



NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS

Big Ten Conference - West Division

NEBRASKA BIO

National Championships - 5



Big Ten Championships: 0

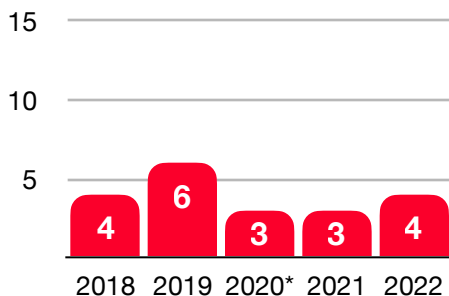
Location: **Lincoln, NE**

All-Time Record: **878-392-37**

2022 Results: **4-8**

Head Coach: **Matt Rhule**
1st Year (0-0)

5-YEAR WIN TREND



Memorial Stadium (85,458)

Can Rhule Provide Badly Needed Resurgence?

The dark days of the Scott Frost era are finally over. A blown lead against Northwestern in Ireland in Week 0 were a sign of things to come for the Cornhuskers and after a debacle against Georgia Southern Frost was received of his duties. Mickey Joseph came in an guided Nebraska to a 3-6 record the rest of the season and the Cornhuskers came well short of a bowl game appearance yet again. Shockingly, the same team that set an NCAA record 35-straight bowl appearances from 1969 to 2003 now has the unfortunate distinction as being the Power 5 team with the longest bowl draught.

In steps Matt Rhule. While his time with the Carolina Panthers was rather inauspicious, he did wonders at Baylor and had the program turned around quickly. Fans in Lincoln are simply desperate for that kind of turnaround from Nebraska and it's possible that this year's team will be the best since 2016. It's worth noting that Baylor was 1-11 in Rhule's first season there but the cupboard is much more full here than it was in Waco.

Nebraska last year's starting quarterback Casey Thompson to Florida Atlantic but pulled in a new quarterback from the portal. **Jeff Sims** arrives from Georgia Tech where he was the starter for three seasons. His passing numbers certainly don't jump off the page but he was thrown in the fire during the Covid season as Georgia Tech was undergoing a major offensive transformation from the triple option to a more traditional style. He has over 1,000 career rushing yards and is one of the most dangerous running quarterbacks. **Chubba Purdy** filled in for Thompson and struggled to throw the ball but did add 106 yards and 2 touchdowns running. The job will be Sims' but Purdy is a decent backup option.

Sims will be breaking in an almost entirely new group of receivers. After recording 1,043 receiving yards, Trey Palmer is now a Tampa Bay Buccaneer. **Marcus Washington** is essentially the only holdover from last season's big producers and had 31 catches for 471 yards. **Billy Kemp** joins the Cornhuskers from Virginia where he spent the past five seasons. **Isaiah Garcia-Castaneda** could see his role grow but Rhule will need others to step up and depth is a big question at this position. The tight end position is also a big question with Travis Vokolek now gone.

The run game struggled as a whole but **Anthony Grant** managed to collect 915 yards and 6 touchdowns. He was the bell cow with 218 carries but could get more snaps off with the return of **Gabe Ervin** and **Rahmir Johnson**. There are several returning starters on the offensive line and while this unit wasn't particularly strong last season the added experience should be very helpful. They also add **Ben Scott** who brings in 26 starts from his time at Arizona State. Rhule brings in offensive coordinator Marcus Satterfield who was previously with South Carolina. He'll be tasked with improving Nebraska's scoring offense that posted a measly 22.6 points per game last season.

The defense, led by coordinator Tony White has eight starters back and four of the top five tacklers. The Cornhuskers were torched on the ground last season although the first four games of the season inflated their yards allowed average after North Dakota blitzed them for 244 yards and Georgia Southern diced the defense for 257 the following week. **MJ Sherman** has spent time in the best defensive system in the country the past three seasons at Georgia and joins linebackers **John Bullock** and **Isaac Gifford**. **Luke Reimer** is also in the unit and led the team with 86 tackles. Nebraska didn't have a consistent pass rush but lose the main contributors from the front line. **Ty Robinson** is a powerful tackle who netted two and cornerback **Quinton Newsome** also added two but a new front three will have to rise to the occasion. The defense could be a work in progress but has a shot at being better than last season.

The Bottom Line: As much as Nebraska fans don't want to hear this, they will need to be patient with Rhule. He has a proven track record as a college coach and I expect him to figure things out in Lincoln, but it may take a season or two. Still, Nebraska has the chance to reach a bowl game with a very manageable non-conference schedule and their chances at the postseason increase dramatically if the Cornhuskers can pull off an upset or two.









Projection: 6-6 (5th in Big Ten West)

2022 Statistics

Points Scored	Rush Yards	Pass Yards	Turnover Margin
22.6	123.3	220.8	-3
102nd in FBS	100th in FBS	82nd in FBS	T-91st in FBS
Points Allowed	Rush YDS Allowed	Pass YDS Allowed	
27.6	189.1	225.3	
77th in FBS	109th in FBS	68th in FBS	



2023 Nebraska Schedule

Week	Date	Team
1	Thu, Aug 31	 @ Minnesota
2	Sat, Sept 9	 @ Colorado
3	Sat, Sept 16	 vs. No. Illinois
4	Sat, Sept 23	 vs. Louisiana Tech
5	Sat, Sept 30	 vs. Michigan
6	Fri, Oct 6	 @ Illinois
7	Bye Week	
8	Sat, Oct 21	 vs. Northwestern
9	Sat, Oct 28	 vs. Purdue
10	Sat, Nov 4	 @ Michigan State
11	Sat, Nov 11	 vs. Maryland
12	Sat, Nov 18	 @ Wisconsin
13	Fri, Nov 24	 vs. Iowa

Conference Games in Bold

KEY GAMES

Sat, Aug 31: @ Minnesota - Nebraska opens up with a Big Ten opponent in the opening week for the fourth straight season. They're 0-3 in those games and a win on the road against a tough Minnesota team would quickly endear Rhule to the fans in Lincoln.

Sat, Sept 9: @ Colorado - The Cornhuskers face Colorado in their home opener. Campus will be buzzing with Deion's first home game and Nebraska would love to play spoiler.

Sat, Nov 24: Iowa - The Hawkeyes have dominated the "Heroes Game" since Nebraska arrived in the Big Ten but the Cornhuskers did upset Iowa last season to put a stop to a 7-game win-streak. Nebraska will look to win this game in Lincoln for the first time since 2011

KEY PLAYERS

Jeff Sims - QB



Nebraska has grown accustomed to dual-threat quarterbacks and Sims has the chance to be the most productive quarterback in a Cornhusker uniform in a few years. He struggled with accuracy at Georgia Tech and has 30 touchdowns to 23 interceptions in his career but he should be better supported at Nebraska than he was in a constantly rebuilding Yellow Jacket program.

Anthony Grant - RB

Grant led the way for the Cornhuskers finishing the season with 915 yards. He got off to a blistering hot start and registered four 100-yard games in the first five weeks of the season. He cooled a bit but added another solid performance against Minnesota (115 yards). He got in Rhule's doghouse in the spring and was briefly suspended but came back and should be the top option for the Nebraska run game in 2023.



2022 RESULTS (4-8)

Northwestern (L 28-31)

North Dakota (W 38-17)

Georgia Southern (L 42-45)

Oklahoma (L 14-49)

Indiana (W 35-21)

@ Rutgers (W 14-13)

@ Purdue (L 37-43)

Illinois (L 9-26)

Minnesota (L 13-20)

@ Michigan (L 3-34)

Wisconsin (L 14-15)

@ Iowa (W 24-17)

NEBRASKA®

RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

24th

(Via 24/7 Sports)