



Sports News

Office of Sports Information

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Northeastern University
360 Huntington Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02115
(617) 373-2691, (617) 373-3152 (fax)

NORTHEASTERN FOOTBALL

2008 Spring Prospectus

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: Boston, MA 02115
Founded: 1898
Enrollment: 14,492
Nickname: Huskies
Colors: Red & Black
Home Field: Parsons Field
Capacity: 7,000
Surface: Artificial
Affiliation: NCAA-I FCS
Conference: CAA Football
President: Dr. Joseph Aoun
Athletics Director: Peter Roby
Athletics Phone: (617) 373-2672

SPORTS INFORMATION

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SID Address: 238 Saint Botolph St.,
111 Matthews Arena, Boston, MA 02115

FOOTBALL OFFICE

Head Coach: Rocky Hager (Minot State '74)
Record at School: 15-29, four seasons
Career Record: 106-54-1, 14 seasons
Football Office Phone: (617) 373-5549

Assistant Coaches:

Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks: Eddie Davis (Texas A&M '77)
Co-Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Line: Wally Dembowski (Holy Cross '88)
Co-Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Backs: Raphael Dowdye (West Virginia Wesleyan '96)
Offensive Line: Brian Surace (Gettysburg '95)
Running Backs/Recruiting Coordinator: Chris Ostrowsky (New Jersey City '93)
Outside Linebackers/Video Coordinator: Frank McArdle (James Madison '04)
Strength & Conditioning: Joel St. Cyr (Springfield '89)

TEAM INFORMATION

2007 Overall Record: 3-8
CAA Football Record (Finish): 2-6 (T-5th, North Division)
Lettermen R/L: 43/12
Starters Returning (O-D): 15 (9-6)
Starters Lost (O-D): 7 (2-5)
2008 Spring Practice: March 11-April 5
Spring Game: April 5

2008 Northeastern Schedule

August

Thu. 28 at Ball State TBA

September

Sat. 13 at Georgia Southern TBA
Sat. 20 at Syracuse TBA
Sat. 27 UC DAVIS TBA

October

Sat. 4 at Towson\* TBA
Sat. 11 MASSACHUSETTS\* TBA
Sat. 18 NEW HAMPSHIRE\* TBA
Sat. 25 at Maine\* TBA

November

Sat. 1 VILLANOVA\* TBA
Sat. 8 at William & Mary\* TBA
Sat. 15 at Hofstra\* TBA
Sat. 22 RHODE ISLAND\* TBA

\* CAA Football game

2007 Northeastern Results (3-8, 2-6 CAA Football)

September

Sat. 1 at Northwestern 0-27 L
Sat. 8 RICHMOND\* 14-49 L
Sat. 15 NORTHWESTERN STATE 42-14 W
Sat. 22 at UC Davis 10-28 L

October

Sat. 6 #9 JAMES MADISON\* 14-21 L
Sat. 13 at #15 Delaware\* 20-30 L
Sat. 20 at #4 Massachusetts\* 7-24 L
Sat. 27 MAINE\* 14-20 L

November

Sat. 3 at #8 New Hampshire\* 31-13 W
Sat. 10 #18 HOFSTRA\* 35-31 W
Sat. 17 at Rhode Island\* 30-35 L



## 2008 NORTHEASTERN FOOTBALL SEASON OUTLOOK

Last season, the Northeastern Huskies once again challenged themselves by playing top competition, but they fell to a 3-8 record, 2-6 in CAA Football. Northeastern had one of the most rigorous schedules in the country, playing a Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) school, making a cross-country trip to play UC Davis and playing five teams that eventually qualified for the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoffs. There were bright spots though as Northeastern once again rose to the occasion and knocked off ranked opponents New Hampshire and Hofstra in back-to-back weeks. The Huskies will look to build on these experiences and make a run at the CAA Football title in 2008. Fifth-year head coach **Rocky Hager** welcomes back 44 lettermen, including 15 starters, in his quest for the championship.

### Offense

Senior quarterback **Anthony Orio** enjoyed a breakout 2007 season that firmly established him as the Huskies' top signal caller. Orio started all 11 games last season and set career highs in completions (139), passing yards (1,558) and passing efficiency (124.1) while tying his career-high in touchdown passes with eight. He was also a factor on the ground, rushing for a career-high 190 yards and scoring four touchdowns. He is Northeastern's most accurate passer in history at 56.7 percent and is already sixth all-time in passing yards at NU. Backing him up once again is senior **John Sperrazza**, who appeared in three games last season and threw for 152 yards. Sophomore **Alex Dulski** has spent the last two seasons learning the system and could be ready to contribute in 2008.

Orio will look to a steady group of receivers who have the talent and experience to make the air attack a major threat. Nine out of the 11 receivers who caught a pass last season are returning, including starters **Tony Lott** and **Chris Plum**, who each had 373 yards and a touchdown. Sophomore **Greg Abelli** saw significant time on the field as a true freshman and his speed could give Orio a major threat downfield. Senior tight end **Brian Mandeville** broke out last season to the tune of a team-high 411 yards and five touchdowns, leading to All-New England and All-CAA Football second team honors. His 6'6, 255-pound frame gives Orio a big target in the middle of the field. Sophomore **Conor Gilmartin-Donohue**, who is 6'5 and 225 pounds, gives the offense another big tight end to work with. He made eight catches for 104 yards last season.

The running game will miss all-time leading rusher Maurice Murray, who had a monster senior season that included 1,421 yards and 14 touchdowns. His punishing style of running allowed the Huskies to grind their way to the goalline. Now Northeastern will



Senior quarterback Anthony Orio returns to lead the Northeastern offense in 2008.

rely on the speed of senior **Alex Broomfield**, who is a triple threat on the field. He was the only Husky last season to rush for a touchdown, catch a touchdown pass and throw a touchdown pass. With 610 all-purpose yards last season, it's clear that he can affect the game in numerous ways. Sophomore **John Griffin** will back Broomfield up and though he did not accumulate a lot of numbers, he saw plenty of action last season as a true freshman. At fullback, sophomore **Lloyd Clarke** provides strong blocking as well as some ability to catch passes in the backfield. He had six receptions for 28 yards last season.

The offensive line was the backbone of the offense last season and this year should be no different. The line returns four starters, including All-CAA Football second team selection **Kevin Newhall**, who will anchor the right tackle spot. Senior **Tyler Perkins** will man the center while junior **Matt Allain** and sophomore **Greg Niland** take right guard and left tackle, respectively. Left guard will belong to senior **Art Dias**, who is recovering from an injury that limited him to just four games in 2007. Junior **Geoff Morris**, the primary backup, could see plenty of time at left guard as well. The starting five weighs in at an average of 289 pounds.

### Defense

The defensive line will be the most experienced group on the field as it will sport one junior and two senior starters and three juniors as the backups. Seniors **Wil Colon** and **Corey Thomas** had excellent 2007 seasons and look to continue to dominate the line. Colon had a team-high five sacks last season while Thomas had 31 stops at the nose guard position. Joining them will be junior **Jason Vega**, who redshirted 2007 due to injury. Two years ago, Vega was dominant, making 46 tackles and four sacks. The three junior backups are **Chris Byrne**, **Mike Lukenda** and **Woody Romelus**, all of whom played in every game last season.

The linebacking corps was strong for Northeastern last season, but the Huskies have lost two starters to graduation in Joe Mele and A.J. Lillie, who combined for 150 tackles and 5.5 sacks in 2007. Senior **Craig Kenney** and sophomore **David Akinniyi** do



## 2008 NORTHEASTERN FOOTBALL SEASON OUTLOOK (continued)

return, and they will anchor the unit. Kenney, who will be on the inside, was on a tear early on in the season before suffering a season-ending injury in late October. He had 54 tackles in eight games. Akinniyi, who will be an outside linebacker, had a very strong rookie campaign with 42 tackles, two sacks, two forced fumbles, one interception and a blocked punt. Senior **Cornelius Bunch** will join Kenney on the inside, and he had 43 tackles in eight games last season. Junior **Alton Bradley** is the early favorite for the outside linebacker spot vacated by Lillie. He had a sack and 18 tackles last season. Battling for playing time will be junior **Kerry Pollard** and sophomore **Chad Parham**, who both saw plenty of action on the field in 2007.

The secondary returns two starters this season. Senior **Cord Parks** is NU's top cover man and he will be at left corner. He will match up against the top receivers and his 63 tackles and team-leading two interceptions last season suggest he will be effective. Lined up on the other side of the field will be junior **Rashad Jordan**, who was effective in a backup role last season. He takes over the starting right corner job after making 19 tackles in 2007. Sophomore **Nate Thellen** had an incredible rookie campaign that included 52 tackles, two forced fumbles and an interception. He earned the starting job at free safety just three games into his collegiate career and is firmly entrenched there. The competition at strong safety will be between sophomores **Darryl Jones** and **Demetrius Biggs**, both of whom played a lot as true freshmen last season. Jones, who ended last season with a bang when he returned a block for a touchdown at Rhode Island, is the frontrunner.

### Special Teams

The Huskies will have plenty of competition in the special teams department as the coaches look for the right combination of players. Junior **Mat Johnson** was the placekicker for the Huskies in each of the last two seasons, but he was only 3-for-8 in field goals in 2007. Junior **Ron Conway** and sophomore **Paul Branco** will compete with Johnson for the role. Conway does already have a job on the unit; he will be the punter for the second straight season. Last season, he averaged 39.4 yards a punt, the fifth-best average in school history. He had four punts of 50 yards or more, including a 60-yarder. Rashad Jordan will be the lead kick returner. He returned eight kicks for 150 yards last season. John Griffin could also see plenty of kick returns. Alex Broomfield once again will be the lead punt returner with Tony Lott serving as the backup.

### Schedule

Coach Hager has continually scheduled top opponents to help prepare his players and 2008 will be no different. The Huskies will play two FBS teams in the same season for the first time ever. NU will travel to Muncie, Ind. for its season-opener against Ball State on Aug. 28. The Cardinals went to the International Bowl back in January, marking the third time Northeastern will play a team that was in a bowl game the previous season. The Huskies will also meet Syracuse for the first time ever with the game taking place at the Carrier Dome on Sept. 20.

In between the two FBS games is a challenging matchup with Georgia Southern in Statesboro, Ga. on Sept. 13. The Eagles have six national titles and are an annual threat. The Huskies will host their home opener on Sept. 27 when they have a rematch with UC Davis. The Aggies beat Northeastern in Davis, Calif. last season, 28-10.

The month of October begins with a trip to Towson on Oct. 4. The Huskies last played the Tigers back in 2005 when the two teams combined for 97 points and 1,067 total yards in a 56-41 NU victory. The 97-point total is still the NU record for combined points in a game. Northeastern will then host back-to-back home games against Massachusetts on Oct. 11 and New Hampshire Oct. 18. The Huskies have upset a nationally-ranked Wildcats team in each of the last two seasons.

Following an Oct. 25 trip to Maine, NU will welcome Villanova to Parsons Field on Nov. 1 for the first time since 2004 when the Huskies won 34-30. NU will play at William & Mary on Nov. 8 and those two teams have had wild affairs of late. The last two meetings have gone to overtime with the Tribe coming out on top both times. The Huskies will wrap up the season with a road contest at Hofstra Nov. 15 and the home finale versus Rhode Island on Nov. 22.

### 2008 Northeastern Football Signees

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School
Derrick Brisbane	LB	6'0	215	Newnan, GA	Northgate
Matthew Carroll	QB	6'2	225	Kennett Square, PA	Unionville
Jocquez Fears	DB	5'9	185	Fairburn, GA	Creekside/Whitewater
Edward Gosa	LB	6'2	200	Jonesboro, GA	Banneker
Elijah Harris	DB	5'9	180	North Attleboro, MA	North Attleboro
Erik Lichter	LB	5'11	205	Coconut Grove, FL	Gulliver Preparatory
Emmanuel Matthews	DB	6'0	175	Pittsburgh, PA	Pittsburgh Central Catholic
Steven Murray	DB	5'10	165	Fort Washington, MD	Friendly
Brian Palangi	OL	6'4	286	Nahant, MA	Swampscott
Jesse Sparks	WR	5'10	165	Cambridge, MA	Cambridge Rindge & Latin
Martin Wallace	OL	6'6	285	New York, NY	Beacon School



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### 2008 Northeastern Football Spring Roster

##	Name	Cl.	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School/Last School
1	Darryl Jones	So.	DB	5'10	180	Landover, MD	St. John's College High
2	Nate Thellen	So.	DB	6'1	205	Brockton, MA	Brockton
4	John Sperrazza	Sr.	QB	6'2	235	Mansfield, MA	Mansfield
5	Chris Plum	Sr.	WR	6'2	215	Deptford, NJ	Gloucester Catholic
8	Tony Lott	Jr.	WR	6'3	215	Owings Mills, MD	McDonough School
9	Alex Broomfield	Sr.	RB	5'7	190	Miami, FL	Chaminade-Madonna
10	Anthony Orio	Sr.	QB	6'2	230	Voorhees, NJ	Eastern Regional
12	Alex Dulski	So.	QB	6'3	220	Walpole, MA	Walpole
13	Matt Reingold	So.	DB	6'1	200	Upper Grandview, NY	Nyack
14	Demetrius Biggs	So.	DB	6'0	180	Marietta, GA	Marietta
15	T.J. Jackson	RFr.	WR	6'2	190	Newnan, GA	Northgate
16	Paul Branco	So.	K	5'9	165	Brockton, MA	Brockton
17	Alton Bradley	Jr.	LB	6'2	230	Chesapeake, VA	Western Branch
19	Alan Battista	RFr.	K	5'10	175	Belchertown, MA	Williston Northampton School
21	Cord Parks	Sr.	DB	5'11	190	Decatur, GA	Stone Mountain
22	Mat Johnson	Jr.	K	5'10	155	Ankeny, IA	Ankeny
23	David Racca	Jr.	WR	5'10	155	Northboro, MA	Algonquin
24	Rashad Jordan	Jr.	DB	6'0	195	Dorchester, MA	Catholic Memorial
25	Jake Catlin	RFr.	DB	5'11	200	Ashburnham, MA	Oakmont Regional
26	Lloyd Clarke	So.	FB	6'0	230	Winter Park, FL	Winter Park
27	Tony Torres	RFr.	RB	5'11	205	Jamaica Plain, MA	Wayland
30	John Griffin	So.	RB	6'0	198	Fitchburg, MA	Oakmont Regional
31	Tyler Church	So.	FB	5'5	200	Scottsdale, AZ	Horizon
32	Kurtis Hart	So.	LB	5'11	226	Coral Springs, FL	Taravella
33	Ben Burud	RFr.	LB	6'3	210	Townsend, MA	North Middlesex
34	Craig Kenney	Sr.	LB	6'1	227	Branford, CT	Branford
36	Josh Weinstein	RFr.	DB	5'11	190	Maspee, MA	Bishop Stang
38	Chris Byrne	Jr.	DL	6'3	255	Tewksbury, MA	Tewksbury
40	Dan Elwood	Jr.	FB	6'1	230	Walpole, MA	Walpole/Worcester Academy
41	Devone Williams	So.	DB	5'8	155	Southbridge, MA	Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall
42	Jon Jeune	RFr.	LB	5'11	220	Highland Mills, NY	Don Bosco Prep
44	Kerry Pollard	Jr.	LB	6'0	225	Upper Marlboro, MD	Eleanor Roosevelt
46	Phil Higgins	Jr.	LB	5'10	220	Accokeek, MD	Gwynn Park
49	Cornelius Bunch	Sr.	LB	6'0	217	Philadelphia, PA	Central
50	Michael Laperriere	RFr.	DL	6'4	235	Buzzards Bay, MA	Wareham
51	Dan Mason	Jr.	OL	6'2	270	Holliston, MA	Xaverian Brothers
53	Joe Piccuiro	So.	LB	6'1	220	Longmeadow, MA	Longmeadow
54	Tyler Perkins	Sr.	OL	6'2	300	Brea, CA	Mater Dei
55	Corey Thomas	Sr.	DL	5'10	275	New Britain, CT	New Britain
56	Matt Cunha	RFr.	DL	6'5	230	Lexington, MA	Lexington
57	Mike Lukenda	Jr.	DL	6'1	280	Downingtown, PA	Downingtown East
58	Jason Lane	RFr.	OL	6'4	280	Derry, NH	Pinkerton Academy
62	Art Dias	Sr.	OL	6'2	295	Brockton, MA	Brockton
63	Zachary Abrams	Jr.	OL	6'2	240	Sharon, MA	Xaverian Brothers
64	John Pfund	Jr.	DL	6'2	285	Doylstown, PA	Central Bucks East
65	Kevin Newhall	Jr.	OL	6'3	300	Malden, MA	Malden
68	Josh Belko	Sr.	OL	6'2	285	North Andover, MA	St. John's Prep
70	Greg Niland	So.	OL	6'5	295	East Bridgewater, MA	Coyle-Cassidy
72	Yaroslav Mukha	RFr.	OL	6'5	315	Philadelphia, PA	Northeast
74	Geoffrey Morris	Jr.	OL	6'5	300	Havertown, PA	Haverford Township
78	Matt Allain	Jr.	OL	6'3	315	Worcester, MA	St. Peter-Marian
79	Gregory Martell	RFr.	OL	6'5	290	Mansfield, MA	Mansfield
80	Greg Abelli	So.	WR	5'10	175	Billerica, MA	Billerica/New Hampton School
81	Jay Bornstein	So.	WR	6'3	226	Norton, MA	Bishop Feehan
82	Ron Conway	Jr.	P/WR	6'3	200	Norton, MA	Bishop Feehan
83	Brian Mandeville	Sr.	TE	6'6	255	Walpole, MA	Walpole
85	Ty Sibert	Jr.	TE	6'1	230	Glenn Dale, MD	Eleanor Roosevelt
87	Adhir Ravipati	So.	WR	6'6	200	Saratoga, CA	Harker/San Diego
88	Mark Lorber	RFr.	TE	6'3	230	San Diego, CA	St. Augustine
89	Conor Gilmartin-Donohue	So.	TE	6'5	245	White Plains, NY	White Plains
90	David Akinniyi	So.	LB	6'3	245	Rocklin, CA	Rocklin
91	Chad Parham	So.	LB	6'2	225	Fairburn, GA	Creekside
92	Sean Fracalossi	Jr.	TE	6'3	260	Mt. Carmel, PA	Mt. Carmel
93	Floran Kacaku	Jr.	LB	6'0	245	Rosindale, MA	Hyde Park
94	Wil Colon	Sr.	DL	6'3	257	Lowell, MA	Lowell/Bridgton Academy
96	Woody Romelus	Jr.	DL	6'3	263	Brockton, MA	Brockton
97	Jason Vega	Jr.	DL	6'4	260	Brockton, MA	Brockton
99	David Button	RFr.	K	6'2	200	Concord, MA	Concord-Carlisle

### Northeastern Football Leading Returners

**Passing Yards**  
 Anthony Orio..... 1,558

**Rushing Yards**  
 Alex Broomfield ..... 253

**Receiving Yards**  
 Brian Mandeville ..... 411

**Touchdowns**  
 Brian Mandeville ..... 5

**Scoring**  
 Mat Johnson ..... 37

**Tackles**  
 Cord Parks..... 63

**Sacks**  
 Wil Colon..... 5.0

**Interceptions**  
 Cord Parks..... 2

### Northeastern Football Roster by Position

**Offense**  
 Quarterbacks ..... 3  
 Running Backs..... 3  
 Fullbacks ..... 3  
 Wide Receivers ..... 7  
 Tight Ends ..... 5  
 Offensive Linemen..... 12

**Defense**  
 Defensive Linemen ..... 9  
 Linebackers..... 12  
 Defensive Backs..... 9

**Special Teams**  
 Kickers ..... 4  
 Punters ..... 1