

# Jamrog named new defensive line coach

By Brandon Schulte  
Staff writer

Nebraska Football Coach Frank Solich couldn't have been more excited to welcome Jeff Jamrog back into the Nebraska family.

In fact, Solich was at the airport Thursday night when Jamrog and his wife, Connie, arrived in Nebraska.

"Coach Solich picked us up at the airport," Jamrog said. "And he picked up my bags and threw them around like Nebraska threw around the Tennessee offensive and defensive linemen in the Fiesta Bowl."

On Friday, Solich named Jamrog to take the place of Charlie McBride as defensive line coach. Jamrog, a former defensive end at Nebraska, has the difficult task of replacing McBride, who retired as defensive line coach and defensive coordinator following the Fiesta Bowl.

"You really don't replace people," Jamrog said. "You step up into the position they had."

Before becoming NU's newest coach, Jamrog spent the last three seasons as defensive coordinator and inside linebackers coach at New

Mexico State. He also coached at Nebraska-Omaha and South Dakota after beginning his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Nebraska.

Last season at New Mexico State, he helped former Nebraska rush end Coach Tony Samuel lead the team to its first winning season since 1992. Even though New Mexico State is coming off a 6-5 season that included a 35-7 win over then-No. 22 Arizona State, Jamrog said the opportunity to coach at Nebraska was too good to pass up.

"It is an incredible opportunity to have a chance to coach for my alma mater and at the school where I played college ball," Jamrog said. "Rarely do you find a coach who gets to coach for his alma mater, in his home state and for one of the best programs in the country. And I have the opportunity to do all three."

Nebraska's first contact with Jamrog came by phone after the end of the season. Then, both Solich and Jamrog talked to Samuel about the possibility of Jamrog coaching at Nebraska. After Samuel gave his consent, Jamrog and Solich met in person at the Coaches Convention earlier this

month to solidify the details.

Solich said the hiring of Jamrog was sped up to give Nebraska another recruiter for the final week and a half of the recruiting period. But with Jamrog's past successes and connections, his name zoomed to the top of the Cornhuskers' short list of candidates.

"The other coaches on our staff weren't shy about throwing Jeff's name forward," Solich said. "He had an awful lot of support right out of the box."

Newly promoted Defensive Coordinator Craig Bohl and Jamrog haven't had a chance to discuss the particulars of Jamrog's role in the defensive strategy. But Jamrog doesn't see the move from a defensive coordinator to a defensive line coach as demotion.

"I think it will be like it was when I was here as a graduate assistant," he said. "Everybody shares ideas, and the defensive coordinator makes the final call. Then, Coach Solich makes the final decision."

"I think I'll be able to offer something to the brain trust on defense, and I don't really see it as a step down."

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Jeff Jamrog  
New Nebraska defensive line coach

## Schwartz, Kubik come through for Huskers

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would play and the more confidence they would gain.

"That's exactly what happened. My halftime speech was basically about matching their intensity in the first five minutes of the second half. As you know, we didn't do that."

Nebraska dominated most of the first half, opening the game with a 7-0 run and out-muscling A&M inside. Forward Charlie Rogers and center Casey Leonhardt both scored 10 points by halftime.

But the Aggies jetted out of the locker room with a 3-pointer by Rose, a 3-point play by Saunders and another 3-pointer from Rose to tie the game at 32. Kera Alexander's layup gave A&M its first lead at 34-32 with 17:44 left.

Rose's third 3-pointer at the 15:30 mark tied it up at 37-37, and her fourth broke a 48-48 tie with 10 minutes left.

"We knew she was a shooter," NU senior guard Brooke Schwartz said, "and when you leave shooters open, like we tend to do a lot, they'll knock them down."

Schwartz (team-high 18 points)

and senior guard Nicole Kubik (11 points) finally had seen enough and took charge after Sanderford called a time out with the Huskers facing their largest deficit at 55-50 with 8:19 left. NU went to its "Mad Dog" defense, and both Kubik and Schwartz picked up two steals and triggered two fast breaks that keyed an 11-0 run in a four-minute span to put NU ahead for good, 61-55.

"We told each other all night we have to get a defensive stop," Schwartz said. "And that's why I think we pulled away when we were up by five, when we went on our run and started with rebounds and defensive stops. There's no doubt that was what was said during the huddle."

A&M stayed within striking distance the rest of the way, but NU, the second-worst free-throw shooting team in the league at 67 percent, made seven of its last eight shots at the line to seal the victory.

"I had a lot of confidence in the kids shooting free throws at the end of the ball game," Sanderford said. "We made a lot of clutch shots tonight. We had to, because A&M was scoring almost every possession."

### —WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS—

## Nebraska rolls easily in Bermuda triangular

By Jason Merrihew  
Staff writer

Winning came easily for Nebraska this weekend in Bermuda.

The third-ranked Nebraska women's gymnastic team won the Bermuda Triangle Challenge with a team score of 194.25. Brown University took second with a team score of 184.725.

For the second consecutive week, senior All-American Heather Brink won the individual all-around title with a score of 38.85.

Brink won the vault with a 9.90 showing and tied for first on the uneven bars.

Freshmen A.J. Lamb and Julie Houk won their first career event titles. Lamb took the floor exercise with a score of 9.875, while Houk placed first on the uneven bars with a 9.90 score.

Two Huskers shared first-place on the balance beam. Junior Amy Ringo and sophomore Laura Goss both scored a 9.80.

Nebraska was accountable for the entire top five in the all-around. Freshman Jess Wertz finished behind Brink with a score of 38.80. Ringo and Goss tied for third with a 38.70. Lamb rounded out the top five with a fifth-placed showing in the all-around with a score of 37.90.

Senior Nicole Wilkinson did not compete in the Challenge because of the flu.

North Carolina State was also unable to compete in the Bermuda Triangle Challenge.

An East Coast snowstorm prevented the Wolfpack from making the trip in time to perform.

Nebraska will next be in action this Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.



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