

New NET Television Special Examines Husker Football Walk-on Program

LINCOLN, Neb. (July 15, 2009) -- Whether from Alliance to Auburn, or Ogallala to Omaha, there is a never-say-die, hard-working attitude that unites Nebraskans. That attitude is exemplified by the special way football is played at the University of Nebraska and the honored tradition of the Big Red walk-on program.

Athletes from mostly rural Nebraska towns walk-on to play football for their home state without scholarships, sometimes turning down scholarship to other schools, just to get a chance to perhaps one day make the team.

A new NET Television special, "Walk Ons: Huskers' Edge," premiering Tuesday, Aug. 4, at 7 p.m. CT on NET1 and in high-definition on NET-HD, tells the story of the University of Nebraska's football walk-on program, following the young men raised with Nebraska values and dreaming of becoming Huskers and playing in Memorial Stadium. The program also airs Thursday, Aug. 6, at 8 p.m. CT and Sunday, Aug. 9, at 6:30 p.m. CT on NET1 and NET-HD.

"Walk Ons" looks at the history of the walk-on program at Nebraska, including Langston Coleman, who in the early 1960s became the first Husker walk-on when he joined Bob Devaney's squad. The official institution of the walk-on program began in 1973, the first year of Tom Osborne's reign as Husker head coach, because of a NCAA reduction rule in the number of scholarships that could be offered.

In addition to Coleman, former Husker walk-on greats Jeff and Joel Makovicka, Jeff Jamrog and Jason Peter talk about their walk-on experiences, and Osborne, current Husker coach Bo Pelini and sportswriters discuss the past and present impact of the fabled program.

Utilizing both vintage and contemporary footage, "Walk Ons" demonstrates how the walk-on players have contributed to Nebraska's success on the gridiron. Viewers also meet two current Nebraska walk-ons as they aspire to become part of the Big Red team.

What is consistently voiced throughout the program is how the walk-on athletes exhibit a hard work ethic, loyalty and the concept of never giving up -- attitudes representative of Nebraska's tradition of blue-collar values.

"Walk Ons: Huskers' Edge," underwritten in part by Nebraska Office of Highway Safety, is a production of NET Television for broadcast on NET1 and NET-HD. NET Television is a service of NET. For a complete program schedule, visit NET's Web site (netNebraska.org/television).

PROGRAM CONTACT: Joel Geyer, 402-472-9333, ext. 247, or e-mail at jgeyer@netNebraska.org

RELEASE WRITTEN BY: Larry L. Kubert, 402-472-9333, ext. 389, or e-mail at

lkubert@netNebraska.org

NET Television: **NET1** is Nebraska's first public television broadcast service and includes PBS and award-winning, locally produced public television programming; **NET2** offers live coverage of the Nebraska Unicameral, and other news and public affairs programming; **NET3** is a 24-hour channel featuring the most popular how-to, travel and lifestyle series; and **NET-HD** presents high-definition digital broadcast programming displayed in a wide-screen format.