly six inches above his head.

At last report, police were examin-

ing whether the shooting stemmed from a scuffle at a basketball game the night before.

And of course, no one knows what might have driven Nebraska cornerback Tyrone Williams — who was charged Wednesday with unlawful discharge of a firearm and use of a weapon to commit a felony — to allegedly shoot two bullets into the right panel of a woman's car Sunday.

But Police Chief Tom Casady — and anyone else with a capable mind — knows it wasn't an "accident" as the players and Coach Tom Osborne originally claimed.

A clip on a kickoff return is an accident. Firing a gun twice at a car isn't.

The shootings make one thing abundantly clear: Athletics in Nebras-



Todd Cooper

ka no longer make up the fantasy world they once did.

And Lincoln is never-never land no more. The violent crimes of 1992-93 made that abundantly clear.

But save for a few skirmishes, violence in athletics tended to leave itself on the field.

As Osborne said, the alleged shooting involving one of his players is the first he can remember in his 20 years as head coach.

People don't expect these things to

happen at the University of Nebraska. Shootings happen at Miami or Colorado.

Or Oklahoma.

In 1989, Jerry Parks, a sophomore defensive back at OU, shot his friend and teammate over a cassette tape and a haircut.

Of course, the situations aren't entirely comparable. Oklahoma's problems — which extended to charges of rape and drug dealing against players — were the product of a program that was out of control.

Osborne appears to have as much control over his program as he can.

But he has no control over the world that his recruits come from.

Many of them are natives of cities where a 9mm is as much a part of everyday apparel as a wristwatch.

With firearms expected to overtake motor vehicles as the No. 1 cause of death by injury in the United States, guns and the destruction they cause are casually accepted.

They're coming dangerously close to destroying homes and hearts in the heartland.

And they're entering football programs and neighborhoods.

Osborne said he doesn't want them in his.

"If there is anybody who doesn't identify what they have and it comes out later that they had a gun, we would take that as pretty serious grounds for dismissal," he said.

Unfortunately, the world can't always dismiss misfits who fire guns for

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