

Signing Day '99

Nebraska 1999 recruits

Name: John Garrison **Pos:** RE/DL **Ht:** 6-5 **Wt:** 265
Hometown: Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs)
Stats: 101 tackles (67 solo), 29 tackles for loss, 25 sacks, 1 interception
Head Coach Frank Solich says: "John fits the mold for the size of a guy that we'd like at this spot. Depending on how big John gets, we may move him around, but he'll start at rush and he'll have a great career here for us."

Patrick Kabongo **RE** **6-6** **315**
Montreal (Vanier College Prep)
Stats: N/A
Solich says: "When you're 6-6 and 315 pounds, you can play wherever you want, I guess. He's a great athlete and with his size, he could move inside, but we'll see."

Spencer Owen **RE** **6-5** **235**
Carrollton, Mo. (Carrollton)
Stats: 113 tackles (73 solo), 6 fumble recoveries, 2 pass breakups, 5 blocked kicks, 16 sacks
Solich says: "Spencer Owen has a tremendous work ethic and in watching Spencer on film, he's the type of player we like at rush end in terms of his style of play — very physical."

Ryon Bingham **DL** **6-3** **270**
Sandy, Utah (Alta)
Stats: 5.0 40-yard dash, 87 tackles, 14 sacks, 4 PBU
Solich says: "A very physical player. Ryon is also an all-state wrestler. His opponents are averaging around 50 seconds on the mat against him, so he's kind of a boring guy to go watch in a wrestling meet."

Phil Peetz **DL** **6-2** **245**
Elkhorn (Elkhorn)
Stats: 35 tackles
Solich says: "Phil is a tremendously strong, naturally strong kind of guy. He's a very, very bright young player who's got the ability to play a number of positions."

Tamotu (Junior) Tagoa'i **DL** **6-3** **290**
Hauula, Hawaii (St. Louis School)
Stats: 39 tackles, 4 sacks, 17 quarterback hurries, 4 forced fumbles
Solich says: "A physical defensive lineman with great strength. He's got very good movement and we feel very comfortable with Junior in our program. He'll be the type of defensive lineman like we've had in the past."

Shaun Coleman **LB** **6-4** **210**
Littleton, Colo. (Regis Jesuit)
Stats: 44 tackles, 6 sacks
Solich says: "Shaun went both ways and could probably play quarterback in some systems, might play quarterback in our system. He is somewhat multi-dimensional."

Blanchard Johnson III **LB** **6-0** **200**
Omaha (Council Bluffs St. Albert)
Stats: 151 tackles, 9 sacks
Solich says: "Blanchard is tremendously athletic and eventually could play on both sides of the ball."

Rob Blomeier **DB** **5-11** **185**
Littitz, Pa. (Manheim Township)
Stats: 20 tackles, 2 PBU
Solich says: "He's got excellent speed. Probably not a highly touted player out of his senior year, but we had him in camp, being able to see his athletic ability and that was enough for us."

Taylor Gehman **DB** **5-11** **190**
Omaha (Northwest)
Stats: 158 tackles
Solich says: "We identified Taylor very early on from having him in camp and watching him play. It's not difficult to pick Taylor out on film; he shows up around the ball all the time."

Jon Dawson **OL** **6-3** **285**
Cheyenne, Wyo. (Central)
Stats: 40 knockdowns
Solich says: "Jon is very explosive; he comes off the ball, knocks people around; he's very well suited for an aggressive style of offense."

Tim Green **OL** **6-5** **305**
Omaha (Westside)
Stats: 70 knockdowns
Solich says: "Tim has excellent strength and we kind of like his demeanor when it comes to lining up and wanting to play tough football."

Chris Loos **OL** **6-3** **300**
Lincoln (Southeast)
Stats: N/A
Solich says: "Chris is the same kind of athlete as our other players on the offensive line. He'll fit tremendously well with our system."

Dan Waldrop **OL** **6-5** **320**
Wilmington, Calif. (Banning)
Stats: N/A
Solich says: "We feel he has room to grow. He has unlimited potential."

Trevor Johnson **TE** **6-5** **225**
Lincoln (Northeast)
Stats: 42 catches, 736 yards, 10 TDs
Solich says: "Trevor was a great two-player for Northeast. He's a great athlete and a great person."

Larry Henderson **WB/SE** **6-1** **190**
Los Angeles, Calif. (West Los Angeles Community College)
Stats: 30 catches, 18.0 yards per catch
Solich says: "Larry gives you the deep threat, the speed on reverses. He's the kind of guy that you like to get the ball into his hands."

Josh Davis **IB** **5-11** **190**
Loveland, Colo. (Loveland)
Stats: 1,422 yards rushing, 30 TDs, 9.7 yards per carry
Solich says: "We think he'll be a tremendous I-back. He's one of the fastest players in the state of Colorado."

Robin Miller **IB** **5-11** **220**
Kent, Wash. (Kent-Meridian)
Stats: 1,726 yards, 16 TDs
Solich says: "We've got a tremendous running back in Robin Miller. He's a big, tough, aggressive football player. He's got a great career ahead of him here at the University of Nebraska."

Judd Davies **FB** **6-1** **235**
Omaha (Millard North)
Stats: 1,513 yards, 23 TDs
Solich says: "Judd is a great young man, a bright young man and he certainly has a great future ahead of him at the fullback spot."

Carl Crawford **QB** **6-2** **205**
Houston (Jefferson Davis)
Stats: 27-66, 509 yards and 8 TDs passing, 1,213 yards and 14 rushing TDs
Solich says: "We're real pleased with Carl and the way he feels about Nebraska and his desire to be a part of the program. He's an outstanding athlete."

Jammal Lord **QB** **6-3** **195**
Bayonne, N.J. (Bayonne)
Stats: 22-41, 360 yards and 4 TDs passing, 1,306 yards and 21 TDs rushing
Solich says: "Jammal's a talented guy that played several positions very well, but he's a very talented quarterback."

Toniulevaiaavea "Toni" Fonoti **OL** **6-4** **300**
Hauula, Hawaii (Kahuku)
Stats: N/A
Solich says: "Toni is all of 6-4, all of 300 pounds, but has the mobility of a much, much smaller player. Without question, he's one of the top linemen around the country."

JON FRANK/DN

Davis says NU signing no 'big deal'

By BRANDON SCHULTE
 AND DAVID WILSON
 Staff writers

LOVELAND, Colo. — Despite being arrested last week for allegedly stealing a PlayStation, Nebraska recruit Josh Davis signed a letter of intent Wednesday and appears to be headed for Lincoln in the fall.

Charged with second-degree burglary and providing false information to a pawnbroker, Davis said he was somewhat concerned with the status of his scholarship offer prior to talking with NU Coach Frank Solich on Tuesday night.

"I was a little worried at first," Davis said Wednesday, "but I didn't really think it was a big deal."

Until the details of the incident are figured

out, Solich said he would stand by his 5-foot-11, 190-pound I-back recruit.

"We are still getting the facts on the incident," Solich said. "We have visited with the people at his high school. They all speak highly of him. I don't think this incident is characteristic of Josh."

A SuperPrep All-American, Davis could face a minimum of five years in prison and/or \$4,000 in fines if convicted on both charges.

According to Dan Colby, owner of Friendly Pawn in Loveland, Davis sold a PlayStation to the pawnbroker for \$50 before returning to the shop to buy it back for \$55. Colby said he couldn't remember the exact dates.

"He came back about a week later — in somewhat of a panic — and we gave it back to him," Colby said. "We found out a couple of days later, after we sold it back — we were instructed by the police that Davis had stolen the article."

Colby said Davis presented an ID when signing a written contract upon the sale of the PlayStation. Davis' signature, Colby said, matched his ID, and was the same as the game system's drop off and pick up.

The alleged burglary incident took place Dec. 8. According to a police report, Jan Sutton returned to her Loveland home at noon to find a broken window in the bedroom of her son, Eric.

The curtain rod was broken and her son's bed was up against the wall. Grass and leaves were scattered on the bed, but no footprints or fingerprints were found. Jan Sutton, whose two stepsons are also suspects, said she did not want to comment on the situation Wednesday.

Davis also refused to comment on the incident, but Solich seemed confident that Davis will still join the Husker squad.

"I believe that he'll be able to enter the university and be a part of this system."

Football recruits fill NU's 'big' gap

■ NU signs five players over 300 pounds and gains depth for the interior lines.

By DAVID WILSON
 Staff writer

A "big, big need" for big, big guys was the primary focus of the Nebraska football coaches when putting together the recruiting class of 1999, Cornhusker Head Coach Frank Solich said.

If weight is any indication, NU's mission was accomplished when 21 high school seniors — five weighing in at over 300 pounds — signed letters of intent Wednesday.

"I think certainly the biggest need was to get some big people into the program," Solich said.

Aside from the 11 linemen, the Huskers also signed a handful of skill players, including two quarterbacks and two I-backs.

The Husker coaches did not revoke I-back Josh Davis' scholarship offer after the Loveland, Colo., native was arrested for allegedly stealing a Sony PlayStation last week.

"We did make a commitment to Josh when he committed to us verbally," Solich said.

Davis, who signed a letter of intent Wednesday, could face a minimum of five years in prison and/or \$4,000 in fines if he is convicted of both charges he faces. The 5-foot-11, 190-pounder verbally committed last summer.

The only player to sign that had not made up his mind prior to Wednesday was Dan Waldrop, a 6-5, 320-pound offensive lineman from Wilmington, Calif. According to the Spokesman Review in Spokane, Wash., Waldrop, who signed with NU Wednesday, had committed to Washington State as of Tuesday.

Along with Waldrop, who is the heaviest of the recruits, four other high school athletes listed as offensive linemen inked letters to come to NU.

Among them were Nebraska natives Tim Green, a 6-5, 305-pounder from Omaha Westside, and 6-3, 300-pound Chris Loos, from Lincoln Southeast, who will join the Nebraska offensive line pipeline in the fall.

As a whole, Solich said, he was impressed with the local talent bed. Of the 22 recruits



MIKE WARREN/DN

NEBRASKA HEAD FOOTBALL Coach Frank Solich talks to the media about the NU recruiting class of 1999. The Huskers signed 22 players, including 21 high school players.

signed Wednesday, which includes junior college transfer Larry Henderson, seven hail from Nebraska.

"We've been fortunate in that we've always had a tremendous base," Solich said. "That was extremely helpful. I think it's an excellent year for Nebraska players. It was easy to decide that every one of those guys were scholarship players."

Also aiding in the recruiting process, Solich said, was the Huskers' football camp held in June. Solich said 15 of the recruits who signed attended NU's camp last summer.

"That's been tremendously valuable," Solich said. "You know what you're getting."

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Experts praise well-rounded recruit class

By ADAM KLINKER
 Senior staff writer

With the 1998 season behind it and the future in front of it following the national letter of intent signing day, the Nebraska football team steps into 1999 with 22 solid recruiting commitments.

While the members of the class of 1999 may be lacking in style, they more than make up for it in substance, as regarded by recruiting experts around the nation.

"It's a year a lot like Nebraska always has,"

Bobby Burton of the National Recruiting Adviser said. "They've done well; they're right where they should be."

High on the list for the Cornhuskers was finding an I-back, a task they undertook and fulfilled doubly with Josh Davis and Robin Miller.

Though Davis and Miller were not in Burton's top five at the I-back position, Burton said, NU has obtained two top athletes.

"They've done it," he said. "Did they fulfill it with a top-five back? No. But they've still got two quality backs."

However, controversy is already trailing

Davis, whose status as a scholarship athlete was brought into question following his arrest last week on a burglary charge.

Also big for the Huskers were the commitments of two quarterbacks, Carl Crawford and Jammal Lord, both among the top option quarterbacks in the nation.

"It's important that Nebraska did that," said SuperPrep Magazine's Allen Wallace. "If you can get two quality quarterbacks, that gives Nebraska an edge that their opponents

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