

# Chiefs turn down Phillips, release 20

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — After saying no to Lawrence Phillips, the Kansas City Chiefs said goodbye to 20 other players, including veteran quarterback Billy Joe Tolleriver and running back Jesse Haynes.



Phillips

And although second-year man Pat Barnes appeared at first to have beaten out Tolleriver for third-string quarterback, he was soon gone as well. The Chiefs released him Tuesday night after acquiring Todd Collins on waivers from the Buffalo Bills.

One day after disclosing he'd had a face-to-face meeting with Phillips, Coach Marty Schottenheimer said the Chiefs would not be signing the troubled running back who had already been cut by St. Louis and Miami.

"We made a decision we're going to go in another direction," Schottenheimer said. "We evaluated the information available to us both through research as well as personal interviews."

Schottenheimer said Phillips's problems off the field were no more a factor in their decision than they would have been for any other prospect.

"We looked at Lawrence in the same light we look at every player," Schottenheimer said. Media and public opinion had been running strongly against signing Phillips, who has been controversial since his playing days at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"I don't ever listen to the talk shows, and I haven't read a newspaper in a few days, so that wasn't a factor," Schottenheimer said. "We took the process we've always taken. That gives you the best opportunity to make the right decision."

Haynes, who played in Division II at Northwest Missouri State, had become something of a fan favorite even though he spent all last season on the practice squad. He fumbled three times in three exhibition games, including twice inside the 15.

"I think he pressed," Schottenheimer said. "The fumbles were the biggest issue. He felt as though every play he was in there, he had to make a big play. It kind of got to him. We talked a little bit about it. I think he's a pretty good player. But

until you actually do it in the games ..."

Barnes, a fourth-round draft choice from California last year, had been picked over Tolleriver as the No. 3 quarterback behind Elvis Grbac and Rich Gannon, despite throwing five interceptions during the exhibition season.

But when Collins cleared waivers, Barnes was released.

"The obvious is Pat, statistically, had a horrendous pre-season," said Carl Peterson, the Chiefs' president and general manager. "He struggled, sometimes not his fault, not always playing with the first-team guys."

The Chiefs had wanted Barnes to get some game-condition experience playing in Europe during the spring, but he declined to do it.

Collins, who followed Grbac as the quarterback at Michigan, was Buffalo's second-round draft choice in 1995. He began last season as the starter for the Bills, but was benched twice. He did start 14 games, completing 215 of 391 passes for 12 touchdowns, with 13 interceptions and 39 sacks.

He became expendable at Buffalo after the Bills signed Rob Johnson, with Doug Flutie as his backup.

"He's had some good games, he's been up and down at Buffalo, but as a third quarterback, he can help us," said Peterson.

Other veterans released were center Eugene Chung and cornerback Anthony Prior. Also waived were tackle Tavarr Closs, defensive end Herb Coleman, cornerback Matt Dorsett, punter Shayne Edge, center El-Mashtoub Hicham, tight ends Chad Flick and Damian Johnson, guard Brad Kubik, wide receiver Shawn McWashington, linebacker Brandon Moore, wide receiver Chris Ortiz, linebackers Terry Rice-Locket and Mark Smith, safety Rod Thomas and wide receiver Toussaint Waterman. Placed on injured reserve were defensive tackle Jay Heimsoth and wide receiver Kevin Huntley.

Among the happiest players to escape getting released was tight end Willy Tate, who failed to make the team last year and ended up spending the season on the practice squad.

"When somebody tells you, 'You tried your hardest and that's not good enough,' that's a very difficult thing," Tate said. "I can't think of anything more stressful than that. This day is not a lot of fun. You try to avoid eye contact with the guys from the personnel department."

# Bulldogs' coach confident

Crowton says Louisiana Tech's experience will curb intimidation

By DAVID WILSON  
Senior staff writer

Though Louisiana Tech will open its season on the turf of Memorial Stadium in Lincoln in front of a sea of 76,000 fans Saturday, Coach Gary Crowton is confident the Bulldogs won't be intimidated.



Crowton

They've played in big stadiums before — and survived. At Auburn last season on Oct. 11, in front of 84,761 fans, Louisiana Tech fell 49-13.

But three weeks later, the Bulldogs defeated Alabama 26-20 in the Crimson Tide's homecoming game, before a crowd of 70,123.

"I don't feel intimidation at all," Crowton said. "We've played in a lot of big games, as far as packed house stadiums. We've been on the road a lot. We're used to that."

In two seasons under Crowton, the Bulldogs are 7-3 on the road and 15-7 overall. But the Alabama game last season was one of Louisiana Tech's biggest upsets, Crowton said.

That's what receiver Troy

Edwards is hoping for this Saturday, when the Bulldogs take on the Cornhuskers at 3:08 p.m.

"I kind of compare it to the Alabama game," Edwards said. "We're ready for that. We've played in front of more people. A crowd can't come out there and play."

"They can't live on their tradition. That's their past. That's their history. This is a new team."

Quarterback Tim Rattay, a Heisman Trophy candidate, agreed with Edwards.

"There's no intimidation here," Rattay said. "I don't think you can be. We respect them like we respect every opponent, but we're not intimidated."

Crowton said he is not going to change his game plan for Nebraska. The Bulldog offense, he said, will run about 55 percent passing plays — but the passing game, he said, won't open up without a solid running game.

Last season, Louisiana Tech passed the ball on 61 percent of its plays and ran the ball 49 percent of the time. Furthermore, passing accounted for 73 percent of the total offensive yards, while rushing accounted for only 27 percent.

As a team, the Bulldogs' 1,491 rushing yards were 386 yards fewer than Ahman Green's 1,877 yards for the Huskers last year.

When Louisiana Tech does run

## Different offenses Same results

The Nebraska and Louisiana Tech offense get yards in different ways, but they end getting to the same place often: the endzone. Below are the rankings for both teams in scoring and total offense and the ranking in rushing and passing offense for either team.

Total Offense	yards per game	ranking
Nebraska	513.67	1
Louisiana Tech	496.3	3

  

Scoring	points per game	ranking
Nebraska	47.1	1
Louisiana Tech	33.1	20

JON FRANK/DN

the ball, junior running back Bobby Ray Tell will get most of the carries. The 5-foot-6, 200-pounder led the Bulldogs with 800 yards rushing last season.

"We have a good running game," Crowton said. "Bobby Ray Tell is fast and strong and hard to bring down."

"I think our running and passing games complement each other well."

But ultimately, there's no telling what will happen on Saturday until kickoff, Crowton said.

"You never know how good a team is until their first game," Crowton said. "We need to be poised and play well. Because this is college football, anything can happen."

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