



# Dave Kennedy

Head Strength Coach | Second Season | Nebraska, 1985



- ▶ Helped produce 21 All-Americans
- ▶ Had 18 players go on to be NFL first-round selections

One of the nation's top strength and conditioning coaches, Dave Kennedy returned to his roots in 2004 and is now in his second season as the Huskers' head strength coach.

An integral part of Coach Bill Callahan's staff, Kennedy was lured away from the University of Pittsburgh by Coach Bill Callahan, who had previously tried to hire Kennedy when Callahan was the head coach of the Oakland Raiders.

Kennedy got his start in the field at Nebraska, where he earned his degree and trained under Boyd Epley. Kennedy worked under his mentor from 1982 to 1988 and graduated from Nebraska with a degree in strength coaching in 1985.

After working on Epley's staff for seven years, Kennedy was hired as the head football strength coach at Ohio State. At Ohio State, Kennedy helped bring the Buckeye program to national prominence. From 1989 to 2001, he worked with standouts such as Eddie George, Orlando Pace, Joey Galloway, Dan Wilkinson, David Boston, Andy Katzenmoyer, Shawn Springs, Robert Smith and Mike Vrabel, producing 21 All-America awards, 17 first-round draft picks, and winners of Heisman and Outland trophies as well as the Butkus, Biletnikoff, Thorpe and Lombardi Awards.

During his 14 years at Ohio State, Kennedy established himself as one of the premier strength coaches in the country. As ESPN GameDay sports reporter Kirk Herbstreit said, "To me in this day and age of college football, the strength coach position has become a high priority because the strength coach is with the players the most of anyone on the staff. His job is to create a winning attitude through the physical and mental development of the players. Dave Kennedy sets the bar in the college football community."

The Omaha native left Ohio State before the start of the 2002 season and joined Head Coach Walt Harris' staff at Pittsburgh. At Pittsburgh, Kennedy helped wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald develop into a Heisman Trophy runner-up and the recipient of the 2003 Walter Camp Award and the 2003 Biletnikoff Award.

Kennedy received Ohio State's Admiral's Trophy prior to the 1993 Holiday Bowl. The Admiral's Trophy, voted on by the players, goes to the person whose dedication, hard work and spirit most inspired the team.

Dave and his wife, Julie, have three sons, Ben, Nick and Eric. Julie was a former Husker Hostess for the football recruiting program.

## The Kennedy File

**Date and Place of Birth:** Born Nov. 15, 1960, in Omaha, Neb.

**Family:** wife, Julie; sons, Ben (11), Nick (9), Eric (5)

**Education:** University of Nebraska-Lincoln, bachelors in strength coaching, 1985

**Strength Coaching Experience:** 1982-85, Nebraska (student assistant strength coach); 1986-88, Nebraska (assistant strength coach); 1989-2001, Ohio State (head strength coach); 2002-2003, Pittsburgh (head strength coach); 2004-present, Nebraska (head strength coach)



*The Kennedy family (from left): Julie, Nick, Eric, Ben and Dave.*