

RB TERRELL NEWBY

BY JOSH HARVEY

5-10, 180 POUNDS / CHAMINADE HS (WEST HILLS, CALIF.)

SENIOR HONORS: Los Angeles *Times* high school football All-Star team, Los Angeles *Daily News* Player of the Year.

SENIOR STATS: 2,305 yards and 45 touchdowns, averaging 7.7 yards per carry.

THE LOWDOWN: There might not be a commit Nebraska put more man-hours into than Newby. The California running back was offered in early 2012, and always was regarded as the Huskers' top running back of choice throughout the recruiting process.

Newby took his recruitment nice and slow, despite almost committing to a school numerous times. He was very close to pulling the trigger on Cal, but Nebraska encouraged him to at least check out their campus before making a decision. He did, and the visit paid off for the Huskers.

"I knew all about it, but to just see the place in person, the great academic side, the facilities, I'm glad I came. It was pretty awesome," said Newby in June. A few months later, he was back in Lincoln for an official visit.

"It was a cool experience, and the tunnel walk was awesome. I wasn't even playing that day and I was all hyped up after watching it. In the game, I saw how Nebraska utilized their running backs and how they like to get them out into space. Nebraska really wants to put speed on the field, and I can see myself in their offense."

With two good visits to Lincoln on his mind, Newby went back to California and played out the rest of his season, setting his announcement date for early January; his other finalist was UCLA.

His decision to head to Nebraska immediately drew the attention of many scouts on the West Coast, as the Huskers had beaten teams in the Pac-12 that were close to home for Newby.

"They recruited him the hardest," said FOX Sports NEXT West Coast Recruiting Analyst Greg Biggins. "Even though UCLA was just a half-an-hour away, Nebraska recruited him the hardest and visited him more. Nebraska just out-recruited the western schools. The coaching staff did a great job prioritizing him."

WHY NEBRASKA: "I felt like I had the strongest connection with the Nebraska staff, especially my running backs coach Ron Brown. There wasn't a time where I didn't talk with Nebraska for a week. It was one of my first big offers, so I really looked into it during the long recruiting process...At times, I felt like I should have committed to Nebraska earlier."

WHO ELSE: UCLA, Arizona State, California, Oregon, Wisconsin, Utah, Oregon State, Washington, Washington State, Colorado and Minnesota.

WHO RECRUITED HIM: Ron Brown, Rich Fisher, Tim Beck

FOX SPORTS NEXT RATING: Four-star prospect (No. 17 RB in the country)

BRR PROJECTION: The California product could factor immediately into the Huskers' backfield plans. Newby brings a unique skill set of speed and vision to the field that Nebraska might not have at the moment on its roster; he's a home run waiting to happen. In addition to playing running back, Newby is talented enough to play in the slot, and should factor into special teams as a returner. Look for Nebraska offensive coordinator Tim Beck to try to think of creative ways to use him.

"NEWBY IS A SMALL BACK THAT RUNS BIG. HE HAS TRACK SPEED AND CAN RUN AWAY FROM MOST DEFENDERS IN THE OPEN FIELD, BUT HE HAS BETTER CHANGE OF DIRECTION AND SHIFTFINESS THAN MOST TRACK STARS. DESPITE HIS SIZE, NEWBY ISN'T AFRAID TO RUN BETWEEN THE TACKLES OR INITIATE CONTACT. A DEFENSE MUST DEFEND THE ENTIRE WIDTH OF THE FIELD AGAINST HIM. HE'LL NEVER BE A POWER BACK, BUT HE'S TOUGH AND STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP A DEFENSE HONEST."

SCOTT KENNEDY, DIRECTOR OF SCOUTING FOR FOX SPORTS