

Chris Kelsay

NFF/HOF Scholar-Athlete

57

POS.	Rush End
HT./WT.	6-5 / 260
YEAR	Senior
LETTERS	Four Letters
HOME	Auburn, Neb.
H.S.	Auburn

- 2002 National Football Foundation/College Hall of Fame Scholar-Athlete (\$18,000 Postgraduate Scholarship Recipient)
- Three-Time First-Team Verizon/CoSIDA Academic All-District VII (200, 2001, 2002)
- 2002 Second-Team All-Big 12 (Kansas City Star)
- 2002 Honorable-Mention All-Big 12 (Coaches, Associated Press)
- 2002 Nebraska Team Captain
- 2002 Brook Berringer Citizenship Team Member
- 2002 Native Son Award Winner
- 2002 Independence Bowl Defensive Player of the Game
- 2002 Independence Bowl Scholar-Athlete Award Recipient
- 2001 Second-Team All-American (Football News)
- 2001 First-Team All-Big 12 (Kansas City Star)
- 2001 Second-Team All-Big 12 (AP, Coaches, Dallas Morning News, Waco Tribune-Herald)
- Four-Time First-Team Academic All-Big 12 (1999, 2000, 2001, 2002)
- Four-Time Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll
- Four-Time Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll

Rush end Chris Kelsay (pronounced KELL-see) is the latest in a long line of outstanding Husker rush ends. Kelsay emerged as a leader of the Blackshirt defense as a junior, and took an even bigger leadership role in 2002 as one of Nebraska's three team captains.

The 6-5, 260-pound Kelsay endured a frustrating 2002 campaign in which he missed most of six games with an injury to his right hamstring. Despite missing several weeks, Kelsay led the team in sacks (7), tackles for loss (13-58) and quarterback hurries (18). Kelsay has compiled his impressive statistics this season while regularly being double-teamed by the opposition.

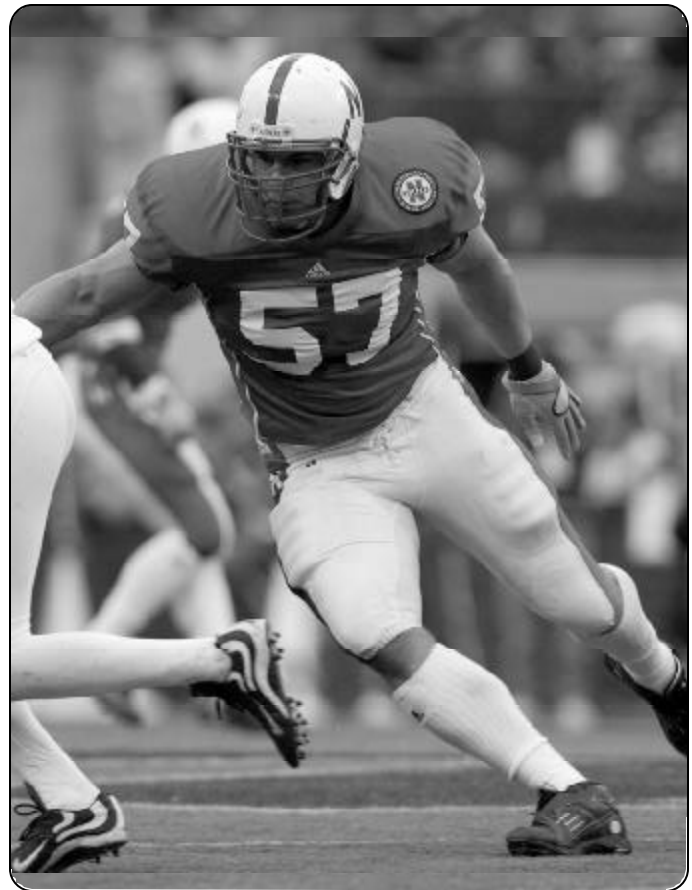
The respect Kelsay has around the conference was recognized in the postseason when he was a second-team All-Big 12 pick by the *Kansas City Star* and received honorable-mention accolades from the league's coaches. Kelsay's on-the-field accomplishments add to an impressive resume of academic recognition.

Kelsay was one of 14 college football players to receive an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship from the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame. He and the other recipients were honored at the

College Hall of Fame's Awards dinner on Dec. 10 in New York City. Kelsay also received a scholar-athlete award during the Huskers' visit to the 2002 MainStay Independence Bowl.

Kelsay became just the fifth Husker player to earn first-team academic all-conference honors in four seasons. Kelsay also earned first-team Verizon/CoSIDA Academic All-District VII honors for the third consecutive season. Kelsay was an academic standout just like his older brother, Chad, who was a first-team academic All-American as a senior. Like Chris, Chad also wore No. 57 and started at rush end for the Huskers. Both Chris and Chad Kelsay served as captains for the Huskers, one of just five sets of brothers to both be elected as Nebraska team captains.

The younger Kelsay graduated on Dec. 21 with a finance degree. He finished his undergraduate studies with a better than 3.5 cumulative grade-point average.



Chris Kelsay missed five games with a hamstring injury, but led Nebraska in sacks, tackles for loss and quarterback hurries in his senior season.

■ Career Statistics and Personal Bests

Year	G/S	-----Tackles-----				Fum.				QB Int.	
		UT	AT	TT	TFL	Sacks	C-R	BKPB	PI	Hrv.	Csd.
1998		Redshirted									
1999	11/1	8	8	16	1-3	0.5-3	0-0	0	1	0	4
2000	11/7	9	20	29	2-5	0.5-4	1-0	0	4	0	9
2001	12/12	27	25	52	17-58	5-24	1-0	0	1	0	12
2002	9/9	17	21	38	13-58	7-49	0-0	0	3	0	18
Totals	43/29	61	74	135	33-124	13-80	2-0	0	9	0	43

2000 Fiesta Bowl vs. Tennessee: Tackles, 0 UT, 1 AT, 1 TT; TFL 1-1
2000 Alamo Bowl vs. Northwestern: Tackles, 2 UT, 1 AT, 3 TT; TFL 2-10; Sacks 1-9; QBH 1

2002 Rose Bowl vs. Miami: Tackles, 2 UT, 2 AT, 4 TT; TFL 2-4
2002 Independence Bowl vs. Ole Miss: Tackles, 3 UT, 3 AT, 6 TT; TFL 3-10; Sacks 1.5-9

Tackles—11 at Kansas State, 2002
Solo Tackles—7 vs. Kansas, 2001
TFL— 5-21 vs. Kansas, 2001
Sacks—2-5 vs. Kansas, 2001; 2-13 vs. Utah State, 2002
Quarterback Hurries—4, three times, most recently at Penn State, 2002
Passes Broken Up— 1, nine times, most recently at Kansas State, 2002

Kelsay recorded 4.5 sacks in NU's first five games to rank among the Big 12 leaders. However, Kelsay injured his right hamstring in the first quarter against McNeese State and was forced to the sideline for the subsequent five games. Before the injury Kelsay had started 27 consecutive games at rush end. Kelsay returned to action against 11th-ranked Kansas State and recorded a career-high 11 tackles and a sack.

He capped his career with six tackles, including three tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks for nine yards against Ole Miss in the Independence Bowl. His effort earned him defensive player-of-the-game honors and his three tackles for loss gave him 33 in his career, good for ninth on Nebraska's career list. The injury this season hurt Kelsay's chances of contending for All-America honors on and off the field. A year ago, he earned second-team All-America and All-Big 12 honors during his junior season, helping the Huskers to an 11-2 record and an appearance in the Rose Bowl.

2002: Arizona State-Kelsay opened the season with two tackles for losses and 1.5 sacks for 17 yards in losses against the Sun Devils. He also had a team-high four quarterback hurries as ASU completed just 17-of-41 passes. **Troy State**-Kelsay recorded a pair of tackles, including a tackle for loss and hurried Trojan quarterback Hansell Bearden twice. Kelsay also had a pass breakup in the contest. **Utah State**-Kelsay had the second two-sack game of his career, wrapping up Aggie quarterback Jose Fuentes twice behind the line for losses of 13 yards. Kelsay also had a pass breakup. The NU defense allowed Utah State to complete just 19-of-44 passes. **Penn State**-Kelsay had three tackles and Nebraska's only sack along with four quarterback hurries. **Iowa State**-Kelsay had seven tackles, including three tackles for loss. He added two hurries of Cyclone QB Seneca Wallace. **McNeese State**-Kelsay left early in the game with a hamstring injury and had one assisted tackle. **Missouri**-Did not play because of a pulled hamstring. **Oklahoma State**-Did not play because of a pulled hamstring. **Texas A&M**-Did not play because of a pulled hamstring. **Texas**-Did not play because of a pulled hamstring. **Kansas**-Did not play because of a pulled hamstring. **Kansas State**-Kelsay returned to action after missing five games. He made his presence known against the Wildcats with a career-high 11 tackles, including a sack. He added a quarterback hurry and a pass breakup in the loss. **Colorado**-Kelsay recorded four tackles in his final game at Memorial Stadium. He added three quarterback hurries in Nebraska's 28-13 loss. **Mississippi**-Kelsay was named Defensive Player of the Game with six tackles. He recorded 1.5 sacks for nine yards and had three total tackles for losses of 10 yards against the Rebels.

Career: Kelsay captured second-team All-America honors from the *Football News* in 2001, while earning academic All-District VII honors in the classroom. He also claimed first-team All-Big 12 accolades from the *Kansas City Star*, after starting all 12 games for the Huskers. Kelsay ranked sixth on the team in total tackles with 52 and first in tackles for loss with 17 for 58 yards lost. Kelsay was second on the team in sacks with five for a loss of 24 yards and tied fellow rush end Demoine Adams for the team lead in quarterback hurries with 12.

Nebraska's showdown with Oklahoma brought out the best in Kelsay, as he recorded a season-high eight tackles, a tackle for loss and a career-high four quarterback hurries. Kelsay had four tackles, including two for loss against Miami in the 2002 Rose Bowl.

Kelsay played in all games and started the final seven at left rush end as a sophomore in 2000. He finished the season with 29 tackles and had two tackles for loss. Kelsay started and had three tackles in the Alamo Bowl vs. Northwestern, two of the tackles were for losses, including a nine-yard sack. He also had one quarterback hurry.

The Auburn, Neb., native played in 11 games as a freshman on Nebraska's 1999 Big 12 championship team. He finished the season with 16 total tackles, with three against Oklahoma State and Colorado. Kelsay played in the Fiesta Bowl vs. Tennessee and had an assisted tackle for a one-yard loss.

Kelsay redshirted his first year as a Husker in 1998 and watched as his brother, Chad, completed his NU career.

For more information on Chris Kelsay, please see pages 112-113 of the 2002 Nebraska Football Media Guide.

■ Kelsay's Game-by-Game

1999											
Defense	(-----Tackles-----)					Fum.			QB Int.		
Year	UT	AT	TT	TFL	Sacks	Csd.-Rec.	BK	PBU	PI	Hrv	Csd.
Iowa	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	3-0
Cal	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
So. Miss	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Missouri	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1-0
Okla. St.*	1	2	3	1-3	0.5-3	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Iowa St.	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Texas	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Kansas	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
A&M	DNP - groin pull										
Kansas St.	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Colorado	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Texas	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Totals	8	8	16	1-3	0.5-3	0-0	0	1	0	0	4-0
1999 Fiesta Bowl vs. Tennessee:											
	0	1	1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
2000											
Defense	(-----Tackles-----)					Fum.			QB Int.		
Year	UT	AT	TT	TFL	Sacks	Csd.-Rec.	BK	PBU	PI	Hrv	Csd.
SISU	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	2-0
ND	0	3	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	1-0
Iowa	1	2	3	1-4	0.5-4	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Missouri	3	1	4	1-1	0-0	1-0	0	1	0	0	0-0
Iowa St.*	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Texas Tech*	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Baylor*	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	1-0
Oklahoma*	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1-0
Kansas*	1	3	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1-0
Kansas St.*	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1-0
Colorado*	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2-0
Totals	9	20	29	2-5	0.5-4	1-0	0	4	0	0	9-0
2000 Alamo Bowl vs. Northwestern*:											
	2	1	3	2-10	1-9	0-0	0	0	0	0	1-0
2001											
Defense	(-----Tackles-----)					Fum.			QB Int.		
Year	UT	AT	TT	TFL	Sacks	Csd.-Rec.	BK	PBU	PI	Hrv	Csd.
TCU*	2	3	5	2-3	0-0	1-0	0	0	0	0	1-0
Troy State*	2	2	4	2-6	1-5	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Notre Dame*1	2	3	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Rice*	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1-0
Missouri*	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	1-0
Iowa State*	3	1	4	3-12	1-6	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Baylor*	2	3	5	1-5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Texas Tech*2	1	3	2-9	1-8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2-0
Oklahoma*	3	5	8	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	4-0
Kansas*	7	1	8	5-21	2-5	0-0	0	0	0	0	1-0
Kansas St.*	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1-0
Colorado*	3	3	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1-0
Totals	27	25	52	17-58	5-24	1-0	0	1	0	0	12-0
2002 Rose Bowl vs. Miami*:											
	2	2	4	2-4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
2002											
Defense	(-----Tackles-----)					Fum.			QB Int.		
Year	UT	AT	TT	TFL	Sacks	Csd.-Rec.	BK	PBU	PI	Hrv	Csd.
ASU*	1	1	2	2-17	1.5-17	0-0	0	0	0	0	4-0
Troy State*	1	1	2	1-3	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	2-0
Utah State*	2	0	2	2-13	2-13	0-0	0	1	0	0	2-0
Penn State*	1	2	3	1-8	1-8	0-0	0	0	0	0	4-0
Iowa State*	2	5	7	3-5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2-0
McNeese St.*	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Missouri	DNP-Hamstring										
Okla. St.	DNP-Hamstring										
Texas A&M	DNP-Hamstring										
Texas	DNP-Hamstring										
Kansas	DNP-Hamstring										
Kansas St.*	5	6	11	1-2	1-2	0-0	0	1	0	0	1-0
Colorado*	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	3-0
2002 Independence Bowl vs. Ole Miss*:											
	3	3	6	3-10	1.5-9	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Totals	17	21	38	13-58	7-49	0-0	0	3	0	0	18-0

* Indicates starts; career bests in boldface