

NU receives commitment from lineman

By **SAMUEL MCKEWON**
Senior staff writer

Former Colorado Coach Rick Neuheisel's resignation paved the way for the Nebraska football team to pick up the ninth verbal commitment for its 2000 recruiting class.

Martin "M.J." Flaum, a 6-foot-5-inch, 290-pound offensive lineman from Westminster, Colo., originally committed to Neuheisel and the Buffaloes after his sophomore season. But when Neuheisel went to Washington, the Cornhuskers stepped in.

"I liked the situation Neuheisel had at Colorado, but I didn't really want to go to Washington," said Flaum, who plays football at

Northglenn High School in suburban Denver. "Nebraska recruited me hard, and I liked everything about it — especially the coaches and facilities."

Flaum, who runs a 4.89-second hand-timed 40-yard dash, said current CU Coach Gary Barnett did not regularly contact Flaum, who was still technically a Buffalo verbal commitment. Colorado was no longer a choice when Barnett stopped expressing interest, Flaum said.

"I don't know what happened there," Flaum said.

What was CU's loss is NU's gain. Flaum, who was also recruited by Notre Dame, Michigan, Arizona and Colorado State, said the difference was the closeness of the team at NU.

"Just the way they acted," Flaum said. "I

liked all the older guys. The school is good, too."

Flaum scored a 20 on his ACT and has a 3.8 grade-point average. He plans to major in something business-related at UNL.

His commitment makes him the third offensive lineman to give a verbal to a Cornhusker class that is already taking shape — even before the high school season begins. The other two linemen are Mike Erickson, a 6-4, 270-pounder from Papillion-LaVista High School, and Josh Plisch, a 6-4, 290-pounder from Schofield, Wis.

Other commitments are Ira Cooper, a 6-1½, 220-pound linebacker from Omaha Westside High School; Chris Septak, a 6-5, 235-pound tight end from Millard West High School; Steve Kriewald, a 5-11, 250-pound fullback from North Loup; DeWayne Long, Jr., a 6-1, 205-

Current NU commitments

Player	Pos	H/Wt	Hometown
Ira Cooper	RB/LB	6-2/220	Omaha (Westside)
Sandro DeAngelis	FB/P	5-9/195	Ontario, Canada
Mike Erickson	OL	6-4/265	Omaha (Papillion-La Vista)
M.J. Flaum	OT	6-5/290	Denver
Steve Kriewald	FB	5-11/250	North-Loup Scotia
DeWayne Long	RB	6-1/205	West Des Moines
Josh Plisch	OL	6-4/295	Rothschild, WI
Jason Richenberger	LB	6-2/210	Liberty, MO
Chris Septak	TE	6-4/230	Omaha (Millard West)

MATT HANEY/DN

pound fullback from West Des Moines, Iowa; Jason Richenberger a 6-2, 210-pound linebacker from Liberty, Mo.; and Sandro DeAngelis, a 5-9, 195-pound kicker-fullback from Buffalo, N.Y.

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