



Cory Ross

#4

I-Back | Senior | 5-6 | 195 | Three Letters | Denver, Colo. (Thomas Jefferson) | Doak Walker Award Candidate

- ▶ Preseason No. 9 Running Back in Nation (The Sporting News)
- ▶ 2004 Doak Walker Award Watch List
- ▶ 2004 Nebraska Offensive MVP

- ▶ 2004 Second-Team All-Big 12 (Dallas Morning News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram)
- ▶ 2004 Honorable-Mention All-Big 12 (AP, Coaches)

2005 Outlook

Senior I-back Cory Ross had a breakout 2004 season in his first year in the Huskers' West Coast attack. It was apparent from the start of the season that Ross was a natural in the offensive system, not only as a runner, but as a receiver out of the backfield. The 5-6, 195-pounder has an excellent combination of shiftiness, vision and toughness as a runner, and enters fall camp as a clear No. 1 at the I-back position.

Ross was Nebraska's most dependable offensive weapon in 2004, finishing the year with 1,102 yards rushing and six rushing touchdowns, along with a pair of touchdown receptions. He became the first Husker I-back to top 1,000 yards since 2001, en route to second-team All-Big 12 honors, as well as Team Offensive MVP honors. As a fifth-year senior, Ross could be poised for bigger conference and national honors this fall.

Ross' efforts as Nebraska's offensive workhorse are even more impressive because he battled a series of injuries in the second half of the season. His 1,102-yard season was the 27th 1,000-yard effort in school history and the 18th-most productive single-season rushing total in school history. Ross averaged 100.2 rushing yards per game, a total that ranked fifth in the Big 12 and 23rd nationally. Ross is poised to continue his rise on the Nebraska career rushing list. He enters the season 26th with 1,861 yards and is 712 yards from cracking the top 10 on the Husker career chart.

The Colorado native proved to be an all-around back last season, catching 21 passes, including a pair of touchdowns, out of the Husker backfield. His 21 receptions were third on the team and the most by an NU running back since 1994. The 262 yards receiving by Ross were the most by a back since 1969. Ross had his first career touchdown reception against Kansas, then had a 74-yard touchdown reception against Baylor, the longest reception by a Nebraska back since 1978.

Ross played sparingly early in the 2003 season, before taking over the starting role for the season's final three games and recording three 100-yard outings and finishing with 575 yards rushing. Ross rushed for 184 yards and two touchdowns as a redshirt freshman in 2002.

Ross is on track to earn his degree in sociology in May of 2006.

2004 (Junior)

Ross started all 11 games at I-back for the Huskers as a junior, and finished the year with 1,102 yards on 207 carries, an average of 5.3 yards per tote and just more than 100 yards per game. Ross put together six 100-yard rushing games on the season, with a career-best 194 yards against Missouri. He was also one of Nebraska's top receiving threats, catching 21 passes for 262 yards. Ross' efforts earned his second-team All-Big 12 honors and Nebraska Offensive MVP honors.



Career Statistics and Personal Bests

Rushing

Year	G/S	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Y/A	Y/G	Long	TDs	
2001		Redshirted								
2002	12/1	35	188	4	184	5.3	15.3	34 vs. ASU	2	
2003	13/3	130	596	21	575	4.4	44.2	23 vs. Colorado	4	
2004	11/11	207	1,141	39	1,102	5.3	100.2	86 vs. Missouri	6	
Totals	36/15	372	1,925	64	1,861	5.0	51.7	86 vs. Missouri	12	

Receiving: 28-337-2 total; 5-39-0 in 2002; 2-36-0 in 2003; 21-262-2 in 2004

Punt Returns: 7-87-0 total; 1-25 in 2002; 6-62 in 2003

2003 Alamo Bowl vs. Michigan State: Rushing, 37*-138-2 TD; * School Record

Single-Game Bests:

Rushing Attempts—37 vs. Michigan State, 2003 Alamo Bowl (School Record)

Rushing Yards—194 vs. Missouri, 2004 (19 carries)

Long Rush—86 vs. Missouri, 2004 (TD)

Rushing Touchdowns—2 vs. Michigan State, 2003 Alamo Bowl; vs. Missouri, 2004

Pass Receptions—5 vs. Southern Miss, 2004

Receiving Yards—77 vs. Baylor, 2004

Long Pass Reception—74 yards vs. Baylor, 2004 (TD)

yard touchdown against the Bears. Ross carried 16 times for 43 yards at Kansas State, and also caught a 63-yard pass out of the backfield to set up Nebraska's first score of the day.

The junior produced his finest outing of the season in a 24-3 victory over Missouri when he racked up a career-high 194 yards on 19 carries, including two touchdowns. Ross' 86-yard touchdown scamper in the fourth quarter was the eighth-longest run in school history and the longest by an NU I-back in 12 seasons. His 194 yards rushing were the most by a Husker I-back in four years.

Ross made it three straight 100-yard games over the next two weeks by topping the century mark in road games at Iowa State and Oklahoma. He rushed for 126 yards on 19 carries against the Cyclones and scored his sixth touchdown of the season. Against the second-ranked Sooners, Ross ran 30 times for 130 yards, making him the only back to top 100 yards against the Sooners all season. He also surpassed the 1,000-yard mark for the season at Oklahoma. He capped his junior year with 35 yards rushing against Colorado.

2003 (Sophomore)

Ross played in all 13 games in 2003, and shined while starting the final three games. He finished the season as Nebraska's third-leading rusher with 575 yards, including 436 yards in the season's final four games, when he carried the ball 94 times. Ross tallied three 100-yard outings in the final four games of the season, including a season-high 138 yards on a Nebraska single-game record 37 carries in the Alamo Bowl victory over Michigan State. Ross finished the year with four touchdowns, including a pair of scores in the Huskers' 17-3 Alamo Bowl win over Michigan State.

The Huskers used three I-backs extensively throughout the year, and Ross had just 36 carries in the first nine games, while playing behind Josh Davis and David Horne. His best outing in the first nine games was against Iowa State when he carried nine times for 54 yards, and Ross scored his first touchdown of the year on a three-yard third quarter run against Troy State.

His role then changed dramatically in the Kansas game. With Nebraska leading the Jayhawks 10-3 at halftime, Ross started the second half and gave the Huskers a spark. He carried 19 times for a then-career-high 108 yards in the 24-3 victory. The performance earned Ross a promotion to the starting spot for NU's matchup with Kansas State. Ross handled his first start well, with 16 rushes for 87 yards and a season-long 26-yard reception against the Wildcats.

In the regular-season finale at Colorado, Ross carried 22 times for 103 yards and scored from two yards out to give Nebraska a 21-10 second-quarter lead. Ross had a season-long 23-yard run in the victory. Ross was a workhorse in the Alamo Bowl against Michigan State. He carried seven times on Nebraska's first series en route to his school-record carries total. He scored touchdowns from two and six yards in the second quarter to give Nebraska its 17-3 lead.

Ross also finished the season with two receptions for 36 yards and had six punt returns for 62 yards, including a 30-yarder against Troy State.

2002 (Redshirt Freshman)

Ross began the 2002 season as NU's No. 6 I-back, but quickly moved up the depth chart. He played in 12 games, including a start against Missouri when NU opened in a spread formation. Ross saw his most extensive action of the season in the first five games, and finished the season as NU's fifth-leading rusher with 184 yards on 35 carries (5.3 ypa) and two touchdowns.

Ross had three carries for a season-high 44 yards, including a 34-yard TD run, in the season opener vs. Arizona State. He added 27 yards against Troy State and 42 yards vs. Utah State, including a 13-yard TD run. Ross had 27 yards rushing at Penn State, and four carries at Iowa State, while catching two passes for 14 yards. He caught five passes for 39 yards on the year, and had a 25-yard punt return against Kansas.

2001 (Redshirt)

Ross redshirted in his first season at Nebraska.

Before Nebraska (Thomas Jefferson HS)

Ross was a prep All-America cornerback and also starred at running back at Thomas Jefferson High School in Denver. He rushed for 1,543 yards and 23 touchdowns as a senior, led the state in total offense with 3,700 yards, and had 12 return touchdowns (six on kickoffs and six on punt returns). Ross had five interceptions (two for touchdowns) as a senior and was third with 84 tackles.

Ross' Game by Game

2002 *games started

Game	No.	Yards	TDs	Avg.	Long
ASU	3	44	1	14.7	34 (TD)
TSU	5	27	0	5.4	11
USU	9	42	1	4.7	13
PSU	7	27	0	3.9	11
ISU	4	10	0	2.5	4
MSU	1	3	0	3.0	3
MU	1	14	0	14.0	14
OSU	0	0	0	0.0	0
A&M	0	0	0	0.0	0
UT	0	0	0	0.0	0
KU	5	17	0	3.4	13
KSU		Did Not Play			
CU	0	0	0	0.0	0

2002 Independence Bowl vs. Mississippi

UM	Did Not Play				
Totals	35	184	2	5.3	34

2003

Game	No.	Yards	TDs	Avg.	Long
OSU	0	0	0	0.0	0
USU	8	22	0	2.8	8
PSU	0	0	0	0.0	0
USM	6	25	0	4.2	10
TSU	6	16	1	2.7	6
MU	0	0	0	0.0	0
A&M	7	22	0	3.1	9
ISU	9	54	0	6.0	13
UT	0	0	0	0.0	0
KU	19	108	0	5.7	11
KSU*	16	87	0	5.4	16
CU*	22	103	1	4.7	23

2003 Alamo Bowl vs. Michigan State

MSU*	37	138	2	3.7	12
Totals	130	575	4	4.4	23

2004

Game	No.	Yards	TDs	Avg.	Long
WIU*	13	125	0	9.6	20
USM*	27	169	0	6.3	52
PITT*	24	73	1	3.1	9
KU*	19	107	1	5.6	22
TT*	15	49	0	3.3	12
BU*	14	51	1	3.6	13
KSU*	16	43	0	2.7	13
MU*	19	194	2	10.2	86
ISU*	19	126	1	6.6	36
OU*	30	130	0	4.3	24
CU*	11	35	0	3.2	12
Totals	207	1,102	6	5.3	86

A *Denver Post* 2000 Blue Chip and a two-time all-state player, Ross was named to the Colorado all-star team and played in the National High School All-Star Game in Texas. Ross rushed for 986 yards and 13 touchdowns as a junior, while being utilized mainly as a receiver. He was awarded the school's Spartan Award for dedication, teamwork and sacrifice, as he played nearly every position on the field. Ross also played two years of basketball and earned four letters in track. Ross only visited Nebraska after attending the Big Red Football School.

Personal

The son of Roger Ross and Gale Frazier, Cory was born on Sept. 22, 1982, in Denver. His older brother, Roger, played wide receiver at Kansas and lettered in 2000 and 2001. Cory is a sociology major and is on track to earn his degree in May of 2006.