

CLARENCE E. SWANSON MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD



Ruth and Bill Scott - Long-time supporters of the University of Nebraska, UNMC and Nebraska Athletics, Ruth and Bill Scott have been generous contributors to the Nebraska football program, the Nebraska Student Life Complex and Barbara Hibner Stadium.

Their extraordinary contributions to the University's academic programs, scholarships and facilities earned them the Regents Medal in 2009, which is the most prestigious award bestowed by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. Ruth earned her bachelor's degree in education from Nebraska, and Bill is a 1953 graduate of the Nebraska College of Business Administration. They have three sons, John, Donald and David.

Inaugurated by the Nebraska Chapter in 1972, the Clarence E. Swanson Meritorious Service Award is given annually to honor a person or family "for outstanding contributions to the University of Nebraska and the Husker Athletic Department through personal service, personal support of athletic department programs and dedication to the Husker football program and intercollegiate athletics."

LYELL BREMSER SPECIAL MERIT AWARD



Jim and Mary Abel - Jim and Mary Abel have been strong supporters of Nebraska football and men's basketball while being driving forces in the development of Haymarket Park. Jim serves as CEO of NEBCO, Inc., and the Abel Foundation while also serving as the Chairman of the Lincoln Saltdogs. He serves on the boards of Nelnet, Inc., Ameritas Mutual Holding Company and is the past Chairman of the University of Nebraska Foundation. He served on the Nebraska Wesleyan Board of Governors, is Chairman of Nebraska Game & Parks Foundation and was a founding member of Lincoln's 2015 Vision group, supporting development of the West Haymarket area.

Mary serves on the Board of NEBCO, Inc. and the Abel Foundation. She is currently on the UNMC Chancellor's Board of Counselors. She is a founding member of St. Monica's Behavioral Health Services volunteer support group and a former executive board member. She has served on the Lied Center's Statewide Advisory Board as well as the Capital Humane Society Board.

Jim and Mary's family include son Jack and wife Kayla.

Inaugurated by the Nebraska Chapter in 1974, the Lyell Bremser Special Merit Award was created to honor a person "with a background of interest in and support of intercollegiate football, who has made a sizeable contribution to society through public service and/or self-sacrifice."

NEBRASKA FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2018



Casey Beran (Chadron State) - Casey Beran left his mark as one of the greatest players in Chadron State history when he completed his career as a consensus NCAA Division II All-American and a first-team CoSIDA Academic All-American for the Eagles in 1999. The first football player in Chadron State history to earn All-America honors both on and off the field, Beran was one of only three Eagles in history to be named the Omaha World-Herald's Nebraska State College Athlete of the Year. He won that award in 2000 following his All-America season as a senior in 1999. A native of Sargent, Neb., Beran was a first-team All-American by the Football Gazette and USA Football in 1999, and a second-team choice by Daktronics and the Associated Press that same season. He was a three-time first-team All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference selection and was named the RMAC Outstanding Defensive Player in 1999. Beran recorded 182 tackles, including a Chadron State-record 35 sacks in his career, despite missing most of his sophomore season in 1997 with an ACL tear. He also caused seven fumbles in his career and recorded 38 quarterback hurries. In addition to his prowess on defense, Beran

scored 11 touchdowns as a fullback in goal-line situations for the Eagles, including seven as a junior and four as a senior. He was inducted into the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in 2013, and in 2014 was named one of the top 12 defensive players in RMAC history during its Centennial Celebration. Beran earned his bachelor's degree from Chadron State as a human biology major in May of 1999. He graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 2004 and is an orthopedic surgeon with CHI Health at Creighton University. His wife, Molly, is an obstetrician, and the couple has four children, Kaitlyn, Jack, James and Joe.



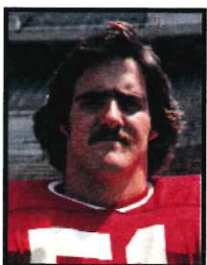
Kyle Larson (Nebraska) - One of the best punters in Nebraska history, Kyle Larson claimed first-team All-America honors as a senior for Coach Frank Solich in 2003. A three-time All-Big 12 selection who earned first-team all-conference honors as a senior, Larson was one of three finalists for the Ray Guy Award in 2003. He averaged a then-school record 45.12 yards per punt as a senior, which ranked No. 7 nationally. In the final six games of 2003, he averaged 48.5 yards per punt with 16 punts of 50 yards or more, including a career-long 80-yarder against Texas - one of only three punts of 80 yards or more by any player in Nebraska history. His 195 career punts are a Nebraska record, while his 43.67-yard career average ranks third in school history. Off the field, Larson was also a three-time second-team Academic All-Big 12 choice. After signing a free agent contract with the Cincinnati Bengals in 2004, Larson spent five NFL seasons as the starting punter in every game for the Bengals. He averaged 42.0 yards over 379 career punts, including a career-long 75-yarder. The native of Funk, Neb., who attended Kearney High School, joined the Huskers as a walk-on in 1999 after earning all-state honors as punter

while also playing center and linebacker for the Bearcats. He earned his bachelor's degree from Nebraska with a degree in business administration in May of 2004, and he currently works as a sales representative for NMC Cat in North Platte. He and his wife, Lindsay, have four sons, Colton, Nolan, Hayes and Brandt.



Mike Rucker (Nebraska) - A rush end on Nebraska's 1995 and 1997 National Championship teams for Coach Tom Osborne, Mike Rucker was a second-team All-Big 12 choice as a senior before a long NFL career. Rucker was a four-time letterman and a full-time starter during his senior season when he recorded 53 tackles, including nine tackles for loss. As a junior for the 1997 National Champion Huskers quarterbacked by Scott Frost, Rucker recorded 15 tackles for loss, including 7.5 sacks on his way to honorable-mention All-Big 12 accolades despite starting just two games. As a sophomore, Rucker also notched 15 TFL, including seven sacks. In 45 career games, he recorded 17 sacks among his 40 tackles for loss. He also caused five fumbles and four interceptions to go along with 36 quarterback hurries. Rucker was a second-round pick (38th overall) of the Carolina Panthers in the 1999 NFL Draft. He spent nine seasons as a disruptive defensive force with the Panthers, recording 421 tackles, including 55.5 sacks and forcing 16 fumbles. He also recovered seven fumbles and grabbed one interception in his 139 career NFL games. In 2003, Rucker earned a bid to the Pro Bowl while leading the

Panthers to an NFC Championship and a trip to the Super Bowl. He was named the NFL Alumni Defensive Lineman of the Year that season after recording a career-high 12 sacks. Rucker came to Nebraska after an All-America career at Benton High School in St. Joseph, Mo. Rucker earned his bachelor's degree as a sociology major from Nebraska in December of 1998. He co-founded Ruckus House, a child development and learning facility, with Carolina teammates Mike Minter, Stephen Davis and Muhsin Muhammad. Rucker also founded Vision Group Realty, and he has served as a commentator for the Panthers Television Network. He and his wife, Kris, have three children, Alexis, Mason and Marlee.



Dan Schmidt (Nebraska) - An Associated Press Honorable-Mention All-American at left guard as a senior for the Huskers in 1976, Dan Schmidt was an All-Big Eight selection as a senior. Schmidt was a two-year starter and three-year letterman for the Big Red at guard for Coach Tom Osborne. Schmidt helped protect All-America quarterback Vince Ferragamo in 1976, allowing the Huskers to lead the Big Eight in passing offense (188.0 ypg) and rank second in the conference in total offense (407.8 ypg). He was the recipient of the final scholarship awarded by Bob Devaney, and Schmidt was a member of the last offensive line assembled collectively by Cletus Fischer, Dick Beechner and Milt Tenopir. The 6-2, 222-pounder from North Platte helped the Huskers to a 28-8-1 record in his three seasons on the field, including trips to the Sugar, Fiesta and Astro-Bluebonnet bowls. Before joining the Huskers, Schmidt was an all-state player at St. Patrick's High School in North Platte. Dan and his wife, Jackie, have two daughters, Carissa and Katie.



Bob Sledge (Nebraska) - A first-team All-Big Eight offensive tackle for the Huskers as a senior in 1988, Bob Sledge was a two-year starter and three-time letterman for Coach Tom Osborne and the Huskers. He helped Nebraska to the NCAA rushing title with 382.3 yards per game as a team in 1988, while the Huskers also won the Big Eight title before finishing an 11-2 season in the Orange Bowl. In his three seasons on the field at Nebraska, the Huskers went 31-6 and played in Sugar, Fiesta and Orange bowls. A second-team All-Big Eight choice as a junior, Sledge helped the Huskers rank second in the nation in total offense with 489 yards per game in 1987, including 373.5 yards per game on the ground. In addition to ranking third in rushing offense, the Huskers also ranked third in the country with 38.5 points per game his junior season. Sledge was an all-state defensive tackle at Omaha Gross High School in 1983, before beginning his college career at South Dakota. The 6-2, 270-pounder transferred to Nebraska after the 1984 season and redshirted at NU in 1985. Sledge was a business administration major at Nebraska. He is a fire captain in Omaha and the offensive line coach

at Omaha Creighton Prep. He and his wife, Dawn, have three children, Carly, Sam and Shelby.



Danny Woodhead (Chadron State) - Danny Woodhead is being honored with his formal induction into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame in 2018, after earning his automatic place into the Hall in 2008 as a two-time Harlon Hill Trophy winner (2006, 2007). The two-time NCAA Division II Player of the Year, Woodhead ended his career as the NCAA all-time, all-division rushing leader with 7,962 yards on 1,135 carries for an average of 7.0 yards per carry. He added 101 rushing touchdowns. He averaged 181 rushing yards per game in his 44-game career, including 19 games with 200 or more yards. He also scored at least one touchdown in 37 consecutive games - an NCAA all-division record. He added 1,417 career receiving yards on 119 receptions with eight more scores to finish with 9,480 career all-purpose yards. He finished with 654 career points, an average of 14.9 points per game. The first recipient of a full athletic scholarship in Chadron State history in 2004, Woodhead rushed for 1,840 yards as a true freshman, before adding 1,769 yards on the ground as a sophomore.

He also had 367 yards receiving in his second season. As a junior, Woodhead rushed for 2,756 yards, which was an NCAA all-division record. He finished with 3,159 all-purpose yards in 2006. He added 1,597 rushing yards and a career-best 484 receiving yards a senior. At North Platte High School, Woodhead finished as the all-time leading rusher in Class A history with 4,891 yards from 2000 to 2003. Although undrafted out of college, Woodhead signed a free-agent contract with the New York Jets in 2008, but did not play in the 2008 season because of injury. He rejoined the Jets in 2009 and opened his nine-year NFL career with 10 games in 2009. He caught a touchdown pass in Super Bowl XLVI as a member of the New England Patriots to cap the 2011 season. In 2013 (1,034) and 2015 (1,091) with the San Diego Chargers, Woodhead enjoyed his most productive campaigns with over 1,000 yards from scrimmage in both seasons. In all, he played in 101 NFL games with 14 starts, amassing 2,238 career rushing yards with 15 touchdowns and 2,698 receiving yards with 17 touchdowns. He retired from the NFL on March 17, 2018. Woodhead was a math education major at Chadron State. He and his wife, Stacia, have four children, Gia, Will, Maisy and Hope.