

## Sports Opinion



### David Wilson Battle Creek lineman fulfills lifelong dream

Monday morning started like any other at Battle Creek High School.

Dave Volk was sitting in his homeroom, minding his own business, when he was called into Football Coach Bob Schnitzler's office.

Schnitzler had Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne on the line. Volk answered the phone and was offered a scholarship by the NU coach.

Suddenly, his dream to one day take the field wearing Husker scarlet and cream at Memorial Stadium was becoming a reality.

"If you grow up in Nebraska," Volk said, "I don't know how you can not want to play for the Huskers."

Though he knew he wanted to play for the Huskers, Volk told Osborne that he wanted to talk things out with his parents before making a decision. Osborne said he understood and he would call Volk at home later that night.

"I told him I wanted to talk with my parents first," Volk said, "but I pretty much had my mind made up since I was a sixth-grader."

Volk said he returned to class and shared his secret with just three people throughout the day.

"I didn't want to say anything until it was official," he said.

After football practice, Volk went home and discussed the situation with his mother.

"My mom has been freaking out a lot more than I have," said Volk, who will sign a letter of intent in February. "She was just nervous. It's a mother thing."

The 6-foot-5, 275-pounder, who has lettered in football, basketball, baseball and track since his freshman year, had not received any other football scholarship offers — until just after 9 p.m.

While waiting for Osborne to call and confirm his scholarship, Volk received a call from a Kansas State coach, who wanted him to become a Wildcat.

Volk waited for Osborne. And his mother continued to "freak out." But Volk said he remained calm and confident that the coach would keep his word.

Finally, just before 10 p.m., Osborne, along with Coach Dan Young, called the Volk residence and confirmed the scholarship.

Though Volk didn't discuss it with the NU coaches, he said he would redshirt next season.

"You almost have to redshirt if you're a lineman," Volk said.

Volk plays defensive line, offensive line and kicker. He has done everything from return a punt block for a touchdown to kick a 35-yard field goal.

"It's kind of relieving," Volk said right after telling the news to his grandparents. "Now I get to settle down and play football."

Wilson is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.

## Baylor coach: NU defense is the best

By **TREVOR PARKS**  
Senior Reporter

Baylor Coach Chuck Reedy knew his team was going to be 3-0 entering the first season of Big 12 Conference play.

It's the next few games after that that had him worried.

Baylor beat Louisiana Tech, Louisville and Oregon State before losing its conference opener 45-24 to Texas Tech last Saturday.



Reedy

"Now that the conference race has started, it is going to be a battle every week," Reedy said. "We're pleased we have gotten off to a good start, but from here the schedule gets nothing but tougher."

The Bears, 3-1 overall and 0-1 in the Big 12, get a much stiffer challenge than they have faced all season when they play Nebraska Saturday afternoon at Memorial Stadium.

A wounded Bear team will visit Lincoln.

No. 1 quarterback Jeff Watson is "very, very questionable" for Saturday's game, Reedy said. Unless Watson makes a miraculous recovery from a nerve problem in his back, sophomore Jermaine Alfred will start at quarterback.

Alfred entered in the first quarter of Baylor's loss to Texas Tech. Although he rushed for minus-19 yards on seven attempts, he did lead the Bear offense to all of its 24 points.

No. 3 quarterback Odell James, who was highly recruited last year by Nebraska, had arthroscopic knee surgery Wednesday and will redshirt this season.

For the season, Alfred has completed 19 of 39 passes for 328 yards, two touchdowns and one interception.

The Baylor defense came out of the Red Raider game with its confidence bruised as well. The Texas Tech offense rolled up 624 yards of total offense against the Bears. Of that, 482 came on the ground.

Tech tailback Byron Hanspard earned Big 12 offensive player-of-the-week honors for a 287-yard performance against Baylor. Hanspard's rushing total was the most allowed in 98-year history of the BU program.

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MARNI SPECK/DN

**RENEE SAUNDERS**, a sophomore on the Nebraska volleyball team, will suit up as a redshirt freshman on the Husker basketball team this season.

## Saunders' act is double trouble

By **JAY SAUNDERS**  
Staff Reporter

Deion Sanders. Bo Jackson. Renee Saunders?

Sanders and Jackson are famous for playing two sports, but how does 19-year-old Sanders from Omaha fit in with those multimillionaires?

Saunders is on scholarship at Nebraska to play both volleyball and basketball. She is a sophomore on Volleyball Coach Terry Pettit's team, and will be a redshirt freshman this year for Women's Basketball Coach Angela Beck.

Saunders was a three-sport athlete in high school. The Omaha Marian graduate dropped down to

two sports after her sophomore year.

"I ran track, but I quit to focus on volleyball and basketball," Saunders said. "I figured why run when you can jump."

It is her ability to jump, shoot and hit that landed her on scholarship. Saunders was an all-state basketball player in high school but chose to come to Nebraska because of volleyball.

"My decision was pretty much made because I knew volleyball is what I would be playing my first year," said Saunders, who also visited Penn State, Illinois and Clemson.

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Nebraska	16	15	15
Colorado	14	11	10

## Huskers hammer Colorado

Reitsma breaks her own school record in three-game win.

By **TREVOR PARKS**  
Senior Reporter

Unfortunately for the Colorado volleyball team, Lisa Reitsma has finally come around.

Reitsma, a junior All-American, hit .323, coming alive to break her own three-game-match record of 28 kills with 29 in a sweep of CU Wednesday night in Boulder.

The sixth-ranked Cornhuskers improved to 13-2 overall and 5-0 in the Big 12 with a 16-14, 15-11, 15-10 win over Colorado (8-4 and 3-2) in front of a crowd of 1,892 at the Coors Event Center.

"It's a big win," Reitsma said from Boulder after the match. "Winning on the road is never easy."

Megan Korver added 12 kills for NU and Fiona Nepo had a career-high eight.

After falling behind 14-10 in game one, NU fought off three game points. A Reitsma kill and an error by Colorado's Melissa Schultz cut the deficit to 14-12.

An ace by Reitsma pulled Nebraska within one point, and a Nepo kill eliminated the Buffaloes' fifth game-point chance. CU's Sarah Lodge was then blocked by NU to tie the game. The Huskers took a 15-14 lead on a Reitsma kill and won on a Kristin Dorsch hitting error.

"We pumped ourselves up when we got down," Reitsma said. "We were a little flat to start the match, but when we fell behind, we realized we needed to turn things around."

Nebraska had to rally again in the second game, falling behind 7-3. After tying the game at nine, the Huskers scored six of the game's final eight points.

The Huskers led 11-5 in game three before hanging on for a 15-10 win.

"To come in here and maintain your poise and keep fighting, that's a character builder," Nebraska Coach Terry Pettit said on his post-match radio show.

NU's Renee Saunders left the match with a left ankle injury in game one.

# NU freshmen mature quickly

## Evans and Brown work hard to earn a chance to start.

By **MIKE KLUCK**  
Senior Reporter

DeAngelo Evans could have taken the summer off.

One of the nation's top running backs coming out of Wichita (Kan.) Collegiate High School and Nebraska's only incoming I-Back, Evans didn't need to do much to prepare for his freshman season as a Cornhusker.

He was coming to a school with a



Brown



Evans

stable full of returning backs, including senior Damon Benning and sophomore Ahman Green. In addition, the NU program has become nationally known for redshirting nearly all of its incoming freshmen.

But because of Evans' work, he —

along with fellow true freshman Ralph Brown — has joined recent players like Green and Tommie Frazier in making a significant contribution in his first year on campus.

"I watched about six hours of film a week during the summer," Evans said. "I watched a lot of film on Lawrence (Phillips), Ahman and Damon, watching their steps."

"Coming up here this summer really helped me out with the offense. I got to learn the passing offense pretty good."

Brown, a right cornerback from Hacienda Heights, Calif., said he also benefitted from spending three weeks in Lincoln during the summer. That work ethic helped him to become the

first true freshman non-kicker to start a season opener since at least the 1940s.

"I just wanted to come in and get a little time playing here," Brown said. "I played on grass in high school, and I didn't really know what turf was like. While I was here, the coaches gave me a lot of plays."

Both freshmen said they thought they might have a chance to play early, but starting was never their main goal. "My goal was just to mainly help out the team the best that I can," Brown said.

Evans, who may start Saturday against Baylor because of injuries to

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