



**NORTH SOUTH**  
NEBRASKA SHRINE BOWL



**NEBRASKA SHRINE BOWL**  
**2026 MEDIA GUIDE**



## 68<sup>TH</sup> Nebraska Shrine Bowl Game PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Dates, Times, and Locations Subject to Change  
**Team Practice Location**

**North:** Horizon Middle School | 915 W 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Kearney, NE 68845

**South:** Kearney High School | 2702 W 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Kearney, NE 68845

Sunday May 31	Monday June 1	Tuesday June 2	Wednesday June 3	Thursday June 4	Friday June 5	Saturday June 6
	Beyond The Field					Media/Photo Credential Pick- up
Coaches Report	Media Day	<u>North Practice</u>	<u>North Practice</u>	<u>North Practice</u>	<u>North Practice</u>	Cope Stadium Until 3:45 pm
10:00 AM	10:00- 2:00	#5 9:00- 10:30 am	#7 9:00- 10:30 am	#9 9:00-10:30 am	#11 9:00-10:30 am	7:30 Breakfast
Players Report		#6 2:00- 3:30 pm Scrimmage Kearney High	#8 3:00- 4:30 pm	#10 3:00- 4:30 pm	#12 2:30- 4:00 pm	11:00 Parade
Noon	2:00 Team Pictures Foster Field	<u>South Practice</u>	<u>South Practice</u>	<u>South Practice</u>	<u>South Practice</u>	67th Nebraska
		#5 10:30- 12:00	#7 10:30- 12:00	#9 10:30- 12:00	#11 10:30- 12:00	Shrine Bowl Game
North Practice	North Practice	#6 3:45- 5:15 pm Scrimmage Kearney High	#8 3:30- 5:00 pm	#10 3:30- 5:00 pm	#12 2:30- 4:00 pm	Kick-Off at 4:00 pm
#1 3:00- 4:30 pm	#3 3:30- 5:00 pm				<b>5:15 Masonic Band Concert</b>	Cope Stadium
#2 7:15- 9:00 pm	#4 7:00- 8:30 pm	Team Activity	Team Activity	Team Activity	<b>6:30- 9:00 Player's Awards Banquet</b>	Broadcast Live on
South Practice	South Practice	7:00 PM- 8:30 PM	7:00 PM- 8:30 PM	7:00 PM- 8:30 PM	<b>Younes Conference Center</b>	News Channel
#1 3:00- 4:45 pm	#3 4:00- 5:30 pm	South Big Apple	North Big Apple	Both Teams	<b>Silver Ballroom</b>	Nebraska
#2 7:15- 8:30 pm	#4 7:00- 8:30 pm	Lasertag/Minigolf	Lasertag/Minigolf	Big Apple		Livestream on
		North Drop Zone	South Drop Zone	Bowling		NEShrineBowl.org

[NESHINEBOWL.ORG](http://NESHINEBOWL.ORG)

Meal Schedule	Monday- Friday	Breakfast	7:00 am- 8:30 am	at the UNK Cafeteria
		Lunch	North 12:30 South 1:00	at the Church
		Dinner	North 5:30 South 6:00	at the Church

*\*Media/Photo credential pick-up at Beyond the Field or Stadium Will Call on Game Day*  
GOVERNMENT ISSUED PHOTO ID AND PRESS ID IS REQUIRED.



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Interview Request Contact

Jon Cerny, Executive Director

[jon.cerny@neshrinebowl.org](mailto:jon.cerny@neshrinebowl.org)

402-380-7874

Please share your Nebraska Shrine Bowl experience on social media using **#NSB68**

### Team Practices | Sunday, May 31 – Friday, June 5

**North Team:** Horizon Middle School | 915 W 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Kearney, NE 68845

**South Team:** Kearney High School | 2702 W 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Kearney, NE 68845

*\*See practice schedule for times*

### Beyond the Field + Media Day | Monday, June 1

Fine Arts Building at University of Nebraska Kearney | 2506 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kearney, NE 68849

Media Parking Lot 10

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Player/Patient Lunch

12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Harmon Park

### Players' Awards Banquet | Friday, June 5

Younes Conference Center | 416 W Talmadge Road, Kearney, NE 68845

Registration/Social at 5:30 p.m.; Banquet at 6:30 p.m.

### Pre-Game Hospitality Suite | Saturday, June 6

Wiens Room at Cope Stadium | 2708 12<sup>th</sup> Ave, Kearney, NE 68849

Begins at 2:30 p.m.

Credentials required for access.

### 68<sup>th</sup> Nebraska Shrine Bowl Game | Saturday, June 6

Ron & Carol Cope Stadium at Foster Field | 2708 12<sup>th</sup> Ave, Kearney, NE 68849

Media Parking Lot 12

4:00 p.m. CST Kickoff

Televised by News Channel Nebraska

Live stream on [NEShrineBowl.org](http://NEShrineBowl.org)

Live radio coverage will begin at 3:30 p.m. CST on June 6. Platforms include the NCN statewide radio network.

### Game Tickets

\$15 General Admission | \$12 Military + First Responders | \$8 Students

Sold in advance online at [NEShrineBow.org/Tickets](http://NEShrineBow.org/Tickets). Available for purchase at Cope Stadium Ticket

Office on game day. Price of tickets will not increase on game day.

### Host Hotel

Crowne Plaza | 707 W Talmadge Rd, Kearney, NE 68845



**Monday, June 1, 2026**

# **MEDIA DAY: BEYOND THE FIELD PLAYER/PATIENT HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE**

**Fine Arts Building**

*University of Nebraska – Kearney*

2506 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Kearney, NE 68849

Media Parking: Lot 10

**9:30 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Registration**

**10:00 – 10:15 a.m.**

**Welcome** – Jon Cerny, Executive Director Nebraska Shrine Bowl; Lauren Elm, Shriners Children’s

**10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Patient Presentations**

**11:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Team Competition** – Volunteers from both teams will participate in prosthetic races

**Noon – 12:30 p.m.**

**Lunch** at Harmon Park 3100 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Kearney, NE

**12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**

**Patient/Player Connection** – Media is encouraged to join the players and patients as they interact with one another in various activities

**12:00- 1:30 p.m.**

**Media Availability:** Coaches/Players/Patients

**2:00 p.m.**

**Team Photos** at Ron and Carol Cope Stadium at Foster Field 2708 12<sup>th</sup> Ave, Kearney, N





**Shriners**  
Children's™

The Most Amazing Care

**ANYWHERE**

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS  
*of specialty pediatric care*



At Shriners Children's, we provide specialized care to children with orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate. Our three-part mission has one goal: to change and improve lives. We do this by caring for our patients, helping educate health care professionals and conducting research.

To learn more about Shriners Children's, please visit [shrinerschildrens.org](http://shrinerschildrens.org), or call 800-237-5055.



68TH ANNUAL SHRINE BOWL

## Honorary Co-Captain

### *Gaige Morehead*

This is Gaige. His story began much like most little boys—rambunctious, full of energy, and always happy. Around the age of six, things began to change. We noticed he was moving a bit more slowly than other kids, and his gait seemed off. We took him to multiple doctors trying to find answers, but it wasn't until we were told about a Shriners outreach clinic that someone truly listened and recognized what we had been seeing.

We will forever be grateful to Dr. Cary Mielke, orthopedic specialist, and Dr. Peter Karachunski, neurologist, for their hard work and dedication to all their patients—especially Gaige. “The bigger the setback, the stronger the comeback” is a phrase that has come to define Gaige’s journey. Through every obstacle he has faced, including a major orthopedic surgery and countless hours of physical therapy- he has continued to push forward, showing strength, resilience, determination, and a spirit that encourages others to overcome their own challenges as well.

Gaige is now nearly 15 years old. He loves to fish, bowl, play video games, make people laugh, and he’s a percussionist in his high school marching band. He wants to be a master carpenter/work in building construction when he gets older. Thanks to Shriners leading the way in identifying his diagnosis, he is able to walk today and face anything that comes his way because someone listened and showed they cared. He continues to inspire everyone around him with his big heart and his desire to help others in the same way Shriners helped him—by listening, caring, and making a difference.

68TH ANNUAL SHRINE BOWL

## Honorary Co-Captain

### *Mason Gundersen*

Mason was born April 1st 2018 ( also Easter Sunday). Easter, April fools baby. Fun fact- the chances of that happening is 2.8-3.3% and the next time this will happen will be 2108 and Mason will be 90! Mason lives in Hastings, Nebraska with his Dad and brother. Mason has one brother who is 5. His name is Paxton. Mason loves to spend all of his free time outside whether it's 100 or -10 Mason loves the outdoors. playing on his playset in his backyard. He also loves playing soccer and shooting hoops with Dad. Mason loves reeses peanut butter cups- thier his favorite!!

Mason also likes to go spend time with Nana and Papa and ride on the boat at the Lake house. Mason collects any and every kind of hot wheel and likes building legos with his brother. Mason will be going into the 3rd grade starting in August 2026. Mason has been going to shriners sense 2018 and our 1st ever visit to Shriners was when they were in the Twin Cities/Minneapolis. Which we loved very much and is very beautiful!!

I myself can't thank Shriners enough for all that they have/will continue to do for Mason. It is truly life changing and without Shriners, Mason doesn't have the ability that he has now and the support from Shriners is wonderful and is truly life changing.



# 2026 COACHES



## NORTH



**Head Coach**  
**Kameron Lenhart**  
Bennington



**Assistant Coach**  
**Kurt Altig**  
North Platte



**Assistant Coach**  
**Troy Schlueter**  
Arlington



**Assistant Coach**  
**Tony Kobza**  
Raymond Central



**Assistant Coach**  
**Jim Clarkson**  
Clarkson-Leigh



**Assistant Coach**  
**Brandon Mimick**  
Bennington



**Assistant Coach**  
**Zach Byrd**  
Fort Calhoun

## SOUTH



**Head Coach**  
**Jamie Opfer**  
Seward



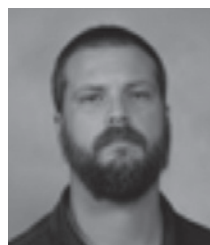
**Assistant Coach**  
**Aaron Thumann**  
Bellevue East



**Assistant Coach**  
**Josh Lewis**  
Adams Central



**Assistant Coach**  
**Jake McLain**  
Holdrege



**Assistant Coach**  
**Mitchell Shepherd**  
Thayer Central

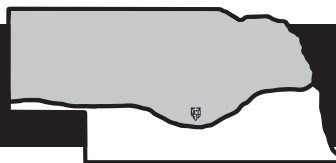


**Assistant Coach**  
**Wade Miller**  
Seward



**Assistant Coach**  
**Brian Lauck**  
Lincoln Northwest

# NORTH TEAM



**Head Coach:** Kameron Lenhart, Bennington **Assistant Coaches:** Kurt Altig, North Platte; Troy Schlueter, Arlington; Tony Kobza, Raymond Central; Jim Clarkson, Clarkson-Leigh; Brandon Mimick, Bennington; Zach Byrd, Fort Calhoun

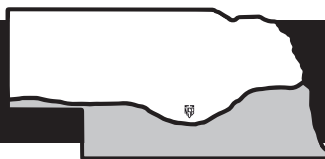
## ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

#	LAST	FIRST	POS	HT	WT	SCHOOL
52	Andersen	Brady	OL	6' 1"	300	Millard North
46	Arellano	Micah	LB	6' 1"	190	Papillian LaVista
98	Axmann	Nathan	RB	6' 0"	190	Waverly
16	Beachy	Ethan	QB	5' 10"	185	Elkhorn North
20	Benes	Brogan	RB	6' 0"	185	Boone Central
68	Berry	Treyvan	OL	6' 4"	280	Lexington
14	Dent	Wyatt	WR	6' 1"	170	Central City
66	Gall	Levi	OL	6' 1"	275	Clarkson-Leigh
24	Galloway	Xavier	WR	6' 4"	155	Mitchell
60	Haffner	Adain	OL	6' 3"	295	Scottsbluff
80	Haney	Connor	WR	6' 2"	180	GICC
32	Herian	Jett	DB	5' 8"	160	Battle Creek
36	Hochstein	Brady	LB	5' 10"	185	Alliance
70	Holtmeyer	Logan	DL	6' 0"	295	Hartington Cedar Catholic
8	Jelinek	Wyatt	DB	5' 11"	170	Papillian LaVista
0	Johnson	Tavion	WR	6' 2"	170	
90	Johnson	Dawson	DL	6' 3"	240	GINW
34	Knaak	Kaden	WR	6' 3"	230	Lyons-Decatur
6	Krueger	Harrison	LB	6' 1"	195	Wahoo
62	Krueger	Boston	OL	6' 0"	290	Pierce
64	Kuchar	Owen	DL	6' 3"	300	Bloomfield
88	Kuhlmann	Grant	DL	6' 7"	245	Lincoln Lutheran
4	Lasley	Jacob	DB	5' 11"	160	Omaha Westview
74	Marr	Hayden	OL	6' 3"	240	Lincoln Lutheran
18	Mathews	Porter	DB	6' 2"	200	O'Neill
44	McIntyre-Dailey	Marquise	DL	6' 3"	265	Omaha North
78	Menning	Nolan	DL	6' 4"	230	Fremont
58	Meyer	Colt	OL	6' 0"	225	Ord
30	Monheiser	Ben	LB	6' 0"	205	Sidney
56	Raabe	Regan	OL	6' 6"	250	Wisner-Pilger
50	Ruskamp	Gavin	LB	5' 11"	210	Waverly
40	Skiff	Cohen	LB	6' 0"	225	Norfolk
10	Smith	Kairi	DB	5' 11"	165	Bellevue West
92	Stewart	Hayven	??	5' 10"	265	
54	Swoboda	Charlie	OL	6' 1"	250	Bennington
2	Theisen	Ryder	DB	6' 1"	160	Pierce
28	Timmerman	Nathan	RB	6' 0"	195	Norfolk Catholic
72	Vander Griend	Nate	OL	6' 0"	250	West Point - Beemer
76	Vogt	Grayson	OL	6' 3"	260	Columbus Lakeview
22	Vrbka	Coy	LB	6' 1"	215	
48	Wapelhorst	Isaiah	DB	6' 2"	195	Norfolk
26	Welchert	Blake	DB	5' 9"	160	Fort Calhoun
42	Werner	Korbin	WR	6' 4"	230	Elkhorn Valley
38	Wyatt	Isaiah	WR	6' 3"	175	Grand Island
12	Zikmund	Parker	QB	6' 2"	175	Central City

## NUMERICAL ROSTER

#	FIRST	LAST	POS
0	Tavion	Johnson	WR
2	Ryder	Theisen	DB
4	Jacob	Lasley	DB
6	Harrison	Krueger	LB
8	Wyatt	Jelinek	DB
10	Kairi	Smith	DB
12	Parker	Zikmund	QB
14	Wyatt	Dent	WR
16	Ethan	Beachy	QB
18	Porter	Mathews	DB
20	Brogan	Benes	RB
22	Coy	Vrbka	LB
24	Xavier	Galloway	WR
26	Blake	Welchert	DB
28	Nathan	Timmerman	RB
30	Ben	Monheiser	LB
32	Jett	Herian	DB
34	Kaden	Knaak	WR
36	Brady	Hochstein	LB
38	Isaiah	Wyatt	WR
40	Cohen	Skiff	LB
42	Korbin	Werner	WR
44	Marquise	McIntyre-Dailey	DL
46	Micah	Arellano	LB
48	Isaiah	Wapelhorst	DB
50	Gavin	Ruskamp	LB
52	Brady	Andersen	OL
54	Charlie	Swoboda	OL
56	Regan	Raabe	OL
58	Colt	Meyer	OL
60	Adain	Haffner	OL
62	Boston	Krueger	OL
64	Owen	Kuchar	DL
66	Levi	Gall	OL
68	Treyvan	Berry	OL
70	Logan	Holtmeyer	DL
72	Nate	Vander Griend	OL
74	Hayden	Marr	OL
76	Grayson	Vogt	OL
78	Nolan	Menning	DL
80	Connor	Haney	WR
88	Grant	Kuhlmann	DL
90	Dawson	Johnson	DL
92	Hayven	Stewart	
98	Nathan	Axmann	RB

# SOUTH TEAM



**Head Coach:** Jamie Opfer, Seward **Assistant Coaches:** Aaron Thumann, Bellevue East; Josh Lewis, Adams Central; Jake McLain, Holdrege; Mitchell Shepherd, Thayer Central; Wade Miller, Seward; Brian Lauck, Lincoln Northwest

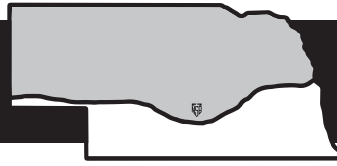
## ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

#	LAST	FIRST	POS	HT	WT	SCHOOL
81	Allen	Canon	DB	5'10	165	Aurora
47	Arch	Logan	LB	6'0	185	Papillion LaVista South
39	Asher	Nolan	TE	6'4	220	Douglas County West
21	Beckenhauer	Grant	DB	6'2	190	Papillion LaVista South
41	Boyles	Kyler	LB	5'10	200	Superior
35	Campbell	Tristan	DB	5'9	160	McCook
11	Christensen	Nate	DB	5'11	165	Omaha Skutt Catholic
31	Corbett	Oliver	LB	6'7	210	McCook
13	Dirks	Emmitt	DB	5'11	170	York
67	Eickhoff	Brady	OG			Lincoln Northwest
51	Fuqua	Hayden	C	6'0	250	Kearney
75	Greufe	Alex	DE	6'4	275	Elkhorn South
87	Gutz	Elijah	DE	6'2	220	Lincoln East
23	Hill	Rhodee	LB	6'1	190	Hershey
57	Hill	Nathan	DT	6'1	230	Lincoln Southwest
95	Holle	Hunter	DT	6'2	230	Syracuse
61	Jackson Jr	Jerry	DT			Omaha Central
43	Johnson	Merrick	LB	6'0	210	Beatrice
25	Kissinger	Cal	WR	6'3	190	Ashland-Greenwood
5	Knudsen	Michael	QB			Gretna
15	Lakers	Bryce	WR	6'1	185	Gretna
29	Latta	Ethan	DB	5'11	155	Dundy County Stratton
85	May	Atreyu	WR	6'1	180	Kearney Cathloic
93	Mead	Hudson	DE	6'1	230	Omaha Westside
19	Mousel	Nick	WR	6'1	180	Adams Central
1	Nelson	Markus	RB	5'10	200	Norris
55	Nelson	Jonah	OT	6'2	275	Platteview
97	Nelson	Ethan	K	5'11	120	Platteview
59	Norton	Liam	DT	5'11	260	Gretna East
65	Ozenbaugh	Preston	C	5'9	210	Norris
33	Parde	Maxwell	RB/TE	6'3	200	Syracuse
69	Perrien	Cooper	DE	6'0	240	Elkhorn South
17	Poppe	Jack	WR	6'2	175	Doniphan-Trumbull
77	Quist	Jacob	OT	6'4	280	Millard West
73	Robinette	Jack	OT	6'3	260	Omaha Skutt Catholic
7	Sagehorn	Sam	DB	6'0	165	Seward
27	Sams	Connor	RB	5'9	195	Gretna East
79	Schoen	Garrett	OG	6'4	300	Milford
53	Schroder	Tanner	DE	6'3	245	Lincoln Southwest
71	Sieber	Carson	OG	6'3	270	Deshler
45	Stolpe	Collin	RB/TE	6'0	220	Aurora
3	Tonjes	Derek	QB	6'5	215	Ashland-Greenwood
83	Vandervort	Brayden	DB	6'2	180	Ralston
9	Vyhnaek	Jack	WR	6'3	220	Seward
99	Wulf	Zach	DE	6'2	235	Kearney

## NUMERICAL ROSTER

#	FIRST	LAST	POS
1	Markus	Nelson	RB
3	Derek	Tonjes	QB
5	Michael	Knudsen	
7	Sam	Sagehorn	CB
9	Jack	Vyhnaek	WR
11	Nate	Christensen	CB/WK
13	Emmitt	Dirks	QB
15	Bryce	Lakers	WR
17	Jack	Poppe	WR
19	Nick	Mousel	WE
21	Grant	Beckenhauer	FS/QB/K/P
23	Rhodee	Hill	LB
25	Cal	Kissinger	WR
27	Connor	Sams	RB
29	Ethan	Latta	WR/DB
31	Oliver	Corbett	OLB/TE
33	Maxwell	Parde	TE
35	Tristan	Campbell	RB/DB
39	Nolan	Asher	TE/DE
41	Kyler	Boyles	LB
43	Merrick	Johnson	LB
45	Collin	Stolpe	LB
47	Logan	Arch	LB/RB
51	Hayden	Fuqua	OL
53	Tanner	Schroder	NG
55	Jonah	Nelson	OL
57	Nathan	Hill	DE
59	Liam	Norton	DL
61	Jerry	Jackson Jr	
65	Preston	Ozenbaugh	C
67	Brady	Eickhoff	
69	Cooper	Perrien	DL
71	Carson	Sieber	OL/DL
73	Jack	Robinette	OL/DL
75	Alex	Greufe	OT
77	Jacob	Quist	OL
79	Garrett	Schoen	OL
81	Canon	Allen	WR
83	Brayden	Vandervort	WR/S
85	Atreyu	May	WR/DB
87	Elijah	Gutz	DE
93	Hudson	Mead	DE
95	Hunter	Holle	DE
97	Ethan	Nelson	K/P/LB
99	Zach	Wulf	DE

# NORTH TEAM



**NSB** NEBRASKA SHRINE BOWL



**Brady Andersen**  
Millard North



**Micah Arellano**  
Papillion-LaVista



**Nathan Axmann**  
Waverly



**Ethan Beachy**  
Elkhorn North



**Brogan Benes**  
Boone Central



**Treyvan Berry**  
Lexington



**Wyatt Dent**  
Central City



**Levi Gall**  
Clarkson-Leigh



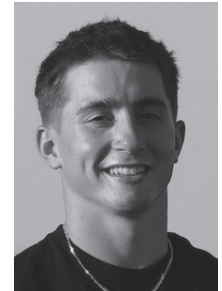
**Xavier Galloway**  
Mitchell



**Adain Haffner**  
Scottsbluff



**Connor Haney**  
Grand Island Central  
Catholic



**Jett Herian**  
Alliance



**Brady Hochstein**  
Hartington Cedar  
Catholic



**Logan Holtmeyer**  
Papillion-LaVista



**Wyatt Jelinek**  
Raymond Central



**Dawson Johnson**  
Grand Island  
Northwest



**Tavion Johnson**  
Raymond Central



**Kaden Knaak**  
Lyons-Decatur



**Boston Krueger**  
Pierce



**Harrison Krueger**  
Wahoo



**Owen Kuchar**  
Bloomfield



**Grant Kuhlmann**  
Lincoln Lutheran

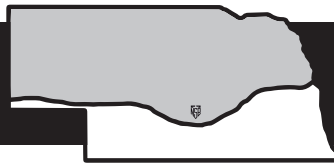


**Jacob Lasley**  
Omaha Westview



**Hayden Marr**  
Lincoln Lutheran

# NORTH TEAM



**Porter Mathews  
O'Neill**



**Marquise McIntyre-  
Dailey**  
Omaha North



**Nolan Menning**  
Fremont



**Colt Meyer**  
Ord



**Ben Monheiser**  
Sidney



**Regan Raabe**  
Wisner-Pilger



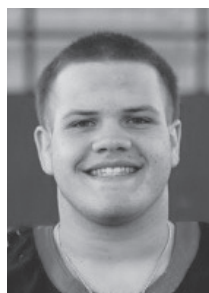
**Gavin Ruskamp**  
Waverly



**Cohen Skiff**  
Norfolk



**Kairi Smith**  
Bellevue West



**Hayven Stewart**  
Plainview



**Charlie Swoboda**  
Bennington



**Ryder Theisen**  
Pierce



**Nathan Timmerman**  
Norfolk Catholic



**Nate Vander Griend**  
West Point-Beemer



**Grayson Vogt**  
Columbus Lakeview



**Coy Vrbka**  
Shelby-Rising City



**Isaiah Wapelhorst**  
Norfolk



**Blake Welchert**  
Fort Calhoun



**Korbin Werner**  
Elkhorn Valley

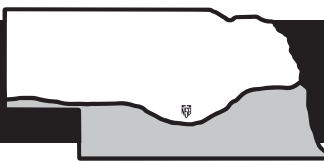


**Isaiah Wyatt**  
Grand Island



**Parker Zikmund**  
Central City

# SOUTH TEAM



**Canon Allen**  
Aurora



**Logan Arch**  
Papillion LaVista  
South



**Nolan Asher**  
Douglas County  
West



**Grant Beckenhauer**  
Papillion LaVista  
South



**Kyler Boyles**  
Superior



**Tristan Campbell**  
McCook



**Nate Christensen**  
Omaha Skutt  
Catholic



**Oliver Corbett**  
McCook



**Emmitt Dirks**  
York



**Brady Eickhoff**  
Lincoln Northwest



**Hayden Fuqua**  
Kearney



**Alex Greufe**  
Elkhorn South



**Elijah Gutz**  
Lincoln East



**Rhodee Hill**  
Hershey



**Nathan Hill**  
Lincoln Southwest



**Hunter Holle**  
Syracuse



**Jerry Jackson Jr**  
Omaha Central



**Merrick Johnson**  
Beatrice



**Cal Kissinger**  
Ashland-  
Greenwood



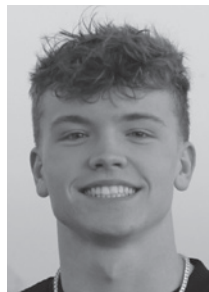
**Michael Knudsen**  
Gretna



**Bryce Lakers**  
Gretna



**Ethan Latta**  
Dundy County  
Stratton

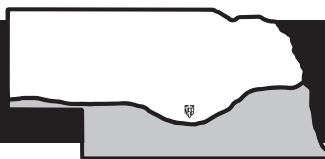


**Atreyu May**  
Kearney Cathloic



**Hudson Mead**  
Omaha Westside

# SOUTH TEAM



**Nick Mousel**  
Adams Central



**Markus Nelson**  
Norris



**Ethan Nelson**  
Platteview



**Jonah Nelson**  
Platteview



**Liam Norton**  
Gretna East



**Preston Ozenbaugh**  
Norris



**Maxwell Parde**  
Syracuse



**Cooper Perrien**  
Elkhorn South



**Jack Poppe**  
Doniphan-Trumbull



**Jacob Quist**  
Millard West



**Jack Robinette**  
Omaha Skutt  
Catholic



**Sam Sagehorn**  
Seward



**Connor Sams**  
Gretna East



**Garrett Schoen**  
Milford



**Tanner Schroder**  
Lincoln Southwest



**Carson Sieber**  
Deshler



**Collin Stolpe**  
Aurora



**Derek Tonjes**  
Ashland-  
Greenwood



**Brayden Vandervort**  
Ralston



**Cole Vorderstrasse**  
Thayer Central

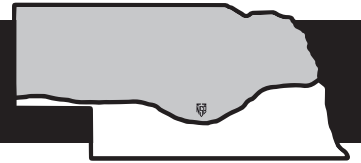


**Jack Vyhnaek**  
Seward



**Zach Wulf**  
Kearney

# NORTH COACHES BIOS



## KAMERON LENHART HEAD COACH BENNINGTON

Kam Lenhart is a teacher and coach from Central City, Nebraska. A 2010 graduate of Central City High School, he went on to attend Doane College, graduating in 2014 while playing football and preparing for a career in education. He began his teaching and coaching career at Fairbury High School, serving two years as defensive coordinator under Derek Garfield, before becoming head football coach for three seasons. In 2017, he married Leah Keller, and in 2019, they moved to Bennington, Nebraska, where he joined the football program as a volunteer assistant under Greg Bohn before taking over as head football coach after one year, a role he continues to hold. Kam and Leah are proud parents of three children: Evelyn, Harrison, and Eloise, and he remains committed to building strong teams, mentoring young people, and contributing to his community.

## KURT ALTIG ASSISTANT COACH NORTH PLATTE

Coach Kurt Altig is a proud graduate of North Platte High School, where he completed his high school education in 1998. He went on to attend the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK), earning a Bachelor of Science in Education in 2004 with endorsements in 7-12 Science, Physical Education, and Coaching. In 2013, he completed his Master's Degree in 7-12 Educational Administration, also from UNK.

Coach Altig began his teaching and coaching career in 2004, serving as a Biology teacher while coaching football and track. From 2010 to 2020, he led the boys and girls track programs at Broken Bow as Head Track Coach, building a reputation for developing disciplined, competitive, and well-rounded student-athletes.

In 2020, Coach Altig returned to North Platte High School, where he continues to teach Biology and

coach both football and track. In 2022, he was named Head Football Coach, leading the Bulldogs with a strong emphasis on accountability, growth, and a commitment to becoming better every day—both on and off the field.

Coach Altig takes great pride in investing in student-athletes, developing character, and building programs that reflect hard work, resilience, and community pride.

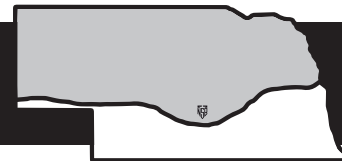
## TROY SCHLUETER ASSISTANT COACH ARLINGTON

Troy lives just west of Schuyler with his wife Bobbie and two sons Creighton and Ben. He graduated from York High School in 1997 where he participated in football, basketball and soccer throughout his high school career. He then attended Concordia University in Seward participating in football and track. Troy's coaching stops include Concordia University (2 years), West Point-Beemer (6 years), Schuyler (2 years) and he just finished his second season at Arlington.

## TONY KOBZA ASSISTANT COACH RAYMOND CENTRAL

Tony Kobza graduated from The University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Business Management degree prior to completing his Business Education degree. He taught business and coached a combination of Football, Basketball and Track at Lincoln Southwest, Omaha Benson and Lincoln North Star for 16 years. He has been the Activities Director and Assistant Principal at Raymond Central as well as the Head Football Coach for the past 4 years. He will be moving to the Principal role at Raymond Central next year but will remain the Head Football Coach. His wife of 15 years, Sydney Kobza works at the Nebraska Department of Education and will be the Chief Academic Officer starting this Summer. They have three children; Austin, Amelia and Taytem.

# NORTH COACHES BIOS



## **JIM CLARKSON** **ASSISTANT COACH** CLARKSON-LEIGH

Graduated from Hamilton High School in Hamilton, MT. Then attended the University of Nebraska, upon graduating starting my teaching and coaching career in Clarkson, NE. I have been there for 28 years 26 as the Head Football Coach, Was state Runner-up in 2007 and State Champion in 2022. Won the Huskerland Prep Behrens award in 2011 and the NCA Coach of the Year in 2022. I have been able to coach the Sertoma 8-Man All-Star Game as an assistant and Head (2006 & 2010) Also got a chance to be an assistant in the Nebraska vs Kansas 8-Man All-Star Game (2011), as well as the Northeast All-Star Classic (2015). I am currently the Vice-President of the Nebraska eight man coaches association (NEMFCA). I have been married to my wife Holly, from Riverton, WY, for 24 years. She has been a 2nd grade teacher and is currently the title 1 teacher in Clarkson. We have 2 daughters Kyla who will be a Senior this Fall and Kanon who will be a Sophomore. We have made a good life in Clarkson and really enjoy the community.

## **BRANDON MIMICK** **ASSISTANT COACH** BENNINGTON

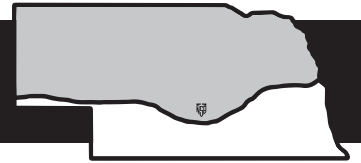
Brandon Mimick currently serves as a PE teacher, football coach (Special Teams Coordinator), and strength & conditioning coordinator at Bennington High School (just finishing his 19th year at BHS). As a proud alumnus of Millard North (Class of 2002), Brandon played football under Fred Petito and staff. From there, he was blessed to have the opportunity to play football at Midland Lutheran College (Class of 2006) under Bob Dzuris. After college, Brandon returned to Millard North as part of Coach Petito's staff for one season before joining Greg Bohn's Bennington football staff, where he firmly remains on Kam Lenhart's staff.

Brandon is a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS), a Registered Strength and Conditioning Coach (RSCC\*D), a co-founding member of the Nebraska Strength Coaches Organization (NSCO), and holds a doctorate in Interdisciplinary Leadership from Creighton University. Outside of teaching, coaching, and talking shop, he enjoys being with his family - wife Casey and daughters Finnley (9) and Hattie (6) - as well as spending quality time with family and friends. Coach Mimick is grateful for the opportunity to help coach the North Squad today. He is especially thankful to all who helped him find this opportunity in life (especially his parents, Larry & Debbie Mimick, and the Bennington High School football staff he is representing today).

## **ZACH BIRD** **ASSISTANT COACH** FORT CALHOUN

I've been the Head Football coach at Fort Calhoun for the past 3 years, and I also teach Biology at the high school. Prior to that I was the offensive coordinator for Bennington for 3 years and was fortunate enough to be a part of the 2021 and 2022 state championship teams. Before that I spent 9 years at Roncalli Catholic High School and got my start as the offensive coordinator for the last 4 years of that position. I began in Scribner-Snyder High School where I spent the first two years of my career. In addition to coaching football I have also been an assistant boys' basketball coach throughout my career.

# NORTH PLAYERS BIOS



## BRADY ANDERSEN

MILLARD NORTH

As a center, Brady anchored the line for the Mustangs. His favorite part of football was the opportunity to play under and learn from a great set of coaches during his high school career. Brady values the game most for the lifelong brotherhood formed with his teammates and coaches. On the academia side, Brady enjoyed math, noting that he has always been naturally gifted at working with numbers.

**Future Plans:** Brady will play football at Morningside University and will study Business.

## MICAH ARELLANO

PAPILLION LA VISTA

Micah was a linebacker for the Monarchs, earning the team's Defensive MVP award and being named to the academic all-state roster. His most memorable football moment was a game-winning interception against Omaha Central during his junior season. In the classroom, Micah's favorite subject is math because of his interest in solving complex problems. A fun fact about Micah is that he is an entrepreneur who runs his own wood staining company.

**Future Plans:** Micah will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and will study Business.

## NATHAN AXMANN

WAVERLY

Nathan played running back for the Vikings and earned honors, including NebPreps Class B Player of the Year, super state first team offense and Class B first team all-state. His most memorable football moment was winning the state championship and seeing the entire town supporting the team from the stands. Nathan also competed in track and field, winning the 2024 Class B state championship in long jump. Outside of sports, Nathan enjoys golfing, hunting and spending time with friends.

**Future Plans:** Nathan will play football at Wayne State College.

## ETHAN BEACHY

ELKHORN NORTH

As the quarterback for the Wolves, Ethan placed on the all-conference and all-district rosters. His most memorable football moment was beating Bennington on senior night in honor of his coach's son. Ethan's favorite high school subject was Anatomy because he finds the human body interesting. During his free time, Ethan can be found playing intramural sports and hanging out with friends.

**Future Plans:** Ethan will play football at Wayne State College and will study toward a Pre-Med degree.

## BROGAN BENES

BOONE CENTRAL

Brogan played multiple positions for the Cardinals to help lead the team to a state championship appearance. His most memorable football moment was playing in the state title game with his brother during his brother's senior season. Brogan also received the team's "Battle Award" for his grit on the field. A fun fact about Brogan is that he loves football because of the mental toughness the sport requires.

**Future Plans:** Brogan will play football at the University of Sioux Falls.

## TREYVAN BERRY

LEXINGTON

As a center for the Minutemen, Treyvan was a B-5 all-state honorable mention selection. His most memorable football moment was making a touchdown-saving tackle following an interception. Treyvan also competed in bowling and unified bowling, earning six total letters across both programs. His favorite high school subject was shop class because it allowed him to use his hands to showcase his creative skills. A fun fact about Treyvan is that he reached the rank of Eagle Scout this year.

**Future Plans:** Treyvan plans to enroll in Northeast Community College's Utility Line program.

## WYATT DENT

CENTRAL CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Wyatt lined up at wide receiver for the Broncos, where he was recognized as the team's offensive MVP of the year and the School-Impact player of the year. His most memorable football moment was a thrilling victory over Sidney in the state semifinals during his junior season. Wyatt's favorite part of the game is getting to be competitive alongside his friends and teammates. During his idle time, Wyatt can be found in the garage working on his Mustang.

**Future Plans:** Wyatt will play football for Iowa Western Community College.

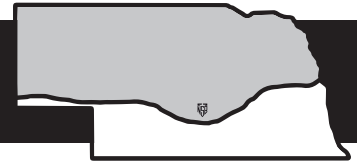
## LEVI GALL

CLARKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Levi played on both the offensive and defensive lines to help lead the Patriots to a high level of success. His most memorable football moment was reaching the pinnacle of high school sports by winning the state championship in 2022. Levi also wrestled, noting it as his favorite sport because of the toughness and physicality required to compete. Levi plans to return to the field and the mat as a coach while also working in farming.

**Future Plans:** Levi plans to wrestle in college and become a coach someday.

# NORTH PLAYERS BIOS



## XAVIER GALLOWAY

### MITCHELL

Xavier played wide receiver for the Tigers and set a school record for the longest passing touchdown in Mitchell playoff history. His most memorable football moment was playing in and winning the first playoff game in school history. Besides playing football, Xavier enjoys cooking, working out and hanging out with his friends and family.

**Future Plans:** Xavier will run track at the University of Wisconsin-Stout and will study Criminal Justice.

## ADAIN HAFFNER

### SCOTTSBLUFF

As an offensive guard for the Bearcats, Adain racked up numerous all-conference and all-district honors throughout his career. His most memorable football moments were bonding with all of his friends on the team bus rides. Adain's favorite high school subject was math because of its practical importance in everyday life. A well-rounded student-athlete, he also earned academic letters in football and track. During his free time, Adain can be found shopping, working out and perfecting his craft.

**Future Plans:** Adain will play football at Chadron State College.

## CONNOR HANEY

### GRAND ISLAND CENTRAL CATHOLIC

Connor played wide receiver and safety for the Crusaders to help lead the team to a state runner-up finish. His most memorable football moment was winning the state semifinal game to avenge an earlier season loss and secure a trip to the championship. Connor also competed in basketball and was recognized as an academic all-state selection in both sports. A fun fact about Connor is that he finds the teamwork required in football to be the most meaningful part of the game.

**Future Plans:** Connor will play football at Hastings College and will study Business and Exercise Science.

## JETT HERIAN

### ALLIANCE

As a safety for the Bulldogs, Jett was a consistent presence in the secondary, earning three-time all-district and all-conference honorable mention honors. His most memorable football moment was the adrenaline of running out of the tunnel for his very first varsity start as a freshman. Jett was a versatile athlete for Alliance, earning nine total academic letters across football, basketball and track. His favorite subject was sports officiating, a class that challenged him to analyze the game from a technical perspective and helped develop his football IQ.

**Future Plans:** Jett is currently undecided on his college choice.

## BRADY HOCHSTEIN

### CEDAR CATHOLIC

Brady was a dominant force on both sides of the ball for the Trojans, earning first team all-state honors as a senior and being named the team's Defensive MVP. His most memorable football moment was a career-defining performance where he rushed for 200 yards and two touchdowns to secure a historic victory over Norfolk Catholic. Brady was also the Class C state runner-up in wrestling and was named Weightlifter of the Year. During his free time, Brady is an avid hunter.

**Future Plans:** Brady will play football at Wayne State College.

## LOGAN HOLTMAYER

### PAPILLION LA VISTA

Logan anchored the defensive front for the Monarchs at nose guard, where he was a two-time all-state and super-state selection. He was also recognized as a member of the Bobby Mills Jr. all-state team. Logan's most memorable football moment was winning the district championship against Creighton Prep during his sophomore season. On the academia side, Logan noted History as his favorite subject due to his interest in learning about the past. In his free time, Logan enjoys fishing and grilling.

**Future Plans:** Logan will play football at Wayne State College.

## WYATT JELINEK

### RAYMOND CENTRAL

Wyatt played strong safety and quarterback for the Mustangs. He earned first team all-state and all-district honors for his play on the field. Wyatt's most memorable football moment was his first start at quarterback as a freshman where he broke the school record with 427 passing yards in a single game. Besides playing football, Wyatt enjoys competing in demolition derbies and playing baseball. He also found success on the mat where he placed 4th at state wrestling.

**Future Plans:** Wyatt plans to pursue a career in HVAC.

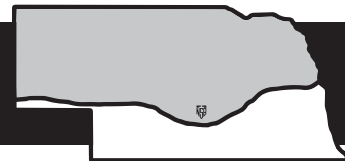
## DAWSON JOHNSON

### GRAND ISLAND NORTH WEST

As a defensive end for the Vikings, Dawson was a first team all-district and all-heartland selection while serving as a team captain. His most memorable football moment was making a game-winning play against Crete to keep his team's playoff hopes alive. Dawson's favorite high school subject was History because he enjoys learning about America's pastimes. During his free time, Dawson can be found hunting, fishing and camping.

**Future Plans:** Dawson will play football at Chadron State College.

# NORTH PLAYERS BIOS



## TAVION JOHNSON

### RAYMOND CENTRAL

Tavion played wide receiver for the Mustangs and was a dominant force on the perimeter, breaking most of the receiving records at his school. His most memorable football moment was competing against Boone Central in the state playoffs. Tavion was a high-performing standout for Raymond Central in both football and basketball, earning four varsity letters. A fun fact about Tavion is that he was the recipient of the WR of the year award from 2023-2025.

**Future Plans:** Tavion will attend the University of Nebraska-Kearney to play football.

## KADEN KNAAK

### LYONS-DECATUR NORTHEAST

As a tight end and defensive end for the Cougars, Kaden was a four-time all-district selection. His most memorable football moment was an underdog victory during his senior year, defeating rival Bancroft-Rosalie by 58 points. Kaden was a versatile force for LDNE, earning all-conference honors in basketball and placing 4th at state track in the shotput. His favorite high school subject was Spanish because he enjoyed the challenge of learning something completely new. Kaden enjoys fishing, golfing and hanging out with friends.

**Future Plans:** Kaden will play football at Wayne State College and will study Education.

## BOSTON KRUEGER

### PIERCE

Boston was a force in the trenches for the Bluejays, playing both offensive and defensive line and earning all-state and all-district honors. His most memorable football moment was reaching the pinnacle of the sport by winning a state championship during his freshman season. Boston was a regular on the academic letter list, earning honors all four years in football and wrestling. During his idle time, Boston can be found hunting, fishing or shooting targets.

**Future Plans:** Boston will play football at Concordia University and will study Agribusiness and Agricultural Science.

## HARRISON KRUEGER

### WAHOO

Harrison played linebacker for the Warriors and was a standout defensive presence, earning back-to-back first team all-state honors and a selection to the Omaha World-Herald all-Nebraska second team. His most memorable football moments were winning back-to-back state championships. On the academia side, Harrison was a three-time Trailblazer Conference all-academic selection and was active in National Honor Society and FBLA.

**Future Plans:** Harrison will play football at Augustana University and will study Business.

## OWEN KUCHAR

### BLOOMFIELD

Owen anchored the line for the Bees as a guard and defensive tackle, earning multiple all-district honors. His most memorable football moment was playing alongside his senior brother during a freshman season that resulted in a trip to the state semifinals. In the classroom, Owen excelled as an NSAA Currency Believers and Achievers award winner. A fun fact about Owen is that he carries on a family legacy, following his grandfather, uncle and cousin as a Shrine Bowl participant, all of whom wore #64 for Bloomfield.

**Future Plans:** Owen will play football at Mount Marty University and will study Physical Therapy.

## GRANT KUHLMANN

### LINCOLN LUTHERAN

Grant played defensive end and tight end for the Warriors. He was a decorated presence on the field, earning three-time first team all-district and all-conference honors, as well as a selection to the Bobby Mills all-state team. Grant's most memorable football moment was a gutsy week-one win over Lincoln Christian to win back "The Sword" with his teammates. Besides playing football, Grant enjoys hunting, fishing and eating Chipotle with friends.

**Future Plans:** Grant will play football at South Dakota State University and will major in Pre-Law and Business Economics.

## JACOB CRAIG LASLEY

### WESTVIEW

As a cornerback and wide receiver for the Wolverines, Jacob served as a defensive anchor and was recognized as the team's Defensive MVP. His most memorable football moment was the intense matchup against Grand Island, a game that stood out as a highlight of his high school career. Jacob's favorite high school subject was History because of his interest in learning about the past. During his free time, Jacob can be found out on the water fishing.

**Future Plans:** Jacob will attend Briar Cliff University.

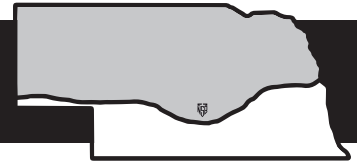
## HAYDEN MARR

### LINCOLN LUTHERAN

Hayden played offensive tackle and guard for the Warriors, earning all-district and all-state honorable mention honors as a multi-year letter winner. His most memorable football moment was winning the traveling "Spirit Sword" in the rivalry game against Lincoln Christian during his senior year. Hayden was also a standout in track and field, finishing his career as a top ten thrower in school history. Hayden values the discipline of morning weights and believes the mental and physical push of football prepares him for the challenges of life.

**Future Plans:** Hayden will play football and continue his education at the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

# NORTH PLAYERS BIOS



## PORTER MATHEWS

O'NEILL

As a safety for the Eagles, Porter was a consistent force on the field, collecting numerous accolades including Rookie of the Year and both Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year honors. His most memorable football moment was against Scotus, where he caught a pass and hurdled a defender on his way to the end zone. Porter's favorite subject was Building Trades, reflecting his passion for construction and working with his hands. A fun fact about Porter is that he loves the physical nature of football.

**Future Plans:** Porter plans to obtain a degree in Ag Business and Ag Precision.

## MARQUISE MCINTYRE-DAILEY

OMAHA NORTH

Marquise was a defensive leader for the Vikings, serving as a team captain and earning honorable mention recognition as a defensive end. His most memorable moment on the gridiron was a game-winning sack that sealed a victory. A high-level athlete beyond the football field, Marquise was also a standout in track and field, where he placed 4th at state as a freshman and is ranked among the top 10 fastest sprinters in the state of Nebraska.

**Future Plans:** Marquise plans to play college football while continuing his education.

## NOLAN MENNING

FREMONT

Nolan was a defensive end for the Tigers, earning all-conference honorable mention honors in 2025. His most memorable football moment came during his junior season when Fremont pulled off an upset victory, playing hard to defeat a projected-favorite Creighton Prep by two touchdowns. Nolan excelled as a multi-year academic all-conference selection and earned letters in academics and football. He particularly enjoyed his science classes, noting that he has always been drawn to what the subject has to offer.

**Future Plans:** Nolan plans to attend Iowa Western Community College to play football.

## COLT MEYER

ORD

Colt was a versatile player for the Chanticleers, lining up as an offensive and defensive lineman while also handling kicking and punting duties. He earned first team all-state honors from the Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star, along with a spot on the Heartland Super Squad. Colt's most memorable football moment was the journey to the state championship game during his sophomore season. As a multi-sport athlete, he earned ten combined academic letters across football, wrestling and golf. A fun fact about Colt is that he placed 4th at the state wrestling tournament.

**Future Plans:** Colt will play football for Hastings College.

## BEN MONHEISER

SIDNEY

Ben played linebacker and offensive line for the Red Raiders, earning recognition as an all-state selection on both sides of the ball. He also earned District Defensive Player of the Year and all-conference honors for his performance on the field. Ben's most memorable football moment was a thrilling second-half comeback victory against Lakeview that "felt like a dream." Besides playing football, Ben enjoys hunting, longboarding, playing poker and spending time outdoors.

**Future Plans:** Ben will play college football at Black Hills State University.

## REGAN RAABE

WISNER-PILGER

Regan was a powerful presence on the defensive line for the Gators, earning all-state honors and three all-district selections. His most memorable football moments were the hard-fought victories over the Guardian Angels Central Catholic throughout his high school career. A versatile and dedicated competitor, Regan was a standout three-sport athlete, earning a total of eleven varsity letters across football, basketball and track. A fun fact about Regan is that he enjoys spending his downtime reading, building with Legos and cooking.

**Future Plans:** Regan will play football at the University of Sioux Falls and major in Exercise Science.

## GAVIN RUSKAMP

WAVERLY

As an inside linebacker for the Vikings, Gavin was a standout leader, serving as team captain and leading the defense in tackles and tackles for loss. His senior season was highlighted by first team all-state honors and a second team super-state selection. Gavin's most memorable football moment was winning the state championship at Memorial Stadium, bringing the trophy back to Waverly for the first time since 1980. During his free time, Gavin enjoys playing video games with his friends.

**Future Plans:** Gavin will play football at Benedictine College and study Exercise Science.

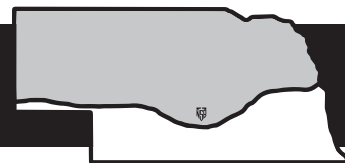
## THOMAS SETTIE

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

As a dynamic running back for the Shamrocks, Thomas capped off an impressive 2025 season with 1,067 total yards and 11 touchdowns. A dedicated student-athlete, Thomas maintained a 3.923 GPA and earned academic all-state honors for his commitment to his studies. His discipline extended to the track as well, where he competed as a hurdler for the SCC track and field team. Thomas's most memorable sports moment was upsetting Pierce on their home turf.

**Future Plans:** Thomas will play football at Midland University and study Exercise Science.

# NORTH PLAYERS BIOS



## COHEN SKIFF

### NORFOLK

Cohen was a linebacker for the Panthers, serving as a two-time team defensive MVP and earning two all-conference and all-state honorable mention selections. His most memorable football moment was a thrilling overtime victory against rival Columbus on his home turf during his junior season. Cohen has been honored with the NSAA Believers and Achievers award and named the Norfolk Senior High Student Athlete of the Year. A fun fact about Cohen is that he carries on a proud family legacy, following in the footsteps of his father, Matt Skiff, who played in the 1995 Shrine Bowl.

**Future Plans:** Cohen will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to major in Mechanical Engineering.

## KAIRI SMITH

### BELLEVUE WEST

Kairi was a dynamic presence as a defensive back for the Thunderbirds, earning three varsity letters and being named the team's Special Teams Player of the Year. His most memorable football moment came at the start of his senior season, with a huge punt return for a touchdown in the opening game. Beyond the turf, Kairi earned a varsity letter in basketball. In his free time, Kairi enjoys hitting the golf course, snowboarding and is currently learning to play the guitar.

**Future Plans:** Kairi will play football and study Finance at the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

## HAYVON STEWART

### PLAINVIEW

Hayvon was a cornerstone of the Pirates' front line, serving as a four-year starter and letter winner at nose guard. His defensive presence earned him two all-district selections and back-to-back team defensive MVP honors. Hayvon's most memorable football moment was making it to the state semifinals. A versatile athlete, he earned letters in football, wrestling, track and golf. Hayvon emphasizes his interest in science, citing it as his favorite subject. When he isn't on the field, he enjoys spending his free time playing video games.

**Future Plans:** Hayvon will play football at Iowa Western Community College.

## CHARLIE SWOBODA

### BENNINGTON

Charlie was a force on both sides of the ball for the Badgers, earning back-to-back first team all-state honors from the Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star. His most memorable football moment was a hook-and-ladder play during his junior year, taking it 35 yards for a touchdown. Charlie was a regular on the President's List for his academic excellence. When he isn't on the field, Charlie enjoys working out, playing video games and hanging out with his friends and family.

**Future Plans:** Charlie plans to play football at Dordt University while studying Civil Engineering.

## RYDER THEISEN

### PIERCE

As a defensive back and team captain for the Bluejays, Ryder was a primary playmaker in the secondary, earning first team all-district honors from the Lincoln Journal Star, and contributing to a 2023 football state championship. His most memorable moment was a dominant performance against Fort Calhoun where he recorded two interceptions. Ryder was a multi-sport athlete, excelling in the triple jump, where he was a conference champion and two-time state medalist. During his free time, Ryder enjoys golfing, snow skiing and jet skiing.

**Future Plans:** Ryder will attend Wayne State College and will compete in the triple jump.

## NATHAN TIMMERMAN

### NORFOLK CATHOLIC

As a defensive back for the Knights, Nathan was a contributor to one of the most successful stretches in program history, securing three consecutive state championships from 2022 to 2024. He earned first team all-state honors from the Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star during his senior season. Nathan maintained a GPA of 3.75 or higher throughout his four years, earning the Silver Standard Award and membership in the National Honor Society. A fun fact about Nathan is that his favorite subject is Psychology.

**Future Plans:** Nathan plans to major in Finance at either Wayne State or the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

## NATE VANDER GRIEND

### WEST POINT-BEEMER

Nate was a reliable force in the trenches for the Cadets, serving as an offensive and defensive tackle. A multi-year varsity letter winner, he earned all-district honors in 2023 and 2025, with his most memorable moment coming during the 2025 clash against Bishop Neumann. Nate's involvement extends beyond the football field, participating in basketball, track, One Act, FFA and serving on the Student Council for four years. He maintained a consistent spot on the Principal's Honor Roll and membership in the National Honor Society.

**Future Plans:** Nate will attend Concordia University in Seward to play football and major in Accounting.

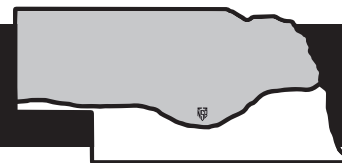
## GRAYSON VOGT

### LAKEVIEW

Grayson was an offensive tackle and defensive end for the Vikings. He was a two-time first team all-district selection, noting his most memorable highlight was recovering a fumble against Omaha Roncalli and taking it into the end zone. Despite his skill in football, Grayson's true athletic passion lies with golf. As a perfectionist, he thrives on the difficulty and precision required by the game. In his free time, Grayson keeps busy lifting weights or working at his parents' flooring business and a local golf store.

**Future Plans:** Grayson will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to study PGA Golf Management.

# NORTH PLAYERS BIOS



## COY VRBKA

### SHELBY-RISING CITY

Coy was a defensive force for the Huskies, earning Class D1 Defensive Player of the Year and a first team all-state selection. His love for the game started early, playing in the front yard with his brother, which eventually led to his most memorable moment: receiving that Defensive Player of the Year honor. Coy is a high-level competitor year-round, finishing his wrestling career as a three-time state medalist with over 150 wins and 100 pins. In his downtime, Coy enjoys fishing, hunting, golfing and wrestling.

**Future Plans:** Coy plans to play football at Southwest Minnesota State University.

## ISAIAH WAPELHORST

### NORFOLK

As a cornerback for the Panthers, Isaiah earned second team all-state honors and a first team all-HAC selection. His senior season was filled with highlights, but none more meaningful than a victory over Omaha Burke on Senior Night. In the classroom, Isaiah enjoyed math, loving the challenge of working through complex problems. When he isn't on the field, Isaiah stays busy building Legos, running and playing video games. A fun fact about Isaiah is that he was crowned Homecoming King.

**Future Plans:** Isaiah will play football at Northwest Missouri State University.

## BLAKE WELCHERT

### FORT CALHOUN

Blake was a consistent leader for the Pioneers, serving as a three-year team captain and earning all-district honors in three of his four seasons. His most memorable moment on the turf was scoring his first varsity touchdown as a freshman on a pass from his older brother, Austin. Blake was a three-sport athlete throughout his entire high school career, earning a varsity letter in every sport for all four years. When he isn't competing, Blake enjoys duck hunting, fishing and spending time at the farm.

**Future Plans:** Blake is currently exploring a major in Construction Management at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

## KORBIN WERNER

### ELKHORN VALLEY

As a tight end for the Falcons, Korbin was a vital component of a very successful season during his junior year. His performance on the field earned him triple honors as an all-district, all-conference, and all-state selection. Korbin consistently maintained a place on the Honor Roll and earned academic all-state recognition. He found a natural fit in math, working with numbers and the complexities of problem-solving. When off the field, Korbin enjoys watching sports, hunting, fishing and hanging out with family and friends.

**Future Plans:** Korbin will play football at Wayne State College while majoring in Business.

## ISAIAH WYATT

### GRAND ISLAND

Isaiah was a versatile weapon for the Islanders, making a massive impact on both sides of the ball as a wide receiver and cornerback. Ranked as one of the top players in the state for the Class of 2026, he earned all-state honorable mention and all-district honors. His most memorable moment on the field was a sophomore-year playoff victory, where he helped Grand Island take down rival Kearney in the first round. Off the field, Isaiah earned all-academic honors from the Heartland Athletic Conference and enjoys diving into the complexities of human behavior in AP Psychology.

**Future Plans:** Isaiah is considering playing football at the University of Sioux Falls or pursuing a career in real estate.

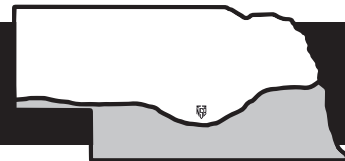
## PARKER ZIKMUND

### CENTRAL CITY

Parker was the quarterback for the Bison, leading the offense to new heights and earning back-to-back all-state honors. His leadership on the field also earned him the all-Heartland Offensive Player of the Year award. Parker's most memorable football moment was a victory over Sidney, taking Central City to the state championship game. Parker maintained a spot on the Honor Roll and took a particular interest in Personal Finance. Beyond football, he is a decorated multi-sport competitor who qualified for state in wrestling and baseball.

**Future Plans:** Parker will attend Morningside University to play football and study Education.

# SOUTH COACHES BIOS



## JAMIE OPFER HEAD COACH SEWARD

Jamie Opfer began his teaching and coaching career at Seward High School in the fall of 1998. Since being named Head Football Coach in 2013, he has led the Bluejays program with a clear vision built on discipline, toughness, accountability, and character. Over more than a decade at the helm, Coach Opfer has established a culture of consistency and competitiveness, guiding Seward to eight consecutive playoff appearances.

In 2021, Coach Opfer was honored as the Class B “Coach of the Year” by Nebraska Prep Report, recognizing both the success of his teams and the strong foundation he has built within the program. He is passionate about using football as a platform to teach life lessons, develop leadership, and instill perseverance in the young men he coaches.

Coach Opfer is blessed with a supportive family. He and his wife, Shanna, are proud parents of three children — Korbin, Addison, and Trevin — who remain a constant source of encouragement and inspiration throughout his coaching journey.

## AARON THUMANN ASSISTANT COACH BELLEVUE EAST

Coach Aaron Thumann is entering his 19th year of teaching and coaching. He began his career at Schuyler Community Schools, where he spent 13 years teaching PE and strength and conditioning, and served as head football coach for 5 seasons — ending a 45-game losing streak and building the program to its largest roster in school history.

In 2021, Coach Thumann joined Bellevue East, where he now serves as head football coach and head strength and conditioning coordinator. In his short tenure, he has delivered the program’s first winning

season in 14 years, the most wins in a two-season span in over 20 years, and developed the second leading passer in school history.

A former quarterback himself, Coach Thumann played at Peru State College — graduating Summa Cum Laude and earning Academic All-American honors — before playing in the Indoor Football League. His performance at an NFL Regional Combine earned him training camp invitations from the Cincinnati Bengals, Chicago Bears, and Dallas Cowboys. It is these experiences and his passion for the game that drive his commitment to coaching.

## JOSH LEWIS ASSISTANT COACH ADAMS CENTRAL

Josh graduated from UNK in 2004 with a social science secondary education degree. He spent his first four years in Hershey teaching and coaching basketball and track before moving to Hastings to take a job at Adams Central.

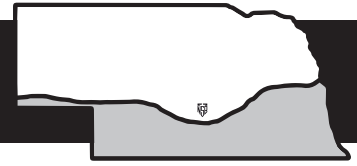
He worked as an assistant coach for the Patriots under Bill Carlin and Shawn Mulligan for 15 years before moving into the head position before the 2023 season. He is also an assistant girl’s basketball coach at Adams Central.

Josh and his wife Regina will celebrate their 20th anniversary this June. They have three children Savannah (19), Lakyn (17), and Alton (14).

## JACOB MCLAIN ASSISTANT COACH HOLDREGE

I have spent the past six years as the head coach at Holdrege, following six years as an assistant coach at Scottsbluff and two years as a graduate assistant at Chadron State College. In addition to coaching, I have been part of the public school system for the past

# SOUTH COACHES BIOS



twelve years and currently serve as the Middle School Assistant Principal and Assistant Activities Director for Holdrege Public Schools.

I am most passionate about coaching because of the impact it has on kids—the opportunity to build meaningful relationships and the daily joy of being part of a team throughout the season. Outside of coaching, I am married to my wife, Ashlynn, and we have three daughters: Landrie (7), Kollynns (4), and Devaney (1). I enjoy staying active, serving in the community, and attending sporting events.

## **MITCHELL SHEPHERD** ASSISTANT COACH THAYER CENTRAL

Mitchell lives in Hebron, Nebraska with his wife Jill of 14 years and their 5 children. Melanie 11, Valerie, 10, Natalie 7, Reid 5, and Averie 1 year. Mitchell is from Hanover, Kansas and played football at Kansas Wesleyan before finishing his education at Kansas State University. While in school, Mitchell began his coaching career as an assistant at his alma mater (4 years). Mitchell began his teaching career at Pawnee City, Nebraska (6 years) before making stops at Marysville, KS (6 years) and Weeping Water, NE (2 Years) before finding a home at Thayer Central in Hebron, NE (3 Years). Mitchell has taught Social Studies, Math, and Science in his career and is now moving into the role of Activities Director at Thayer Central. In his freetime, Mitchell enjoys spending time with his family, watching his children compete in various sports. He looks forward to their yearly beach vacations with the family. He also spends his time in strength and conditioning, lifting weights, and playing golf.

## **WADE MILLER** ASSISTANT HEAD COACH LINCOLN SOUTHWEST

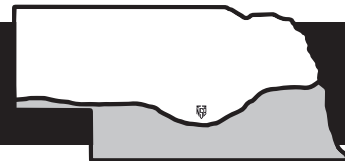
Wade Miller is currently the defensive coordinator for Seward High School, a position he has held since 2011. He is a 2002 graduate of Aurora High School and a 2006 graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University.

He went on to obtain a Master's degree from Peru State College. He coached football, basketball, and track at Fairbury High School for four years before moving to Seward where is currently an assistant basketball coach and the head girls soccer coach to go along with his duties on the football staff. He teaches business courses and served as an FBLA adviser for 18 years. His wife Taryn is a 1st grade teacher at Seward Elementary and they have two young daughters, Madden and Monroe. In his free time he enjoys spending time with family, traveling, and attending sporting events. He served as assistant in the 2018 Shrine Bowl and was blown away by the experience and is looking forward to contributing to such a worthy cause once again..

## **BRIAN LAUCK** ASSISTANT COACH LINCOLN NORTHWEST

Coach Lauck attended Pierce High School before playing linebacker at Midland Lutheran College (2003–2007), where he earned two Academic All-American honors. He began his teaching career in Fairbury Public Schools before moving to Omaha, where he volunteer coached at Creighton Prep. In 2012, he joined Ralston Public Schools as a varsity football assistant before accepting a teaching and coaching position at Lincoln North Star, where he spent 9 years under Coaches Mark Waller and Tony Kobza. In 2022, Coach Lauck took on his first head coaching role at Lincoln Northwest, where he has embraced the challenge of building a brand new program from the ground up..

# SOUTH PLAYERS BIOS



## CANON ALLEN

### AURORA

Canon was a wide receiver for the Huskies, setting a school record with 2,367 career receiving yards and totaling 35 touchdowns. His most memorable football moment was a 2025 comeback victory against Northwest, where the team rallied from a 28-7 halftime deficit to win 36-35. A versatile athlete, Canon also excelled in basketball and tied the school record for career goals in soccer. Off the field, he is active in FBLA and youth philanthropy and enjoys golfing, fishing and playing video games.

**Future Plans:** Canon will play football at the University of Nebraska-Kearney and study Finance.

## LOGAN ARCH

### PAPILLION LA VISTA SOUTH

Logan was a force as a linebacker and running back, earning all-state and all-district honors while serving as team captain. His most memorable moment was a dominant quarterfinal performance against Millard North, where he racked up 300 rushing yards and four touchdowns. A true scholar-athlete, Logan maintained a 4.1 GPA as an AP Scholar and was a DECA Metro Champion. He also holds school records in track and enjoys playing guitar in his free time.

**Future Plans:** Logan will attend Northwest Missouri State to study Pre-Law and run track.

## NOLAN ASHER

### DC WEST

As a tight end for the Falcons, Nolan earned first team all-state honors and was named an honorary team captain. His most memorable football moment was a pivotal victory over Fort Calhoun during his junior season that took the team to the state playoffs. Nolan was also named the DC West Male Athlete of the Year and earned all-conference honors in basketball. In the classroom, he was an academic all-state selection who enjoyed studying history to learn about the past.

**Future Plans:** Nolan will play football at the Colorado School of Mines and study Engineering.

## GRANT BECKENHAUER

### PAPILLION LA VISTA SOUTH

Grant was a versatile playmaker for the Titans, contributing as a free safety, quarterback and kicker. His standout performance on both sides of the ball earned him first-team all-Metro and first-team all-state honors from the Omaha World-Herald. Grant's favorite part of the game is the teamwork and the opportunity to make plays all over the field. In the classroom, he enjoys English class and discovering new books. During his free time, Grant stays active by lifting weights and hanging out with his family and friends.

**Future Plans:** Grant is currently undecided on his college choice.

## KYLER BOYLES

### SUPERIOR

As a linebacker for the Wildcats, Kyle earned first team all-district and all-tribland honors. While a force on defense, his most memorable moment came on the other side of the ball when he broke the school rushing record. Kyler's discipline extends to the classroom, where he was a member of the National Honor Society and a regular on the High Honor Roll. He found economics to be his most engaging subject, often enjoying the lively classroom discussions. Outside of football, Kyler is a wrestler who travels to compete.

**Future Plans:** Kyler will attend Kansas State University to major in Agricultural Business with plans to become a spray plane pilot.

## TRISTAN CAMPBELL

### MCCOOK

Tristan cemented his legacy as one of the most decorated players in Bison history, finishing fourth all-time in school history with 3,260 career rushing yards. A two-year captain and an offensive catalyst, he totaled 45 rushing touchdowns and was a force on both sides of the ball. His most memorable football moment was a 245-yard, four touchdown playoff performance that avenged a regular-season loss. Tristan is also a standout wrestler, becoming the first freshman in McCook history to medal at state.

**Future Plans:** Tristan is currently being recruited to play football or wrestle at the collegiate level.

## NATHAN CHRISTIANSEN

### SKUTT CATHOLIC

Nathan was a key contributor on both sides of the ball for the SkyHawks, earning All-Conference and All-State Honorable Mention honors as a wide receiver and cornerback. His most memorable moment was scoring the game's opening touchdown to help lead Skutt to the Class B state championship. In his free time, Nathan enjoys hanging out with friends, working out and playing baseball. He finds math satisfying because he enjoys the challenge of solving difficult problems.

**Future Plans:** Nathan will attend Northeast Community College to play baseball.

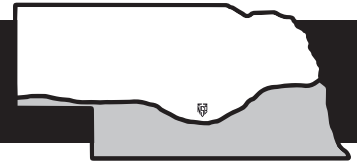
## EMMITT DIRKS

### YORK

Emmitt led the Dukes' offense as quarterback, where his leadership helped secure a thrilling playoff victory over Scottsbluff on a game-winning field goal. A versatile three-sport athlete, Emmitt was an AAU scholastic duals all-american in wrestling and earned academic all-conference honors in football, wrestling and baseball. He also credits his Economics class for teaching him valuable life skills in an engaging environment. When he isn't competing, Emmitt enjoys camping, golfing and spending time with his family.

**Future Plans:** Emmitt wants to study Exercise Science to become a physical therapist.

# SOUTH PLAYERS BIOS



## BRADY EICKHOFF

### LINCOLN NORTHWEST

Brady was a center and defensive tackle for the Falcons. A two-time all-conference and all-district selection, his most memorable moment was winning the first-ever varsity football game in school history. Brady's success extended to the classroom, where he was an eight-time Honor Roll member and a three-time academic all-state recipient. He credits football for the lifelong relationships and future lessons it provided. In his free time, Brady enjoys video games and spending time with his family.

**Future Plans:** Brady will attend Concordia University to study Secondary Education with a minor in coaching.

## HAYDEN FUQUA

### KEARNEY

Hayden was a force at center for the Bearcats, earning both Offensive Lineman of the Year and the Total Team Player of the Year awards in 2025. A standout on the field, he garnered HAC all-conference and academic all-conference honors while maintaining membership in the National Honor Society. Hayden's favorite football memory was a thrilling upset over Omaha North, won on a passing play as time expired. When he isn't on the field, Hayden enjoys welding, competitive shooting and spending time outdoors hunting and fishing.

**Future Plans:** Hayden will attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

## ALEX GREUFE

### ELKHORN SOUTH

Alex was a cornerstone offensive tackle for the Storm, serving as a team captain and earning Lineman of the Year in both his junior and senior years. His most memorable moment was a drive-opening pancake block against Creighton Prep that cleared the way for a 70-yard touchdown. Alex's leadership extended beyond the field as a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council. He is a recipient of the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Award and enjoys working with his hands in woods class to create gifts for others.

**Future Plans:** Alex will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to study Agribusiness.

## ELIJAH GUTZ

### LINCOLN EAST

A team captain, Elijah played defensive end for the Spartans, earning first team all-Nebraska honors from the Omaha World-Herald and first team super-state honors from the Lincoln Journal Star. His most memorable moment was a hard-fought victory over Lincoln Southeast. Elijah was an academic all-conference selection and thrived in the challenges of Calculus. In his free time, Elijah can be found on the golf course.

**Future Plans:** Elijah will attend the Colorado School of Mines.

## NATHAN HILL

### LINCOLN SOUTHWEST

Nathan was a consistent presence on the defensive line for the Silver Hawks, earning three varsity letters and honorable mention all-district honors. His favorite football memory was a thrilling Senior Night comeback where the team rallied from two scores down to upset a top-three ranked opponent. Outside of football, Nathan stays active playing basketball, golf, soccer and pickleball. He also enjoys history because of his interest in the past and his knack for remembering historical details.

**Future Plans:** Nathan will play college football and major in Physical Therapy.

## RHODEE HILL

### HERSHEY

Rhodee was a standout linebacker for the Panthers, earning first team all-state honors and being named the C2 District MVP. His leadership helped anchor a defensive unit that won the school's first homecoming game and secured its first playoff appearance in seven years. Rhodee values football as the ultimate team sport and has been playing since the second grade. Off the field, he is musically inclined, playing the guitar and piano, and enjoys dirt biking and golf.

**Future Plans:** Rhodee will attend Morningside University to study Business Administration and Sports Management.

## HUNTER HOLLE

### SYRACUSE-DUNBAR-AVOCA

Hunter was a defensive end for the Rockets, twice earning first-team all-district honors and being named to the all-state first team. His most memorable moment on the field was securing a home playoff victory during his senior season. A dedicated student-athlete, Hunter earned high honors every semester and was a three-time academic all-state selection. He also excelled in wrestling, a sport he appreciates for the individual accountability it requires. In his free time, Hunter enjoys golfing.

**Future Plans:** Hunter will play football at Morningside University.

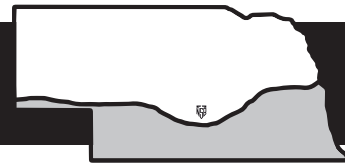
## JERRY JACKSON JR.

### OMAHA CENTRAL

Jerry was a physical presence on the defensive line for the Eagles, contributing as both a nose guard and defensive tackle. A three-year letter winner, he anchored the interior front and recorded 24 tackles and a sack during his senior season. Jerry's most memorable sports moment was the thrill of competing in the state playoffs. When he is away from the field, he enjoys reading.

**Future Plans:** Jerry will play football at Southwest Minnesota State University and study Business.

# SOUTH PLAYERS BIOS



## MERRICK JOHNSON

### BEATRICE

Merrick was an impactful linebacker and running back for the Orangemen, earning the Roger Woods outstanding senior award and all-state honorable mention honors. His most memorable moment on the turf was a hard-fought, double-overtime victory against rival Crete during his junior season. A successful multi-sport athlete, Merrick won a Class B state championship in wrestling and placed third at state in the discus. In the classroom, he enjoyed anatomy and weightlifting classes, fueling his passion for fitness and the human body.

**Future Plans:** Merrick will play football and study Exercise Science in college, with plans to also continue his wrestling career.

## CAL KISSINGER

### ASHLAND-GREENWOOD

Cal was a wide receiver for the Bluejays, earning first team all-state honors in Class C-1 and being named to the all-district and all-area first teams. While a force on the turf, Cal also excelled on the court, helping lead his basketball team to back-to-back state championships in 2025 and 2026. His favorite football memories include the bonds formed during summer team camps. In the classroom, Cal found history particularly engaging. Outside of sports, he is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys fishing, golfing and spending time with friends.

**Future Plans:** Cal will attend Concordia University to play college basketball.

## MICHAEL KNUDSEN

### GRETNA

Michael cemented his place among Nebraska's elite as a Mr. Football finalist and the Class B Offensive Player of the Year. The Dragon quarterback's most legendary performance came in a 2025 playoff game against Norris, where he threw a 42-yard touchdown as time expired and followed it with a game-winning two-point conversion. A standout scholar-athlete, Michael was a four-year National Honor Society member and a two-time Academic All-State selection in football and basketball. In his free time, Michael can be found playing golf or lifting weights.

**Future Plans:** Michael is committed to play football at Northwest Missouri State University.

## BRYCE LAKERS

### GRETNA

Bryce was a dynamic wide receiver for the Dragons, earning second team all-state honors for his play on the perimeter. His most memorable moment was a thrilling first-round playoff victory against Norris, with a dramatic Hail Mary and two-point conversion. A well-rounded athlete, Bryce was also an MVP in baseball and a four-year academic letter winner. In his free time, he enjoys playing guitar, golfing and hunting.

**Future Plans:** Bryce will play football at the University of Nebraska-Kearney and study Pre-Chiropractic.

## ETHAN LATTA

### DUNDY COUNTY STRATTON

Ethan was a multi-dimensional threat for the Tigers, playing both wide receiver and defensive back. His career included being named an Omaha World-Herald all-state selection for four consecutive years. Ethan's most memorable football tradition was the consistency of the program, hosting a home playoff game in every season of his high school career. A versatile athlete, he also earned all-state honors in basketball and competed in track and field. A fun fact about Ethan is that he can play the harmonica.

**Future Plans:** Ethan will play football at Chadron State College and plans to become a spray pilot.

## ATREYU MAY

### KEARNEY CATHOLIC

Atreyu was a wide receiver and defensive back for the Stars, earning first team all-state honors from the Lincoln Journal Star and the Omaha World-Herald. His most memorable moment was a second-round playoff victory against Wood River, playing in a downpour that left the field a mud pit. Atreyu values football for the sacrifice and work ethic it requires to succeed. In the classroom, he enjoys math and science for their logic and real-world applications. During his free time, he likes playing video games and working on his truck.

**Future Plans:** Atreyu is currently undecided on his college choice.

## HUDSON MEAD

### OMAHA WESTSIDE

As a defensive end for the Warriors, Hudson was a pillar of the defensive front, earning first team Class A all-state and all-metro honors. He was recognized by his coaches with the Effort and Toughness Award. Hudson's most memorable moment was a rare defensive lineman's dream: recording a pick-six during a playoff game his senior year. In the classroom, he was a three-year academic letter winner who favored English for its practical, lifelong applications. When he isn't training, Hudson enjoys lifting weights and spending time with friends.

**Future Plans:** Hudson will attend Metropolitan Community College to major in Fire Science and become a firefighter.

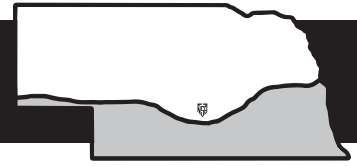
## NICK MOUSEL

### ADAMS CENTRAL

As a wide receiver for the Patriots, Nick earned team MVP and all-district honors. His favorite football moment came against fifth-ranked Cozad. Trailing by three with a minute left, Nick and his teammate executed a fourth-and-15 hook-and-ladder to perfection for the game-winning touchdown. A multi-sport athlete, Nick was also a first-team all-state selection in baseball. In the classroom, he maintained a spot on the honor roll every semester and particularly enjoyed the challenges of physics and anatomy.

**Future Plans:** Nick will attend Iowa Lakes Community College to play baseball.

# SOUTH PLAYERS BIOS



## ETHAN NELSON

### PLATTEVIEW

Ethan was a versatile player for the Trojans, contributing as a kicker, punter and linebacker. He was a four-year letter winner in football and hockey, along with letters in lacrosse and wrestling, showcasing his dynamic athletic ability. Ethan's favorite football moment came in an overtime thriller against Crete, where he recorded six tackles and an interception on defense while scoring 15 points in the kicking game, including a 50-yard field goal to force overtime and a 30-yarder to win it. When he isn't competing, he enjoys hunting, riding dirt bikes and golfing.

**Future Plans:** Ethan will attend the University of Sioux Falls to play football and study Business Administration.

## JONAH NELSON

### PLATTEVIEW

As an offensive line player for the Trojans, Jonah earned all-conference and all-district honors for three consecutive seasons, as well as an all-state honorable mention in 2025. Jonah's most storied moment occurred on a "hook and ladder" trick play against Beatrice, where the offensive lineman found the end zone to secure a pivotal victory. In the classroom, Jonah enjoys history, fascinated by the narrative of the United States and the lessons found in the past. Beyond the field, he is active in his church youth group and participates in mission trips.

**Future Plans:** Jonah will attend Wayne State College to major in Marketing.

## MARKUS NELSON

### NORRIS

Markus was a focal point of the Titans' backfield, earning recognition as a senior all-star and MVP for new football members. He also earned academic letters in football and basketball. For Markus, nothing quite matched the thrill of his first high school touchdown. When he isn't carrying the football, Markus leans into his creative side, playing the guitar and exploring the arts. He also enjoys the hands-on challenge of working on vehicles with his friends and heading out to the water for some fishing.

**Future Plans:** Markus is committed to Morningside University on a football scholarship and plans to continue his football career beyond the collegiate level.

## LIAM NORTON

### GRETNA EAST

Liam was a force on the defensive line for the Griffins, earning all-state, all-district and all-conference honors. Named the team's Defensive Player of the Year, he was also the recipient of the "Norton Award." Liam's favorite performance came in a high-stakes matchup against crosstown rival Gretna, where he recorded

two sacks, six tackles and a forced fumble to secure the victory. Academically, he earned the Merit Award and found a passion for entrepreneurship. In his downtime, Liam stays active at the gym, enjoys the shooting range and hits the golf course when he can.

**Future Plans:** Liam has committed to play football at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, where he plans to major in Exercise Science.

## PRESTON OZENBAUGH

### NORRIS

Preston served as a center for the Titans, earning Class B all-state, all-district and EMC all-conference honors. He views football as the perfect blend of strategy and strength, though his most memorable moment came on the defensive side of the ball with a sophomore-year pick-six while playing defensive tackle. A decorated multi-sport athlete, Preston also took home a silver medal as the Class B state runner-up in the shot put. He also earned academic all-state honors and academic letters for three consecutive years.

**Future Plans:** Preston will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to study Mechanical Engineering.

## MAXWELL DUANE PARDE

### SYRACUSE

Maxwell was a consistent force on the turf for the Rockets, earning first team all-conference honors three times and an all-state honorable mention. His favorite football memory was breaking through to the state playoffs and securing a first-round victory after several hard-fought seasons. While he excelled at tight end, Maxwell's deepest connection is to basketball, a sport he has played since childhood. Outside of sports, Maxwell enjoys playing the guitar and spending time with friends.

**Future Plans:** Maxwell is currently undecided on a college but plans to pursue a career as a Civil Engineer.

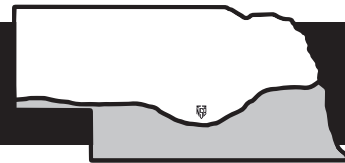
## COOPER PERRIEN

### ELKHORN SOUTH

Cooper's impact on the Storm defensive line was defined by a relentless work ethic that earned him the team-voted "Hardest Working" and "Unsung Hero" awards. His most memorable moment was a thrilling fourth-quarter comeback victory over Millard South in the state semifinals to get to the championship game. Cooper's consistency earned him all-state honorable mention and second team all-conference honors. An early high school graduate, Cooper has already taken the next step in his journey by enrolling in college to begin his football and academic career.

**Future Plans:** Cooper is attending Midland University to play football and study Digital Management, Sports Marketing and Aviation.

# SOUTH PLAYERS BIOS



## JACK POPPE

DONIPHAN-TRUMBULL

Jack was a receiver for the Cardinals. His most memorable moment on the field came in week nine of his senior year, when the team secured a hard-fought victory at Wood River to claim the district title. Jack values the unique bonds and lifelong memories shared with his coaches and teammates, noting that there is “nothing else like” the atmosphere of football. A consistent student who earned a spot on the Honor Roll, he particularly enjoys mathematics and working with numbers.

**Future Plans:** Jack plans to play college football while pursuing a degree in Business.

## JACOB QUIST

MILLARD WEST

An anchor on the offensive line for the Wildcats, Jacob played the game with a physicality that earned him all-state and all-metro honorable mention honors, as well as a selection to the all-district A-6 team in 2025. He views football as a place where discipline and strength converge, though his favorite memory is from a Senior Night victory over Westview. Jacob enjoys history, a subject he favors for its ability to explain the modern world through the lens of the past. Away from the field, he is an outdoorsman who enjoys fishing and camping, as well as working on cars.

**Future Plans:** Jacob will play football at Wayne State College.

## JACK ROBINETTE

SKUTT CATHOLIC

A two-time all-state lineman and 2025 team captain, Jack was a vital force in Skutt’s 2024 Class B state title run. He views the line as a brotherhood defined by loyalty and toughness. Academically, Jack is a member of the National Honor Society and the Distinguished Honor Roll who enjoys math and science. Driven by his brother’s battle with Osteosarcoma, he aspires to earn a medical degree to help children battling cancer. His leadership spans from the field to Student Council and Campus Ministry.

**Future Plans:** Jack plans to play college football while pursuing a career in medicine.

## SAM SAGEHORN

SEWARD

Sam was a cornerback in the Bluejay secondary, earning first team all-district honors twice and a Class B all-state honorable mention. Sam’s most memorable moment came during a thrilling fourth-quarter comeback victory against Gretna East. For Sam, the turf is a place where he finds a level of focus and joy unlike anywhere else. In the classroom, he is a member of the National Honor Society and a recipient of the President’s Education Award. When he isn’t competing, Sam stays active through lifting, golfing and traveling.

**Future Plans:** Sam will play football at Wayne State College and major in Business.

## CONNOR SAMS

GRETNA EAST

A senior captain, Connor powered the Griffin offense as a running back with 2,193 rushing yards and led the program to its first-ever state championship appearance. Off the field, Connor excels in track and field, placing third at state in the 4x100 relay and qualifying in the 100 and 200 meters. Outside of athletics, he was a member of the National Honor Society and was hand-picked to represent the student body on the Superintendent’s Advisory Council. Connor etched his name into the history books as the first player from Gretna East to sign with a Division I football program.

**Future Plans:** Connor will play football at the Air Force Academy while pursuing a degree in Biology.

## GARRETT SCHOEN

MILFORD

Garrett was the definitive anchor of the Eagles’ front, earning the team’s Outstanding Offensive Lineman award three times and securing three consecutive first team all-district selections. He also earned four academic letters in football, wrestling and track. Garrett’s most cherished memory on the turf was the momentum of a 4-0 start during his junior season. When he isn’t on the field, Garrett is usually found working on vehicles and equipment or enjoying the outdoors while hunting and fishing.

**Future Plans:** Garrett will play football at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

## TANNER SCHRODER

LINCOLN SOUTHWEST

Tanner played for the Silver Hawks’ defense, anchoring the line at nose guard. A three-time letter winner and HAC all-conference selection, he was also recognized for his work in the classroom as an academic all-conference honoree. Tanner’s favorite memory was a Senior Night victory over Omaha North. He finds science to be his most engaging subject because of its real-world applications. When he isn’t on the field, Tanner enjoys lifting weights and playing video games.

**Future Plans:** Tanner will attend Concordia University to study Business before attending SCC for Electrical Technology.

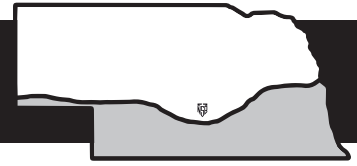
## CARSON SIEBER

DESHLER

Carson was on the offensive and defensive lines for the Dragons, earning all-state honors in 2025 and first team all-district selections in back-to-back seasons. His favorite moment on the field was helping lead the program to its first-ever playoff victory. Carson maintained a 3.8 GPA and earned academic all-state honors for four consecutive years. A student who likes dealing with numbers, he naturally favored math as his top subject. In his free time, Carson is an outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with friends.

**Future Plans:** Carson will attend Wayne State College to pursue a degree in Finance.

# SOUTH PLAYERS BIOS



## COLLIN STOLPE

### AURORA

Collin was a defensive centerpiece for the Huskies, earning all-district honors twice during his career. A four-year letter winner and two-time defensive MVP, he helped lead Aurora to two district championships and a state runner-up finish. His most cherished memory was playing in Memorial Stadium for a state title as a freshman. Collin competed in four to five sports and was the 2024 Performance Index state champion. Outside of competition, he enjoys hunting, fishing and golf.

**Future Plans:** Collin is currently undecided on a college but plans to major in Criminal Investigation and Cyber Security.

## DEREK TONJES

### ASHLAND-GREENWOOD

As the quarterback for the Bluejays, Derek orchestrated the offense with precision, earning first team all-state and all-district honors, as well as recognition as a Woodhouse Athlete of the Week. Derek's favorite football memory is his final touchdown pass to teammate Cal Kissinger. Academically, he earned academic all-state honors. Derek holds a strong connection to basketball, the first sport he loved as a child. When he isn't competing, Derek is often found on the golf course or spending time with his friends.

**Future Plans:** Derek will attend Concordia University to play college basketball.

## BRAYDEN VANDERVORT

### RALSTON

Brayden was a versatile player for the Rams, lining up at both wide receiver and safety. His impact on the field earned him first team all-conference and all-district honors. His deepest passion lies with baseball, a sport he has played and watched since he was young. In the classroom, he was drawn to Criminal Justice for the opportunity to understand the inner workings of the law. Outside of school, he stays active by working out and competing with his friends.

**Future Plans:** Brayden will attend Peru State College to play football and baseball.

## COLE VORDERSTRASSE

### THAYER CENTRAL

A powerhouse across three seasons, Cole received a three-time all-district selection and was voted the team's lineman of the year in 2024. His most legendary football moment was scoring a rushing touchdown on the only carry of his career. Cole's athleticism extended to the wrestling mat, where he was a two-time state placer, and track and field, where he was recognized as the Hastings Tribune leading area thrower. Academically, he earned letters in all three sports for four years. In his free time, Cole can be found golfing or hunting.

**Future Plans:** Cole will attend North Dakota State University to compete on the track & field team and major in Agribusiness.

## JACK VYHNALEK

### SEWARD

Jack was a wide receiver for the Bluejays, earning two-time first team all-state selection and two-time second team all-Nebraska honors. He played a vital role in one of the most storied comebacks in school history, rallying from a 21-0 fourth-quarter deficit against Gretna East to secure a quarterfinal win. Off the turf, Jack views math as a puzzle, enjoying the way each solved step builds toward the answer. Beyond his 100+ hours of community service and membership in the National Honor Society, Jack spends time golfing, fishing and hunting.

**Future Plans:** Jack has signed a football scholarship to play at the University of North Dakota.

## ZACH WULF

### KEARNEY

Zach was a defensive end for the Bearcats, earning 2025 Territory Player of the Year and back-to-back first team all-district selections. His favorite memory under the lights was a triple-overtime battle against Millard North, where Kearney emerged victorious with a 36-33 win. Zach earned four academic all-conference letters and has successfully owned and operated his own landscaping business since middle school. He enjoys solving problems through math and science.

**Future Plans:** Zach will play football for the University of Nebraska-Kearney and study Construction Management.

# 2026 OFFICIALS



**Rodney Brungardt** REFEREE

A football official since 1979, Rodney is a native of Bayard, Nebraska. After graduation from Bayard high, Rodney then attended Chadron State College and the University of Nebraska, Omaha where he earned a degree in Drafting and Construction Engineering. He now lives in Omaha where he is a retired commercial construction project manager and runs his own handyman business, Odd Jobs Rod. Rodney and wife Debra have two daughters, Beth and Kate and two grandchildren.



**Todd Senters** UMPIRE

A football official for 10 years, Todd also works baseball and basketball. After graduation from Iowa Falls, Iowa High School, Todd attended and played football at the University of Nebraska - Omaha, earning a degree in K-12 Physical Education. Todd currently lives in Lincoln with wife Becky where he is General Manager of Primetime Sporting Goods in Lincoln. Todd and Becky have two children, Braxton and Blake.



**Tom Kent** LINESMAN

A native of Tilden and a graduate of Elkhorn Valley High School, Tom attended the University of Nebraska, Lincoln where he earned a BS in Electrical Engineering and a Masters of Business Administration. A high school football official since 1995, Tom now lives in Davey and is the President and CEO of Nebraska Public Power District. Tom and wife Dacia have two adult children, Wyatt and Haleigh.



**Jay Stoa** LINE JUDGE

A native of Milford and graduate of Milford High, Jay attended Southeast Community College earning an Associates in HVAC and Refrigeration. A football official for 21 years where he was selected to work the Class B State Championship games in 2017 and 2023, he also works basketball and was an official for Unified Flag Football in the 2010 National Special Olympics. You may see him on the sidelines at Husker games as a Sideline Replay Assistant. Also a TeamMates Mentor for 15 years, Jay now resides in Lincoln where he is an Energy Services Specialist for Lincoln Electric System. Jay and wife Karen have two daughters, Ashley and McKenzie and four grandchildren.



**Tyler Meuret** BACK JUDGE

Tyler is a native of Omaha, and graduated from Millard West High School. He then attended Hastings College earning a degree in Vocal Music Education. He now lives in Omaha where he is a music teacher for Elkhorn Public Schools. A football official for 8 years, he also works baseball and NAIA college football. In his spare time he provides animal assisted therapy at hospitals and assisted living centers with his Golden Retriever, Champ. You may also catch Tyler singing the National Anthem at Husker sporting events.



**Mark Speer**  
SPECIAL RULES



**Mark Feeney**  
SPECIAL RULES



**Mark Wieting**  
COORDINATOR



# PARKING MAP

