

SPORTS

Thursday, February 2, 1995

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Green highlights Nebraska recruiting class

Star I-back glad to be a Husker

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

OMAHA — At 8:05 Wednesday morning, the Nebraska I-back stable was restocked for the next four years with one swipe of Ahman Green's pen.

The record-setting I-back from Omaha Central, who was a consensus high school All-American last season, made it official, signing his national letter of intent to play football for Nebraska in the fall.

"It's a big relief," said the 6-foot-1, 210-pound Green, who committed to Nebraska on Jan. 6. "Now I can focus on better things like academics and track."

Green became the fourth Central I-back in the last decade to sign with the Huskers, following in the footsteps of Calvin Jones (1991-93), Leodis Flowers (1988-90) and Keith Jones (1984-87).

"Coach (Tom) Osborne and (Frank) Solich did a tremendous job recruiting him," Central coach Joe McMenemy said. "They were diligent all summer long. Ahman really appreciated that. They told him that they would not recruit another running back."

"They told him that he's the No. 1 player in the country as far as they are concerned. That means a lot to Ahman, hearing that from Coach Osborne. It was probably as good a job as they've ever done recruiting a player."

As a senior, Green averaged 9.8 yards per carry and 176.8 rushing yards per game while running for 1,591 yards and 14 touchdowns.

He said he did not expect to redshirt next year.

"If I do get in," Green said, "I'm going to do what I can to help the team. I don't have to start. But I don't want to redshirt. I'm looking to be on the sidelines and play and get some time in."

Osborne said Wednesday afternoon that Green was pegged by the Husker coaches as the best run-

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Ahman Green, a senior at Omaha Central High School, signs his letter of intent as his mother, Glenda Scott, looks on in a conference room at Central Wednesday morning. Green, an All-State running back, will play football for Nebraska.

Scott Bruhn/DN

Nebraska lands pair of Bulldogs

By Todd Walkenhorst
Staff Reporter

OMAHA — It's been 20 years since two Omaha Burke recruits came to Nebraska in the same year, but on Wednesday it happened again.

Burke's Adam Julch and Aaron Wills made their intentions official to attend Nebraska on football scholarships. Both athletes were relieved that signing day had finally arrived.

"It feels great," Wills said. "Now we can get on with our lives."

Julch, a 6-foot-6-inch, 300-pound offensive lineman, is looking forward to playing at Nebraska.

"It feels real good because I can concentrate on my football career, and it's a big load off of your back to get it over with," Julch said. "I'm going to a great university, so I should have the time of my life. It'll be interesting."

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said if Julch had not committed so early, he may have had many other offers.

"If he lived in Chicago and held out," he said, "he probably would have had 40 or 50 schools offer him scholarships."

"He was as good a lineman as we saw offensively, a great prospect."

The Huskers also signed Wills, a tight end and outside linebacker from Burke. Nebraska overlooked the 6-foot-2-inch, 230-pounder early but reconsidered after persuasion from Burke coach Larry Jacobsen, Osborne said.

"(Jacobsen) said he was a good player," Osborne said, "so we took another look at him."

Jacobsen said that Wills was a good player who could contribute to the Huskers.

"I think Wills is a sleeper," Jacobsen said. "Both offensively and defensively, a lot of potential."

Jacobsen said both players should be able to contribute to the Husker program in the near future. "Both have a lot of potential."

Recruiting 'easy' for Osborne

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

Maybe Tom Osborne underestimated the power of a national championship.

One month to the day after claiming the school's first national title in 23 years, Osborne collected 26 national letters of intent containing signatures of each of the recruits the Cornhuskers had expected to sign.

"This was an unbelievably easy year," Osborne said Wednesday afternoon. "There was nobody we had to go back and rerecruit. We have been on the phone continually the last several days, just expecting that somebody, somewhere was going to bail out."

A dumbfounded Osborne said never before had recruiting been so easy.

"Nobody even said, 'Well, hey coach, I'm having second thoughts.' Nobody even wiggled. I couldn't understand. It was just kind of unbelievable."

The 26 Huskers-to-be hail from 14 states, including seven players from Nebraska. The group consists of 25 high school seniors and one junior college transfer. The Huskers got two quarterbacks, six linebackers, four defensive backs, eight linemen, two tight ends and one running back.

"If our evaluation is bad," Osborne said, "then we didn't do very well. If our evaluation is good, then we did very well."

Nebraska was nearly finished recruiting by the time the team left for the Orange Bowl on Dec. 23. At that time, Osborne said, only one scholarship remained, and it was being held for Omaha Central

I-back Ahman Green, who committed on Jan. 6.

But the large number of early commitments did not hamper the Huskers' class, Osborne said.

"We evaluated players and rank ordered them on the board," he said. "Generally speaking, we drew a line. We said anybody above that line is really an excellent football player — people that we would take in a minute. We didn't take anybody below the line."

He said the Huskers signed five of the top seven offensive linemen, both of the top two quarterbacks, the No. 1 running back, four of the top five linebackers and four of the top six defensive backs.

"The one thing I do know is that most of these guys can run," Osborne said. "And that's a good

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Duke assistant to take over for Steele

Craig Bohl comes back to Nebraska after 12 years

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

Former Nebraska football player Craig Bohl will be named today as the Cornhuskers' new linebacker coach, the Daily Nebraskan has learned.

The post was vacated when Kevin Steele left Nebraska on Jan. 20 to accept a coaching job with the Carolina Panthers of the NFL.

Bohl, 36, served as the defensive coordinator for the Duke football team last fall.

Bohl said an official announcement would be made today by the Nebraska athletic department.

Upon arriving at Lincoln Municipal Airport early this morning, Bohl told the Daily Nebraskan that he was in Lincoln to discuss the linebacker coaching position.

"I am going to decide some things (Thursday)," he said. "Nothing has been formally offered and nothing has been formally accepted, but obviously you can see that I am in town."

"I'm certainly excited to be back here," Nebraska athletic director Bill Byrne declined to comment Wednesday night.

Duke coach Fred Goldsmith, who led the Blue Devils to a 8-4 record and a berth in the Hall of Fame Bowl last season, told Durham, N.C., radio station WDNC on Wednesday night that Bohl was returning to his home state.

Goldsmith told the radio station he was indebted to Bohl for the work he had done and was sorry to lose him.

Bohl, a Lincoln native, graduated from Lincoln East High School in 1977, after playing three years for the Spartans. He then played in the Nebraska defensive backfield from 1978-81 and was a Husker graduate assistant from 1981-1983.



Bohl
1982 photo

"Nothing has been formally offered and nothing has been formally accepted, but obviously you can see that I am in town."

■
CRAIG BOHL

prospective assistant NU football coach

Bohl's parents and relatives live in Lincoln. Bohl and his wife Deanna have 4-year-old twin daughters, Mallory and Morgan, and a 6-month-old son, Aaron.

Bohl, who arrived in Lincoln alone, was met at the airport by his mother, Roberta Bohl. Bohl said he would be honored to work under his former coach, Tom Osborne.

"In our profession," Bohl said, "I don't think he has any peers on his level. He's a proven winner. I think he's really done an excellent job working with student athletes over the years."

Bohl spent the 1984 season as a full-time assistant at North Dakota State. From there, he coached at Tulsa (1985-86) and Wisconsin (1987-88), before accepting a job as the linebackers' coach at Rice.

Bohl followed Goldsmith from Rice to Duke prior to the 1994 season.

"Nebraska has a program that's a hallmark as far as consistency," Bohl said. "I think this year, obviously, was the pinnacle of that. I don't think there are many guys out there that are like Tom Osborne."