

# BO PELINI

HEAD COACH  
SIXTH SEASON  
OHIO STATE | 1990

## EXPERIENCE NEBRASKA

- » Head Coach (2008-13)
- » Interim Head Coach (Dec. 2003)
- » Defensive Coordinator (2003)

## LSU

- » Defensive Coordinator (2005-07)

## OKLAHOMA

- » Defensive Coordinator (2004)

## IOWA

- » Graduate Assistant (1991)

## GREEN BAY PACKERS

- » Linebackers (2000-02)

## NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

- » Linebackers (1997-99)

## SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

- » Assistant Secondary (1994-96)

## HIGH SCHOOL ASSISTANT

- » Cardinal Mooney (Ohio)  
High School (1993)

## COACHING NUMBERS

- » Bowl Games - 11
- » BCS Bowl Games - 3
- » BCS National Championship Games - 2
- » BCS National Champions - 1
- » Conference Title Games - 6
- » Conference Championships - 2

## BOWL GAMES NEBRASKA

- » 2013 Capital One Bowl  
(lost to Georgia, 41-31)
- » 2012 Capital One Bowl  
(lost to South Carolina, 30-13)
- » 2010 Holiday Bowl  
(lost to Washington, 19-7)
- » 2009 Holiday Bowl  
(beat Arizona, 33-0)
- » 2009 Gator Bowl  
(beat Clemson, 26-21)
- » 2003 Alamo Bowl  
(beat Michigan State, 17-3)

## LSU

- » 2007 BCS National Championship Game  
(beat Ohio State, 38-24)
- » 2006 Sugar Bowl  
(beat Notre Dame, 41-14)
- » 2005 Peach Bowl  
(beat Miami, 40-3)

## OKLAHOMA

- » 2004 BCS National Championship Game  
(lost to USC, 55-19)

## IOWA

- » 1991 Holiday Bowl  
(tied BYU, 13-13)

## NFL NUMBERS

- » NFL Super Bowls - 1
- » NFL Super Bowl Championships - 1
- » NFL Playoff Games - 11

*One of the nation's elite coaches, Bo Pelini is one of only three current college coaches who have won at least nine games in each of the past five years. Pelini is also the nation's only coach to lead his team to a conference title game three times in the past four seasons.*

But Pelini isn't focused on his individual accomplishments. His focus is on the team and the process. Pelini's process is working, as he has won at least nine games in each of his first five seasons on the Husker sideline, including three 10-win seasons in the last four years. Among schools currently in a Bowl Championship Series automatic qualifying conference, Pelini is only the 11th head coach in college football history to win at least nine games in each of his first five seasons. Pelini is just the fourth first-time head coach to lead a BCS conference school to nine wins in each of his first five seasons. Nebraska, Alabama, Boise State and Oregon are the only four programs to win at least nine games each of the past five seasons.

The 45-year old Pelini's 48 wins in his first five full seasons rank as the 15th-most among major college head coaches in college football history, according to NCAA records. Pelini is also the most successful coach in the hiring class of 2008, owning more victories than any of the other 18 head coaches who were hired for their jobs beginning with the 2008 season. Pelini has also captured at least a share of the conference divisional title in four of his first five seasons, taking the Huskers to three conference championship games the past four seasons, after inheriting a Nebraska team that finished 5-7 in the season before his arrival.

With five straight nine-win seasons to open his head coaching career, Pelini joins Bob Devaney and Tom Osborne as the only Husker coaches to accomplish that feat. Pelini has also put himself in an elite group of BCS Conference coaches.

Pelini guided Nebraska to a 10-4 mark in 2012 against the nation's fifth-toughest schedule, according to the NCAA. Pelini's 48 wins in his first five full seasons are just one victory shy of Frank Solich's mark for the most wins ever by a Husker coach in his first five seasons. Pelini's first victory in 2013 will be his 50th overall victory at Nebraska, including a win as interim head coach for the 2003 Alamo Bowl.

As a testament to Pelini's process, Nebraska excelled in close games in 2012. The Huskers were 5-1 in games decided by fewer than 10 points. His team showed great resiliency to rally from second-half deficits in five of its seven Big Ten victories. Included in those totals are rallies from a 17-point second-half deficit against Wisconsin, a 12-point fourth-quarter deficit at Northwestern, a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit at Michigan State and a 14-point second-half deficit against Penn State. The Huskers also trailed Iowa by one at halftime at Kinnick Stadium. The 12-point fourth-quarter rally at Northwestern tied for the largest fourth-quarter comeback in school history and marked the second time a Pelini team had pulled off a 12-point fourth-quarter comeback.

The Huskers produced a 10-win season in 2012, and saw five players earn first-team All-Big Ten honors. Quarterback Taylor Martinez and offensive guard Spencer Long were Nebraska's first-team all-conference selections by the league's coaches, while Long completed his journey from walk-on to All-American, earning second-team All-America honors from the Walter Camp Foundation. Joining Long as All-Big Ten honorees by the media were linebacker Eric Martin, safety Daimion Stafford and kicker Brett Maher.

In 2011, Pelini faced the challenge of preparing Nebraska for its first season in the Big Ten Conference. Pelini was up to the task, leading the Huskers to a 9-4 record. Nebraska faced one of the nation's most challenging schedules, highlighted by facing 11 new opponents. Four of Nebraska's eight conference foes were ranked at the time of the game, including the Huskers' 24-3 victory over No. 9 Michigan State that gave Nebraska a win over a top-10 opponent for the second straight season. In addition to the ranked teams, 10 of NU's 12 FBS opponents played in a bowl game. Lavonte David was chosen as a first-team All-American and the Big Ten Linebacker of the Year in 2011, and he also became just the fourth Husker to be named a finalist for the Butkus Award. David, who became only the fifth Blackshirt to post back-to-back 100-tackle seasons, was also



a semifinalist for the Chuck Bednarik Award and the Lott Trophy. Despite playing only two seasons at Nebraska, David posted the fourth-highest tackle total in school history.

Fellow Blackshirt Alfonzo Dennard battled through injuries to earn the Big Ten Defensive Back of the Year award. David and Dennard's honors come on the heels of a Husker being named the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year in both the 2009 and 2010 seasons.

Maher was also named the Big Ten Punter and Place-kicker of the Year, becoming the first player to win both awards. Maher also became the first player to earn first-team All-Big Ten recognition as the punter and place-kicker in the same season since 2001. Maher earned the Bakken-Andersen Big Ten Kicker-of-the-Year Award again in 2012.

Pelini's leadership helped NU overcome the challenge of a new conference in 2011, while featuring a first-time offensive coordinator and four new assistant coaches. The Huskers also dealt with their share of injuries, among them playing without Dennard for the beginning of the year and losing 2010 All-American Jared Crick for the year in October.

In 2010, Pelini guided Nebraska to its third Big 12 North Division title in his three years as head coach in the conference. He is the only coach in Big 12 history to win at least a share of a divisional title in each of his first three seasons. NU finished with a 10-4 record, giving the Huskers consecutive 10-win seasons for the first time since 2000 and 2001.

During the Huskers' 2010 run, Pelini guided Nebraska to wins over ranked teams in back-to-back weeks knocking off Oklahoma State and Missouri in late October to take control of the Big 12 North. The victories marked the first time NU had defeated top-20 teams in consecutive games since 1999. The win at No. 17 Oklahoma State was the highest ranked team NU had defeated on the road since 1997, while the victory over seventh-ranked Missouri in Lincoln was the highest-ranked team NU had defeated in nine seasons.



NEBRASKA HAS WON AT LEAST NINE GAMES IN EACH OF COACH PELINI'S FIRST FIVE SEASONS. ALONG WITH NEBRASKA, ONLY ALABAMA, OREGON AND BOISE STATE HAVE POSTED FIVE CONSECUTIVE NINE-WIN SEASONS.

**NINE WINS IN EACH OF FIRST FIVE SEASONS**

Coach	School	Years
Larry Coker	Miami	2001-05
Barry Switzer	Oklahoma	1973-77
<b>Bo Pelini</b>	<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>2008-12</b>
Tom Osborne	Nebraska	1998-2002

*Includes first-time head coaches from a school currently in a BCS Conference*

**HIGHEST FIVE-YEAR COACHING WIN TOTALS**

Coach, School	Years	Wins
Chris Petersen, Boise State	2006-10	67
Bob Pruett, Marshall	1996-2000	58
Bob Stoops, Oklahoma	1999-2003	55
Larry Coker, Miami	2001-05	53
Mark Richt, Georgia	2001-05	52
Barry Switzer, Oklahoma	1973-77	51
John Robinson, USC	1976-80	50
R.C. Slocum, Texas A&M	1989-93	49
Lloyd Carr, Michigan	1995-99	49
Bronco Mendenhall, BYU	2005-09	49
Bret Bielema, Wisconsin	2006-10	49
Frank Solich, Nebraska	1998-2002	49
<b>Bo Pelini, Nebraska</b>	<b>2008-12</b>	<b>48</b>

*Includes first-time head coaches from the FBS level since 1900*

**MOST WINS AMONG 2008 HIRING CLASS**

Coach	School	Years
<b>Bo Pelini</b>	<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>48</b>
Paul Johnson	Georgia Tech	41
Ken Niumatalolo	Navy	40

Pelini's expertise has always been defense, and the 2010 Blackshirts reflected his defensive acumen. The Huskers ranked 11th nationally in total defense, after finishing seventh in that category in 2009. Nebraska also finished in the top 10 in pass efficiency defense, passing yards allowed and scoring defense for the second straight year in 2010. In 2009, Pelini guided Nebraska to a 10-4 record and the Big 12 North championship. The Huskers posted their first 10-win season in six years and were ranked No. 14 in both final national polls, NU's highest final ranking since 2001. NU fell just one point and one second short of its first Big 12 title in a decade, dropping a 13-12 decision to second-ranked Texas in the Big 12 Championship Game. Nebraska capped the year with a dominant 33-0 shutout of Arizona in the Holiday Bowl, giving Pelini the third of three straight bowl wins to open his head coaching career.

Nebraska's path to the conference title game was not an easy one. After a pair of disappointing October losses, Nebraska stood 4-3 overall and just 1-2 in Big 12 play. However, the Huskers reeled off five straight wins to end the regular season, including three road victories, and captured the division title by two games.

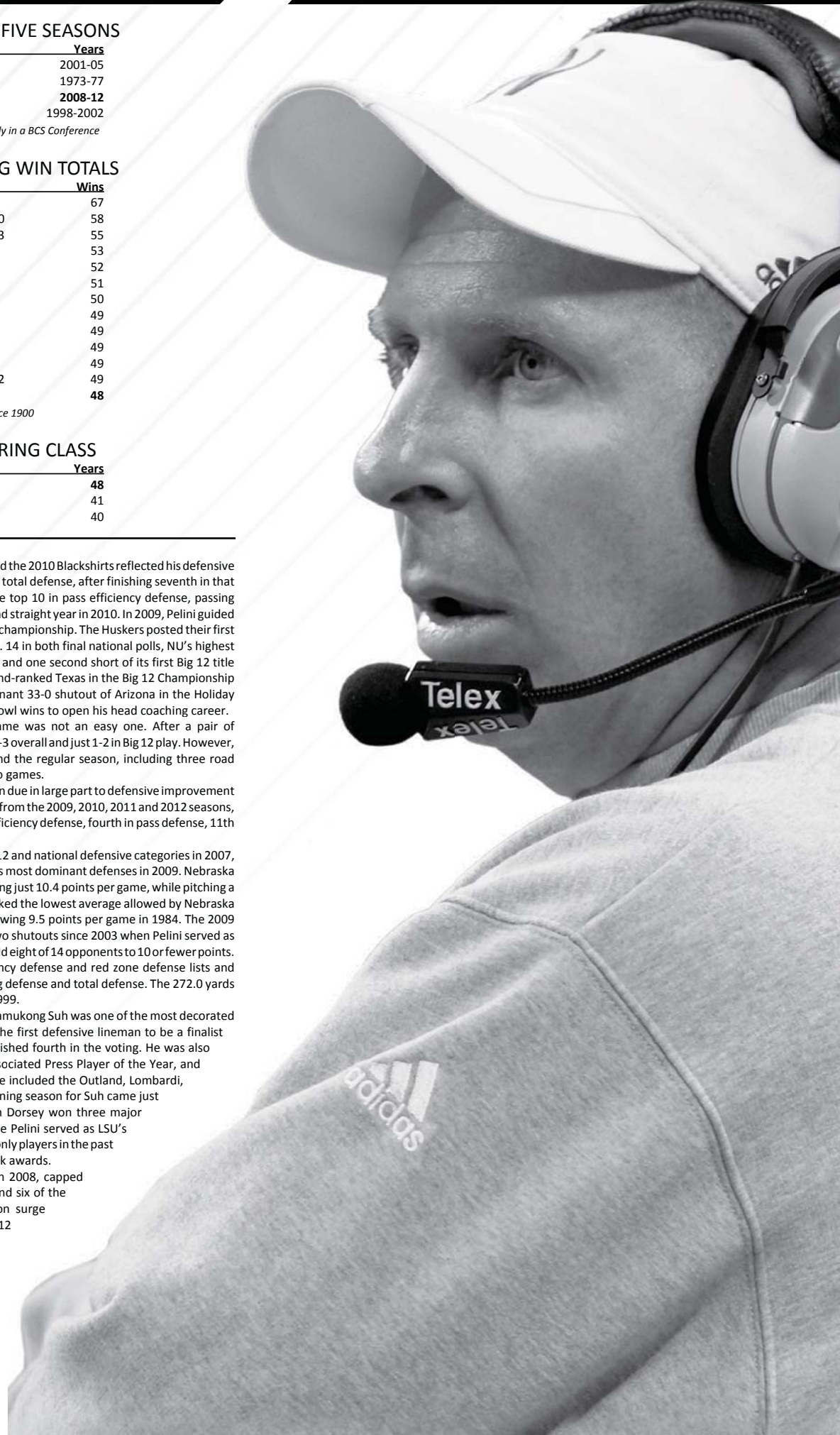
The Huskers' resurgence under Pelini has been due in large part to defensive improvement – Pelini's area of expertise. Combining statistics from the 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 seasons, NU's defense ranks second nationally in pass efficiency defense, fourth in pass defense, 11th in scoring defense and 12th in total defense.

After ranking near the bottom of several Big 12 and national defensive categories in 2007, NU ascended to a position as one of the nation's most dominant defenses in 2009. Nebraska led the nation in scoring defense in 2009, allowing just 10.4 points per game, while pitching a pair of shutouts. The 10.4 points per game marked the lowest average allowed by Nebraska since the Blackshirts also led the nation by allowing 9.5 points per game in 1984. The 2009 season also marked the first time NU posted two shutouts since 2003 when Pelini served as defensive coordinator, and the 2009 Huskers held eight of 14 opponents to 10 or fewer points.

The Blackshirts also topped the pass efficiency defense and red zone defense lists and ranked in the top 10 nationally in sacks, rushing defense and total defense. The 272.0 yards per game allowed ranked as NU's best since 1999.

Under Pelini's guidance, defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh was one of the most decorated defensive players in college football history. The first defensive lineman to be a finalist for the Heisman Trophy in 15 seasons, Suh finished fourth in the voting. He was also the first defensive player to be named the Associated Press Player of the Year, and was a unanimous All-American. Suh's hardware included the Outland, Lombardi, Nagurski and Bednarik awards. The award-winning season for Suh came just two seasons after LSU defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey won three major national awards and was an All-American while Pelini served as LSU's defensive coordinator. Suh and Dorsey are the only players in the past 15 seasons to sweep the Nagurski and Bednarik awards.

Pelini guided the Huskers to a 9-4 record in 2008, capped by victories in the Huskers' final four games and six of the season's final seven contests. The late-season surge allowed Nebraska to earn a share of the Big 12 North championship, and the Huskers picked up their ninth win with a 26-21 come-from-behind victory over Clemson in the Konica Minolta Gator Bowl. The win was a fitting conclusion for a team that developed a toughness that was a direct extension of its head coach.





## THE PELINI FAMILY

(from left) Kate, Mary Pat, Caralyn, Bo and Patrick.

Pelini's nine wins were the most nationally among first-time head coaches in 2008. Nebraska won its final four games of 2008 to carry the longest winning streak into a season since 2000. The 6-1 run to close the year tied for the best by an NU team since 1997, and Nebraska won its final four games for just the second time since 1997. In fact, through four seasons, Pelini's Nebraska teams have a 15-7 record in games played on or after Nov. 1, including a 12-4 mark in regular-season contests.

The success under Pelini in 2008 was attributed to both sides of the football. The Husker offense continued to rank among the nation's best, finishing in the nation's top 20 in passing offense, scoring offense and total offense.

The biggest gains were made on the defensive side of the ball, where Pelini implemented his proven defensive system. Nebraska improved its total defensive average by 126.9 yards per game and finished second in the Big 12 in total defense. The run defense allowed 116.5 yards per game, nearly cutting its average from 2007 in half and finishing in the top 25 nationally in that category. The Blackshirts also posted 35 sacks, nearly tripling the total of the previous season.

The successful first season for Pelini came as a result of his ability to quickly implement his attitude and leadership into the program. Nebraska Athletic Director and Hall of Fame coach Tom Osborne named Pelini the 28th head coach in Nebraska football history on Dec. 2, 2007. Pelini wasted no time instilling a disciplined approach on and off the field, while also embracing the traditions of the Cornhusker football program. Pelini built a coaching staff with close ties to both the Pelini family and the Nebraska football family. The Nebraska staff currently includes three former Husker players.

Pelini immediately showed the discipline to handle multiple tasks following his hiring. While quickly taking charge of all aspects of the Nebraska program, Pelini was also committed to finishing what he had started at LSU. Pelini returned to Baton Rouge in mid-December of 2007 and successfully orchestrated the Tigers' defensive game plan for the BCS National Championship Game against Ohio State. The 38-24 win was keyed by a defense that forced three turnovers and had five sacks.

Following the championship victory, Pelini turned his full focus to Nebraska. His first order of business in Lincoln was to pull together the Huskers' 2008 recruiting class. Pelini successfully organized and led a recruiting charge that allowed Nebraska to sign a talented and balanced recruiting class that February.

Pelini also understands the importance of the storied Nebraska walk-on program, and has integrated it as a key part of the Huskers' recruiting plan. The Cornhusker staff has welcomed more than 115 walk-ons to the program in Pelini's first six recruiting classes, and will continue to make the walk-on program a focus in future years.

Pelini has also reached out to two groups that form the backbone of the tradition-rich Nebraska program—its former players and its passionate fan base.

Former Cornhuskers have rallied behind Pelini's blue-collar approach. In turn the head coach has opened his door to those who helped build the program. Pelini has made a strong effort to connect with former players and those past Cornhuskers have become a fixture in the football offices and at practices.

Pelini has made regular public appearances around the state, reaching out to the nation's most loyal fans. The widespread support for Pelini has been evident at every stop and his simple, humble approach is a perfect fit with Nebraskans. The support for Pelini has been evident since his arrival, beginning with 80,000 fans at the Red-White Spring Game in April of 2008 to loyal followings on the road, at bowl games in Jacksonville and San Diego and the 2009 and 2010 Big 12 Championship Games in Arlington, Texas. That continued in 2011 and 2012 as Husker fans have followed the Big Red through its first two seasons of Big Ten Conference action.

While devoting time to former players, fans and attracting talented future Huskers, Pelini's No. 1 professional priority has been, and always will be, the current players in his program. Players have responded to his straight-forward message and process: Work hard, do the right thing and success will follow.

That hard work and discipline does not end on the field. Pelini's players have excelled in the classroom as well since he took over the program. Among Nebraska's 29-player 2012 senior class, 17 student-athletes had earned their degree before the Capital One Bowl, and all 29 are on track to graduate by August of 2013. Overall, 99 of 107 players in Pelini's first five senior classes are on track to earn their degree by August of 2013.

Seventeen of Pelini's players have earned CoSIDA Academic All-District honors, with eight players earning Academic All-America honors. I-back Rex Burkhead earned first-team Academic All-America honors for a second straight season in 2012, while linebacker Sean Fisher was a second-team choice for the second straight year. In 2010 and 2011, safety Austin Cassidy was a two-time first-team selection. Pelini's first two Academic All-Americans were 2008 second-team selections Todd Peterson and Tyler Wortman. Pelini has also seen 93 of his players earn first-team academic all-conference honors during the past five years.

The wide-spread success Pelini has enjoyed in his first five seasons in Lincoln should come as no surprise. Prior to being named head coach, Pelini enjoyed five seasons as college football's most successful defensive coordinator. But the success story started much earlier during Pelini's youth. The youngest of eight children, Pelini grew up in the hard-nosed town of Youngstown, Ohio. Pelini's parents instilled the discipline at a young age that has guided Bo to success both in and out of athletics.

Pelini's passion for athletics began in Youngstown. After a standout prep career at Cardinal Mooney High School, Pelini went on to Ohio State. A hard-hitting safety, he was known for his passionate and relentless play. Teammates recognized his leadership and elected Pelini a team captain as a senior.

The tradition of being part of winning programs did not end after Pelini's playing career. His coaching career has featured success at every stop along the way. A Super Bowl ring and a national championship are part of Pelini's impressive resume.

That coaching resume included a one-year stop as defensive coordinator at Nebraska. During the 2003 season, Pelini quickly learned the traditions of Nebraska football and its passionate fan base. In turn, Husker fans recognized the discipline and passion instilled by Pelini in the Blackshirt defense.

His first stop in Lincoln marked Pelini's first full-time college coaching job. During that 2003 season, Pelini engineered a dominant Blackshirt defense. The energized, relentless unit finished among the Big 12 and nation's best in nearly every defensive category.

Nebraska finished the year ranked first nationally in pass efficiency defense, second in scoring defense and 11th in total defense. The Huskers set a school and Big 12 record with 32 interceptions and tied an NU record with 47 takeaways, helping Nebraska lead the nation in turnover margin.

Pelini began his second tour of duty at Nebraska in 2008 with a victory on his resume. His first tenure in Lincoln was capped by serving as the interim head coach for Nebraska's dominant 17-3 win over Michigan State in the 2003 Alamo Bowl. In the win, the defense held MSU to just 174 total yards and a first-quarter field goal.

More defensive dominance followed in Pelini's next two stops at Oklahoma and LSU. Pelini served as the co-defensive coordinator on Bob Stoops' staff at Oklahoma in 2004, helping the Sooners win a Big 12 title and reach the national championship game against USC. Oklahoma finished the season ranked sixth nationally in rush defense, 11th in scoring defense and 13th in total defense.

In his three seasons as the defensive coordinator at LSU from 2005 to 2007, Pelini's dominant defenses helped the Tigers compile a 34-6 record, including the 2007 BCS national championship and the Southeastern Conference championship. The BCS title game in January of 2008 marked the third time in four years that Pelini was a part of a team that played in a BCS game.

The play of Pelini's defenses was a key part of LSU's success. The Tigers ranked third in the nation in total defense in 2007, surrendering an average of 288.8 yards per game. LSU also ranked in the top 25 nationally in pass efficiency defense (3rd), passing yards allowed per game (9th), rush defense (14th) and scoring defense (17th). Defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey was the nation's most decorated defender in 2007, earning the Outland Trophy, the Lombardi Award and the Bronko Nagurski Trophy, while safety Craig Steltz earned All-America honors.

Pelini's defenses have a history of swarming to the football. LSU forced 36 turnovers in 2007, the third-most takeaways in the country. The Tigers' 2007 defensive success was the standard for Pelini at LSU, as each of his three LSU defenses ranked No. 3 nationally in total defense. Pelini's 2006 unit surrendered just 242.8 yards per game, the fewest by a Tiger team since 1976. A pair of Tigers earned first-team All-America honors, including Dorsey and safety LaRon Landry, who went on to become the sixth overall pick in the NFL Draft by the Washington Redskins.

In 2005, the Tigers allowed just 266.9 yards per game, and ranked in the top 10 nationally in all four major defensive categories, including third in total defense, scoring defense and pass efficiency defense. Kyle Williams and Claude Wroten were both first-team All-America selections.

Overall, the 10 college teams Pelini has been a part of have compiled an impressive 104-30 record, winning at least nine games every season, including seven 10-win campaigns, four 11-win seasons and a pair of 12-win efforts. His defenses have posted 10 shutouts and held the opposition to seven points or less 40 times.

Before joining the Huskers in 2003, Pelini had nine years of NFL experience, one season at a Division I university, and one year in the high school ranks. Pelini broke into the NFL in 1994 as assistant secondary coach for the San Francisco 49ers. With the 49ers, Pelini coached

in the Super Bowl, helping San Francisco to a 49-26 win over San Diego in Super Bowl XXIX. Pelini held that position for three years before moving to the Patriots. He spent three years as New England's linebackers coach under coach Pete Carroll, helping the Patriots to a 27-21 record and two playoff appearances.

After three years with the Patriots, Pelini moved to the Packers, coaching linebackers for three seasons. In three years in Green Bay with head coach Mike Sherman, the Packers posted a 33-15 record and advanced twice to the playoffs. In 2002, the Packer defense ranked fourth in the NFL in pass defense, allowing 188.4 yards per game.

Pelini got his start in coaching in 1991, serving as a graduate assistant coach at Iowa under Hayden Fry. From there he moved into the high school ranks, serving as quarterbacks coach at Cardinal Mooney High School in Youngstown, Ohio in 1993 before taking the leap to the 49ers.

A standout free safety at Ohio State from 1987 to 1990, Pelini earned four letters for the Buckeyes. He was a three-time selection to the Academic All-Big Ten team. As a senior co-captain Pelini received the "Bo Rein Award," given annually to the Buckeyes' most inspirational player.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT BO PELINI

"Our football program has made significant progress under Bo's leadership. Bo is very straight-forward and very honest, and this is something players like. Our football team has responded to Bo's leadership and that has been a big part of the team's success. It is obvious he has a good understanding of this football program and an understanding of the importance of football to the state."

**Tom Osborne, Hall of Fame Football Coach and former NU Athletic Director**

"Bo is a great person and a great coach. He did a wonderful job for us while he was on our staff, and he has obviously been successful at his other stops, as well. He is doing an excellent job for Nebraska."

**Oklahoma Head Coach Bob Stoops**

"I spent five years with Bo in the NFL. He's a great football coach. He is a success due to his work ethic, toughness and the great schemes that he brings."

**Seattle Seahawks Head Coach Pete Carroll**

"Hopefully, I am an example of what a player can gain by coming to Nebraska and playing for Coach Pelini and his staff. The coaching staff taught me so much in the short amount of time I was able to work with them. As a recruit you can come in and have four years under your belt with this staff. Just imagine how much better you can become."

**Ndamukong Suh, 2009 Heisman Trophy finalist, Lombardi, Outland, Nagurski and Bednarik awards winner and 2010 No. 2 NFL Draft pick**

"When Coach Pelini came (to Nebraska) he definitely established a whole new culture that kept all of us accountable and just got us ready to be young men in the future."

**Prince Amukamara, 2010 All-American and 2011 No. 19 NFL Draft pick**

"I'm just grateful I had the opportunity to play for him because he's done tremendous things for me in my career. He has, without a doubt, made me the player I am today. I just enjoy the way he coaches. I just enjoy being around him."

**Glenn Dorsey, 2007 Lombardi Award and Outland Trophy winner under Pelini**

