



# John Garrison

52

**POS.** Center/Snapper

**HT./WT.** 6-4 / 290

**YEAR** Senior

**LETTERS** Four Letters

**HOME** Blue Springs, Mo.

**H.S.** Blue Springs

- 2002 Second-Team All-Big 12 (Kansas City Star, Dallas Morning News)
- 2002 Honorable-Mention All-Big 12 (Coaches, Associated Press)
- 2002 Tom Novak Award Winner
- 2001 Honorable-Mention All-Big 12 (AP)
- 2000 Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll

Senior center John Garrison closed an excellent Husker career in the 2002 Independence Bowl. Garrison was a two-year starter at center for Nebraska and played in every game during his four-year Husker career. This season Garrison played a key role in Nebraska's Big 12-leading rushing offense and served as one of three team captains.

Nebraska finished the season averaging 268.7 yards per game on the ground, good for fourth in the nation. Garrison was the most experienced player on the offensive front coming into 2002 and played a key leadership role for NU's offensive line.

Veteran Husker offensive line coach Milt Tenopir has said the mobile Garrison is one of the most consistent centers Nebraska has ever had. Garrison's steady play was recognized as he was an honorable-mention All-Big 12 selection for the second consecutive season.

Garrison finished second on the team in 2002 with 140 pancakes in the regular season, including seven double-figure pancake games. He has raised his career pancake total to 271, good for seventh on Nebraska's career knock-down block list.

Garrison and his offensive line mates were at their best during a six-game stretch in October and November. Beginning with a season-high 444 yards rushing against McNeese State, Nebraska averaged 346.8 yards rushing and topped 300 yards on the ground in five of those six contests. Included in that stretch was a 381-yard rushing effort in a 38-31 comeback victory at Texas A&M. In that game, Garrison had 20 pancakes to tie his career-best and was part of an NU offensive line that produced a school-record 110 knock-downs in the game.

The 6-4, 290-pound Garrison also continued his role as the long snapper for Nebraska's punting unit in 2002. His near-perfect execution on snapping has triggered the Huskers' 38.2-yard net punting average that ranks sixth in the nation.

**2002: Arizona State**-Garrison had six pancakes as Nebraska rushed for 283 yards and three touchdowns in a 48-10 rout of Arizona State. **Troy State**-The Husker offense gained 313 total yards, including 199 on the ground in NU's 31-16 victory. Garrison recorded seven pancakes. **Utah State**-Garrison had a team-high 14 pancakes as the Huskers scored 37 points before halftime in the 44-13 win and gained 288 rushing yards and 418 total yards. **Penn State**-He recorded 14 pancakes to lead an

offensive line that helped NU pick up 252 yards on the ground and did not allow a sack. **Iowa State**-Garrison had five pancakes in Nebraska's 36-14 loss at Iowa State. **McNeese State**-With Garrison leading the way with 12 pancakes, the Huskers rolled up season highs in both rushing yards (444) and total offense (595) en route to a 38-14 victory. **Missouri**-Nebraska rushed for 325 yards behind Garrison and the offensive line in a 24-13 win. The offensive line's play allowed the

Huskers to control the ball for more than 20 minutes in the second half. **Oklahoma**

**State**-Garrison recorded 12 pancakes and the Huskers rushed for 259 yards in a 24-21 loss at Oklahoma State.

**Texas A&M**-Garrison tied his career high with 20 pancakes in NU's 38-31 victory. The Huskers rushed for 381 yards in the game,

including 243 yards after halftime. The Husker offensive line set a school record with 110 pancakes as a team. **Texas**-Garrison had 11 pancakes to help the

Husker running game rack up 320 yards rushing against the nation's third-ranked defense. **Kansas**-Garrison helped Nebraska to 352 yards rushing in a 45-7 victory and

had eight pancakes in the victory. **Kansas State**-Garrison recorded 16 pancakes in Nebraska's 49-13 loss. **Colorado**-Garrison had eight

pancakes in his final regular-season game with Nebraska. **Mississippi**-NU finished with 266 rushing yards and 359 yards of offense in a 27-23 loss in the Independence Bowl.

**Career:** Garrison switched positions from rush end to center almost immediately upon arrival in Lincoln, filling the Huskers' need for a long snapper. He saw limited action as a center in 1999, but was NU's deep snapper. He was a backup center and guard in 2000; then in 2001 took over the starting center duties from All-American Dominic Raiola, who left school early for the NFL.

Garrison was one of the top performers on a 2001 Nebraska offensive line that led the Huskers to their 15th NCAA rushing title by averaging 314.7 yards per game on the ground. Garrison started every game at center, earning honorable-mention All-Big 12 honors from the Associated Press. He recorded the fourth-best single-season pancake total by a center in school history with 125 knock-down blocks. His 2001 total trailed only All-American and Outland Trophy finalist Toniu Fonoti. Garrison also produced one of the best single-game performances in school history with a career-high 20 pancakes against Kansas State.

*For more information on John Garrison, please see pages 108-109 of the 2002 Nebraska Football Media Guide.*

## Top 10 Nebraska Pancake Seasons

1. 201 Toniu Fonoti, OG, 2001 (12 games)
2. **157 R. Incognito, OT, 2002 (13)**
3. 155 Toniu Fonoti, OG, 2000 (11)
4. 145 Dominic Raiola, C, 2000 (11)
5. 143 Russ Hochstein, OG, 2000 (11)
6. 140 Dominic Raiola, C, 1999 (12)
7. **140 John Garrison, C, 2002 (13)**
8. 136 Aaron Taylor, OG, 1997 (11)
9. 128 Aaron Taylor, C, 1995 (11)
10. 126 Russ Hochstein, OG, 1999 (12)
- **125 John Garrison, C, 2001 (12)**

## Nebraska Pancake Career Totals

1. 379 Toniu Fonoti, OG, 1999-00-01
2. 377 Aaron Taylor, C/OG, 1995-96-97
3. 361 Dominic Raiola, C, 1998-99-00
4. 346 R. Hochstein, OG, 1997-98-99-00
5. 343 Dave Volk, OT, 1998-99-00-01
6. 282 Josh Heskew, C, 1996-97-98
7. **271 John Garrison, C, 1999-00-01-02**
8. 270 Eric Anderson, OT, 1995-96-97
9. 265 Chris Dishman, OG, 1995-96-97
10. 212 James Sherman, OG, 1996-97-98-99

\*-Does not include 2002 Independence Bowl

## ■ Career Statistics and Personal Bests

### Pancakes

Year	Total	Avg.	Single-Game High
1999	2	0.2	2 vs. Missouri
2000	4	0.4	2 vs. Baylor and Kansas
2001	125	10.4	20 vs. Kansas State
<u>2002</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>11.0</u>	<u>20 vs. Texas A&amp;M</u>
Total	271	5.6	20 vs. Kansas State (2001), Texas A&M (2002)

**Tackles:** 0 UT, 1 AT, 1 TT (vs. Texas Tech), 2000

**Games Played**-49 (12 in 1999; 11 in 2000; 12 in 2001; 14 in 2002)

**Games Started**-26 (12 in 2001; 14 in 2002)

**Career Pancake Best**-20 vs. Kansas State, 2001; Texas A&M, 2002

**Double Digit Pancake Games**-13 (6 in 2001; 7 in 2002)