

# Recruiting

## No QB, but Solich touts newest class

*“There isn't one that did not show that he wanted to be a part of Nebraska football. That makes a great deal of difference in terms of what these guys bring and how hard they work when they get here.”*

**Frank Solich**  
NU football coach

**By Samuel McKewon**  
Senior editor

Angel trumpets and devil trombones could be heard atop Memorial Stadium Wednesday as Coach Frank Solich unveiled his 21-player, 2000 Nebraska football recruiting class.

First, the trumpets - the Cornhuskers filled a specific need at linebacker and an annual need on the offensive line by signing four players at each position.

But it's likely the trombone sound will be heard much longer by NU fans and pundits as Nebraska failed to sign a quarterback for the second time in three seasons.

The Huskers' main target, San Antonio prepster Carlyle Holiday, committed to Notre Dame Wednesday. He was possibly scared off by the notion that Big 12 offensive player of the year, Eric Crouch, still has two seasons in the NU system.

Solich wasn't particularly surprised by Holiday's decision.

“There was a time when he indicated to me that (Notre Dame) was what he wanted to do,” Solich said. “He just had to get things finalized.”

The other ill tune came from highly touted safety Adrian Mayes, who

renewed his commitment to Nebraska and signed with Louisiana State Wednesday morning.

“I heard from Adrian (Tuesday),” Solich said. “And he said he was coming to Nebraska.”

When Mayes didn't, more than half of Solich's press conference was taken up by questions surrounding Mayes' and Holiday's alternate choices.

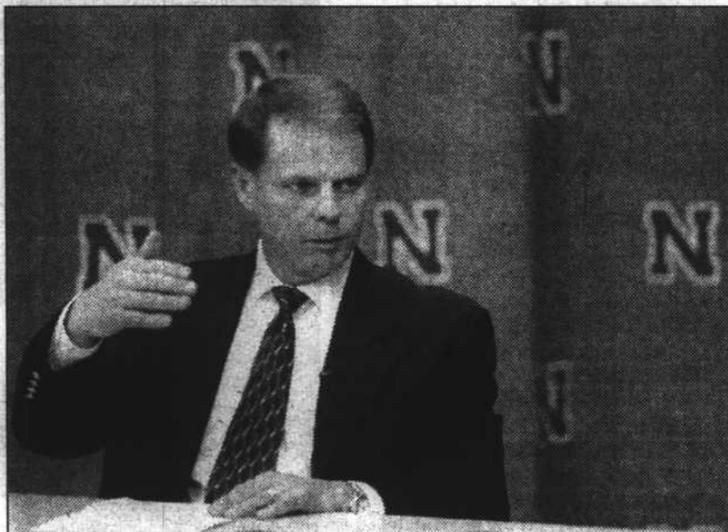
It prompted the third-year coach to say afterward: “My purpose here was to praise the players that we signed, not to talk about the players that we didn't.”

But earlier in the session, Solich had plenty of time to tout the players who did sign, especially the four linebackers, whom Solich figured might be the best group in the nation.

With four players graduating out of the linebacking crew this year, Solich said the four players who just signed - Ira Cooper, T.J. Hollowell, Lannie Hopkins and Jason Richenberger - might have a chance at playing time if they pick up the system quickly.

“You'd have to say those guys coming in at linebacker have a great chance,” Solich said.

Solich also spent time praising the offensive linemen - all of whom are at least 6-foot-2 and 275 pounds. The



**FRANK SOLICH**, head football coach, answers questions from the media about the 2000 recruiting class. The press conference was held in the media level of the new skyboxes, and Solich announced that 20 freshman and one junior college transfer would be joining the Husker football program.

smallest of the linemen is Papillion High School's Mike Erickson at 6-4 and 275, and “he's still growing,” Solich said.

“They all can run; they all can move,” Solich said. “And size, these

guys have it.” Nebraska signed three defensive backs. Willie Amos, who at 6-2 and

Please see **RECRUITS** on 18

## Six Nebraskans say yes to Cornhuskers



**Lornell McPherson** sits between his parents, John and Lula, at the signing of a letter of intent at Central High School in Omaha Wednesday morning.

**■ Lornell McPherson, Chris Septak and Ira Cooper round out an impressive in-state class.**

**By Sean Callahan**  
Staff writer

It has been said the state of Nebraska has the highest per capita number of boys out for football than any other state in America.

That statistic has made it easy for Nebraska football coaches over the years to find talented Division I players right in their own back yard.

On national signing day, that trend continued to be true for the state of Nebraska. Six out of the Huskers' 21 overall commitments were from Nebraska.

Four of those commitments came from the Omaha area from Mike Erickson, Chris Septak, Lornell McPherson and Ira Cooper.

The other two came from Ben Zajicek of Beatrice and Steve Kriewald of North Loup - Scotia.

Septak, a 6-foot-5, 235-pound tight end out of Millard West High school, gave his commitment to NU

in early August.

“It was probably one of the easiest decisions I've made,” Septak said Wednesday. “Knowing a lot about the university and being here since seventh grade, I knew that there was no better program.”

According to Rivals 100 recruiting service, Septak is the No. 2 tight end overall in the country.

With Nebraska already having four top tight ends in the program, one would think Septak would go somewhere else to get more playing time.

This factor doesn't put any fear in Septak's eyes. In fact, he says he wants the challenge.

“It's going to be a lot of fun,” Septak said. “I want to be able to compete and see what I can do down there.”

Kriewald, a 6-foot, 250-pound fullback, is the first skill player from an eight-man football school to receive a scholarship to Nebraska. He is the fourth overall.

Zajicek, a 6-foot-1, 205 pound wingback, missed half of this year because of an injury. He possesses a tremendous amount of speed, and he has one of the hardest work ethics of

Please see **NEBRASKANS** on 17

## Mayes, Holiday go elsewhere

### Quarterback joins loaded QB class of Notre Dame

**By Sean Callahan**  
Staff Writer

Hearts were broken across the state of Nebraska Wednesday morning when word came out that highly touted recruits Adrian Mayes and Carlyle Holiday decided to commit to schools other than Nebraska.

Mayes, a safety from Forest Brook High School in Houston, had already committed to the Cornhuskers early in January.

After visiting Louisiana State on Jan. 21, Mayes decided to reconsider his pledge to the Huskers. He held out on saying where he was going until Wednesday morning.

Forest Brook Coach Ron Holmes gave word to media on Tuesday afternoon that Mayes was going to NU.

“He told me on Tuesday he was coming,” Holmes said.

On Tuesday night, Mayes denied all reports that he had committed to Nebraska. He said his final decision was coming in the morning.

On Wednesday, the Huskers were

expecting a commitment from the blue chip safety.

When contacted, Holmes said Mayes was faxing his letter of intent to LSU.

Holmes said he was confused by the whole deal.

“Even his family thought he was going to Nebraska,” Holmes said.

Mayes' mother, according to Holmes, wouldn't sign her son's letter of intent until he called up the NU coaching staff and apologized to them.

Just 200 miles west of Houston, in San Antonio, the news came out at 8 a.m. this morning that Holiday decided to commit to play for Notre Dame.

Holiday, probably one of the more talked about recruits in recent years, went through a long process to come up with his final decision.

It was thought the Huskers had a good chance of landing the 6-foot-3, 185 pound Holiday since Notre Dame had already signed two other blue chip quarterbacks.

*“Even his (Mayes) family thought he was going to Nebraska.”*

**Ron Holmes**

Forest Brook High School (Houston) football coach

Roosevelt Coach Glen Hill said Holiday never gave word to him who he favored or where he was going until early Wednesday morning.

“You can't argue his decision,” Hill said. “Either way, he was going to go to a good school.”

It was hinted from several sources that Holiday's father, who is in the military, pushed his son to go to South Bend, Ind., while Holiday's mother was impressed with Nebraska.

**Need Someone to Talk With?**

Talk with us. We can help.

For more information, call Counseling and Psychological Services at 472-7450.

**Gay Men's Discussion Group**  
Weekly on Wednesdays  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
Call Luis at 472-7450

**Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning Discussion Group**  
Weekly on Mondays  
5:15 to 6:15 p.m.  
Women's Center, Nebraska Union 338  
Call 472-2597 for more information

**Women's Spirituality Discussion Group**  
Weekly on Fridays  
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Call Jan at 472-2598

Sponsored by: **the Women's Center**

**UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTER**  
UNL is a nondiscriminatory institution.

No registration required! Stop by anytime!