

OFFENSE

Tim Beck Age: 44 Formerly at Kansas as the passing game coordinator, he's coached running backs for three years in Lincoln and looks set for a promotion to play caller.

Ron Brown Age: 54 A veteran of 20 seasons at Nebraska, he's done well with the tight ends and previously coached receivers — a spot he may add to his duties as NU shuffles roles.

Barney Cotton Age: 54 The ex-Husker lineman and Omaha native has experienced mixed results in two stints that covered four years as the NU offensive line coach.

DEFENSE

Carl Pelini Age: 45 Entrenched as walk-around defensive coordinator, he has directed one of the nation's top units over the past two years.

John Papuchis Age: 32 The cerebral and well-liked defensive line coach, a rising star in his first full-time position, received a \$25,000 raise this year.

IN THE MIX

Ed Warinner Age: 49 The Ohio native has a history with Beck and in the Big Ten, not to mention diverse experience coaching offense over 27 years in major-college football.

Scott Frost Age: 36 He's coached offense just two years but rubbed elbows with many of the game's greats, including Tom Osborne, Bill Walsh, Bill Parcells and Mike Tomlin.

LIKELY ON THE WAY OUT

Shawn Watson Age: 51 The fourth-year coordinator has come under criticism for his failure often over the past three years to generate a consistent identity for his offensive scheme.

Ted Gilmore Age: 43 In six years on the NU staff, his receivers were both productive and inconsistent, and Gilmore's style was always more closely affiliated with Watson than Pelini.



THE QUESTION MARK ?

(To be determined) Who's it going to be for the last spot on Pelini's revamped staff? Probably an unheralded hire with room to grow, in line with Ekeler and Papuchis from 2007.

LIKELY ON THE WAY IN

Corey Raymond Age: 41 A former NFL cornerback and father of four, he's got plenty of bodies with which to work in the secondary but lots of talent to replace, too.

Ross Els Age: 45 After coaching the past six years under Frank Solich at Ohio, the Lincoln native and former UNO defender looks set to rejoin old coaching mates Carl Pelini and Barney Cotton.

OUT

Marvin Sanders Age: 43 The ex-Blackshirt twice rebuilt the secondary in two stints at Nebraska, proving himself as one of the best in the business with defensive backs.

Mike Ekeler Age: 39 The Blair High graduate and former Kansas State linebacker coached Phillip Dillard and Lavonte David to excellent seasons before leaving to coordinate Indiana's defense.

HOW BO'S STAFF IS TAKING SHAPE

While the defense is coming together, plenty of shuffling appears likely on offense. Scott Frost and Ed Warinner may be in the mix.

Bo Pelini Age: 43

The fourth-year head coach has a full plate as offensive and defensive changes loom, part of his first staff makeover while Nebraska transitions to the Big Ten.

KENT SIEVERS/THE WORLD-HERALD

Huskers: Beck is in line for increased duties

Continued from Page 1

Beck, in line for a big jump in responsibility, worked with Warinner at Kansas in 2007. Warinner called plays and coordinated the running game, while Beck coached wide receivers and coordinated the passing game for KU's No. 2-ranked scoring offense. Nebraska could install a similar dual-coordinator system on the offensive side. And while the final offensive opening largely remains a mystery, insiders say the job may go to an unheralded coach, perhaps to team with Barney Cotton on the offensive line. Everything remains subject to change, though it's evident that Pelini, in his first staff reconstruction at Nebraska, remains more intent than ever to surround himself with coaches whose threads of history weave together. Bo's inner circle is tight, and not just any well-credentialed coach can gain entry.

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FOOTBALL NOTES

Deion, Faulk top picks for pro hall

DALLAS — Deion Sanders and Marshall Faulk led a class of seven voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday. Joining them were Shannon Sharpe, Richard Dent, Ed Sabol, Les Richter and Chris Hanburger. Sanders, a cornerback and kick returner and sometime wide receiver known as "Prime Time" with five teams, is a two-time Super Bowl winner and was the Defensive Player of the Year in 1994. Faulk won a Super Bowl with the 1999 Rams, was the 1994 Offensive Rookie of the Year, 2000 NFL MVP and a three-time Offensive Player of the Year (1999 to 2001). Faulk is the 10th-leading career rusher with 12,279 yards. Sharpe starred for Denver and Baltimore for 14 seasons and won three Super Bowls in a four-year span, two with Denver, one with Baltimore. He held league records for a tight end in receptions, yards and touchdowns when he retired in 2001. Bears defensive end Dent was the MVP of the 1986 Super Bowl and finished with 137½ career sacks. He was the top pass rusher on one of the NFL's greatest defensive units. Richter played linebacker for the Los Angeles Rams from 1954 through 1962. They traded 11 players for him and waited two years while he was in the military before he suited up. He made the wait worthwhile, going to eight straight Pro Bowls. He also was a center and kicker. Richter died last June. Hanburger spent all 14 pro seasons with the Redskins and

played in nine Pro Bowls. He played from 1965 to 1978 and was called "The Hangman." Sabol founded NFL Films. The finalists who did not get in were Curtis Martin, Dermontti Dawson, Cortez Kennedy, Andre Reid and Willie Roaf. Induction ceremonies are Aug. 6 in Canton, Ohio.

Eagles' Vick earns comeback award

DALLAS — Michael Vick won the Associated Press NFL Comeback Player of the Year award Saturday night. He missed two seasons serving a federal sentence for dogfighting, then spent most of the previous year as a backup in Philadelphia. Taking over as starter in Week 2 after Kevin Kolb suffered a concussion, Vick ran and passed the Eagles to the NFC East title and a 10-6 record. Vick received 29½ votes, beating Seattle receiver Mike Williams, who got eight.

Owners, union resume talks

DALLAS — The NFL and its players' union have begun to meet again, talking for two hours Saturday

in their first formal bargaining session in more than two months. The meeting came one day before the Super Bowl. The full negotiating teams last sat down face-to-face on Nov. 22. The sides issued a joint statement saying they "plan to increase the number, length and intensity of bargaining sessions" so they can reach an agreement before the collective bargaining agreement expires March 4. In other news: One of the four men featured in a national commercial for never missing a Super Bowl game will not be at Sunday's showdown. Family members said that 79-year-old Robert Cook of Brown Deer, Wis., is hospitalized and had sent his two daughters to Arlington, Texas, instead. The National Weather Service forecast rain Sunday, with a possible switch to snow around kickoff. Less than an inch was expected.

Howard, Phil Simms quarrel about son

DALLAS — Desmond Howard said he felt threatened by Phil Simms during a confrontation about comments the ESPN analyst made about Simms' son, Tennessee quarterback Matt Simms. Howard tweeted that Simms said "he wanted 2 take a swing at me" during an exchange Saturday at an NFL venue in downtown Dallas. Simms acknowledged through a CBS spokeswoman that the NFL analyst and former New York Giants quarterback had "a private conversation that became heated." Howard said Simms took offense to an on-air comment about the Tennessee-LSU game that fans would see "three of the worst QBs in the SEC."

Ex-Bearcat wins defensive honor

SAN ANTONIO — Northwest Missouri State's Roberto Davis was

named the defensive player of the game Saturday at the NFLPA All-Star game. Davis, playing for Team Texas, recovered a fourth-quarter fumble in his team's 13-7 victory over Team Nation and also had two quarterback sacks. Linebacker Eddie Jones tackled Damien Berry at the 1-yard line on fourth down with 55 seconds to go to preserve the win. The game featured players eligible for the NFL draft in April. — The Associated Press

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