

[Home](#) [Sections](#) [Contact](#) [Subscribe](#)



Fri. Feb. 10, 2006

THE EUREKA REPORTER



printer friendly format



email this article to a friend

Submitted photo

Former Eureka standout Mo Purify enjoyed two good seasons at City College of San Francisco.

Eureka's Purify signs on to play at Nebraska

by Sean Quincey, 2/2/2006

Former Eureka Logger Maurice Purify signed on with the Nebraska Cornhuskers and will accept an athletic scholarship to play at the college next season.

Nebraska has known about Purify since his Logger days when he shared the field with Rey Maualuga, who was a freshman with the USC Trojans this year. They didn't get a chance to meet him until this year, though.

It goes without saying, but his first impression on Nebraska coaches left their jaws dropped.

"He came up for the Texas Tech ball game and when he came walking into the office I said, 'That can't be a wideout,'" Nebraska wide receiver coach Ted Gilmore said about Purify's 6-foot-4 inch, 215-pound frame. "He's that big a young man. When I found out it was him, I was drooling."

Purify played receiver for the City College of San Francisco the past two seasons, the second of which he racked up an impressive 68 catches, 1,318 yards and 19 touchdowns.

The season-long performance was good enough to earn him first-team JC-Gridwire All-America honors. College Football News rated him as the top junior college receiver in the country this year.

"It's a no-brainer in terms of his ability," Gilmore said. "He fit the profile in terms of what we wanted, which was a big, physical receiver who can create some mismatch problems and go up and get the ball."

Gilmore coached Purify's nephew, Bobby, at the University of Colorado.

He said that it was nice to have the common ground but that wasn't the reason Purify chose Nebraska.

"Mo's going to do what's best for him," Gilmore said. "But knowing what kind of competitor Bobby is, if Maurice is half the competitor he is, he'll be successful."

Purify was more than just successful in junior college.

His CCSF quarterback Jimmy Collins said Purify has "everything you look for in a wide receiver."

Coming from his best friend, though, the opinion is a little biased.

Collins said, "He's big, physical and fast. It's pretty easy to throw to him – you just have to know the general vicinity of where he's going to be and get the ball there, he'll make the catch."

Bigger receivers have become a trend in the college and professional ranks and Nebraska is on the same bus as the Huskers recruited two other big-bodied receivers this year.

"If you look at Missouri, Oklahoma or Texas, they have big-bodied wide receivers and playmakers that have the ability to put themselves in position to make plays," Nebraska head coach Bill Callahan said in a press release. "And they're big targets. That's why I'm so pleased with this group of players."

During the recruiting process, Husker coaches contacted Purify's high school coach Jack Lakin.

Lakin's role was to help coordinate visits between the coaches and Purify's family. He said he didn't need to sell Purify so much as he wanted to ensure that his former player was going to make the best decision possible.

"When looking at different programs, I wanted to make sure he would get somebody to serve as a football coach and as a mentor who would help him grow into a productive, mature individual," Lakin said.

Those qualities sound close to the Huskers' sales pitch.

"The No. 1 thing we tell recruits about is academics," Callahan said. "But that's where it starts and we don't trail off in other areas of the program. We let them know that there are people here that will take care of them and coach them and help them manage their career and allow them to flourish."

As impressive as their exhausted eligibility rates are, so are the number of former Cornhuskers who are currently on NFL rosters (33).

Copyright (C) 2005, The Eureka Reporter. All rights reserved.