



Wilson Thomas

POS. Split End
HT./WT. 6-6 / 215
YEAR Senior
LETTERS Four Letters
HOME Omaha, Neb.
H.S. North

- 2002 Honorable-Mention All-Big 12 (Coaches)
- 2001 Honorable-Mention All-Big 12 (Coaches)
- Nebraska Season Split End Receiving Yardage Record (616 in 2001)
- 2001 Second-Team Academic All-Big 12

Wilson Thomas led Nebraska in receptions and receiving yardage for the second straight year in 2002. Quarterback Jammal Lord looked to Thomas as a go-to-receiver and the 6-6 senior responded with 30 receptions for a team-high 353 yards. His 2002 campaign came on the heels of a strong junior season, in which Thomas led the Huskers with 37 receptions. Thomas earned honorable-mention All-Big 12 honors from the league's coaches for the second straight season.

Thomas caught three touchdown passes in 2002, an eight-yarder in the opener against Arizona State, a 23-yard grab vs. Utah State and a 27-yard reception against Kansas. Thomas caught a season-high five balls at Iowa State and had three four-catch outings during the regular season. He had a season-high 59 yards receiving on four catches at Texas A&M, which moved him into the top 10 on the NU career receptions list. Thomas' 30 catches this season brought his career total to 68, good for sixth place on the Nebraska career chart.

Thomas recorded six games in 2002 and 15 in his Husker career with three or more receptions. Thomas caught a pass in 19 of NU's last 24 contests and finished just 23 yards from becoming the 12th Husker to reach 1,000 career receiving yards.

An all-around receiver, Thomas is regarded as an excellent blocker on the perimeter. He and his fellow receivers played a key role in an NU ground game that averaged a conference-leading 268.7 yards per game.

2002: Arizona State-Thomas had three receptions for eight yards, including a nine-yard TD reception in the third quarter. Thomas' TD grab gave NU a 17-3 advantage and the Huskers pulled away for a 48-10 win. **Troy State**-Thomas had four receptions for 31 yards in Nebraska's 31-16 victory. **Utah State**-Thomas caught his second touchdown pass of the season and fifth of his career in NU's 44-13 victory. Thomas

finished the game with two receptions for 41 yards, including the 23-yard first-quarter TD grab. **Penn State**-Thomas caught a pass for the sixth straight game with one reception for three yards. **Iowa State**-He snared a season-high five catches for 49 yards in Nebraska's 36-14 loss to the Cyclones. **McNeese State**-Thomas posted his fourth game of the season with three or more receptions, catching four passes for 47 yards in NU's 38-14 victory. Nebraska passed for a season-high 151 yards in the win. **Missouri**-Nebraska relied on its running game in a 24-13 victory, and Thomas did not have a reception vs. the Tigers. **Oklahoma State**-Thomas did not have a reception in a 24-21 loss. **Texas A&M**-Thomas caught four passes for a season-high 59 yards, all in the first half, in the Huskers' 38-31 win. His 28-yard catch in the second quarter was a season-long and set up an NU touchdown that tied the game at 14. **Texas**-Thomas did not catch a pass as the Huskers relied on their running game in a 27-24 setback against the No. 7 Longhorns. **Kansas**-Thomas caught two passes for 40 yards and grabbed his third touchdown of the year, a 27-yarder, from Jammal Lord in the second quarter. **Kansas State**-Thomas caught two passes for 41 yards, including a 25-yard reception in Nebraska's loss at Kansas State. **Colorado**-Thomas was held without a reception for the fourth time in 2002. **Ole Miss**-Thomas capped his career with three receptions for 34 yards in a 27-23 Husker loss.

Career: Thomas had a breakout year for the Huskers as a junior in 2001. After being utilized his first two seasons primarily as a blocker,

Thomas doubled his career total in the first game of 2001. Thomas had 37 receptions for a Nebraska split end record 616 yards. Only two receivers in school history had better receiving yardage seasons than Thomas-Johnny Rodgers and Irving Fryar.

He also hauled in three touchdown grabs on the year with two scores against Texas Tech and one touchdown against Rice. Thomas had a career-high six receptions in two straight games-vs. Oklahoma and at Kansas. He had a career-best 109 yards on three catches at Colorado, including a career-best 78-yard reception. Thomas started and had three catches for 36 yards against Miami in the 2002 Rose Bowl.

Thomas played in 20 games and made four starts during 1999 and 2000, but had just one catch (eight yards vs. Kansas in 2000), serving as a backup to three-year starter Matt Davison. Thomas redshirted in 1998 in his first season at Nebraska.

An outstanding all-around athlete, Thomas has played basketball for Nebraska the past two years after football season. He averaged 1.8 points and 1.7 rebounds in 2001 (17 games) and 4.6 points and 3.8 rebounds in 2002 (16 games, including three starts) for Coach Barry Collier's team.

For more information on Wilson Thomas, please see pages 116-117 of the 2002 Nebraska Football Media Guide.

NU Career Reception Leaders

Player, Years	Rec.-Yds.
1. Johnny Rodgers, WB, 1970-72	143-2,479
2. Matt Davison, SE, 1997-00	93-1,456
3. Jeff Kinney, HB, 1969-71	82-864
4. Guy Ingles, SE, 1968-70	74-1,157
5. Tim Smith, SE, 1977-79	72-1,089
6. W. Thomas, SE, 1999-2002	68-977
7. Irving Fryar, WB, 1981-83	67-1,196
8. Tom Penney, SE, 1966-68	66-926
9. Todd Brown, SE, 1980-82	65-1,092
10. A. Muhammad, WB, 1991-94	61-938
Jerry List, TE, 1970-72	61-901
D. Richnafsky, SE, 1965-67	61-676

■ Career Statistics and Personal Bests

Receiving

Year	G/S	No.	Yds.	Y/R	Y/G	Long	TDs
1998		Redshirt					
1999	12/2	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0
2000	8/2	1	8	8.0	1.0	8 vs. Kansas	0
2001	12/11	37	616	16.6	51.3	78 vs. CU	3
<u>2002</u>	<u>14/12</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>353</u>	<u>11.8</u>	<u>25.2</u>	<u>28 vs. A&M</u>	<u>3</u>
Totals	46/27	68	977	14.4	21.2	78 vs. CU	6

Tackles: 5 UT, 0 AT, 5 TT total; 1 UT, 0 AT, 1 TT in 1999; 2 UT, 0 AT, 2 TT in 2001; 2 UT, 0 AT, 2 TT in 2002

2000 Alamo Bowl vs. Northwestern: Receiving, none

2000 Fiesta Bowl vs. Tennessee: Receiving, none

2002 Rose Bowl vs. Miami: Receiving, 3-36-0

2002 Independence Bowl vs. Ole Miss: Receiving, 3-34-0

Receptions-6 vs. Oklahoma, Kansas, 2001

Reception Yards-109 vs. Colorado, 2001

Long Reception-78 vs. Colorado, 2001

TD Receptions-2 vs. Texas Tech, 2001

Number of Games with Three or More Catches-15 (9 in 2001, 6 in 2002)

Number of Career Catches of 25-Plus Yards-8 (5 in 2001, 3 in 2002)

Number of Career Catches of 45-Plus Yards-1 vs. Colorado, 2001