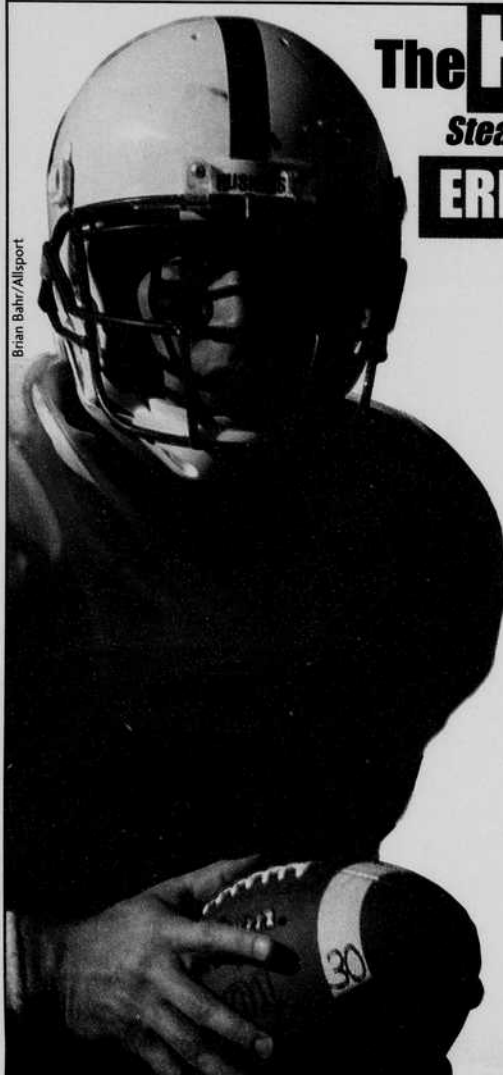


Brian Bahr/Allsport



# The Heisman Watch

Steamtunnels Profiles the Heisman Trophy Contenders.

## ERIC CROUCH

University of Nebraska

**E**ric Crouch is a total yardage machine. Nebraska's 6'1" junior quarterback manages to run, throw and catch his way past opponents. In fact in *one quarter* last year against Cal, Crouch ran for a touchdown, threw a touchdown pass and caught a touchdown pass as well.

Crouch is a natural option quarterback. First off, the speed: he's a sprinter on the track team and former state high school champ at 100 meters. Second, the vertical leap: 35 inches. In other words, he either runs around or jumps over you.

He's developing as a passer, and almost never turns it over (only 4 interceptions in 1999). A mid-season loss to Texas took Nebraska out of the title hunt last year, but the Cornhuskers finished with a flourish, capping a 12-1 season with a Fiesta Bowl win over Tennessee. Crouch was the MVP of the game, rushing for 64 yards and passing for 148.

The Heisman voting may pivot on which teams are ahead in the polls. In October Nebraska was first in the Coaches

Poll and second in the AP. Look for Crouch in Nebraska's next big game, Nov. 11 against Kansas State.

### Stats

**DOB:** Nov. 16, 1978

**Hometown:** Omaha, Neb.

**Height:** 6'1"

**Weight:** 205

**Class:** Junior

**Position:** Option QB

**Web site:** [ecrouch.com](http://ecrouch.com)

**1999 Total Yardage:** 1026 yards rushing, 1269 passing

**1999 Scoring:** 16 rushing TDs, 7 passing

**1999 Awards:** Co-Big 12 offensive player of the year (with Major Applewhite of Texas)

—ABaldwin

### Cast your Heisman Vote at [steamtunnels.net](http://steamtunnels.net)

Michael Vick, Virginia Tech (profiled last week)

Eric Crouch, Nebraska

Drew Brees, Purdue (profile next week)

LaDainian Tomlinson, Texas Christian (profile Nov. 13)

## Fast Facts about Issues in the 2000 Campaign

### EDUCATION

The Pentagon's budget for 2004 is \$308.5 billion. Only \$34.7 billion will be spent on education.

Source: *Business Leaders For Sensible Priorities*

### VIOLENCE

75% of people committing hate crimes are under the age of 30. One in three are under 18.

Source: *Federal Bureau of Investigation*

Children in the United States are nine times more likely to be killed by gunfire than in all of the next 25 top industrial nations.

Source: *Associated Press*

### HEALTH

Only 1/2 of teenagers use condoms, while 2/3 of STDs occur in people 25 years old and younger.

Source: *Center for Disease Control*

### ENVIRONMENT

10 million children under the age of 12 live within 4 miles of a toxic waste dump site.

Source: *Environmental Protection Agency*

80% of all cancers are caused by environmental influences.

Source: *The Sierra Club*

85% of the forests that existed in the U. S. 200 years ago are gone forever.

Source: *Environmental Almanac*

### CIVIL RIGHTS

Lesbian, gay and bisexual youth are four times more likely to commit suicide than their "straight" peers.

Source: *National Gay and Lesbian Task Force*

85% of teachers oppose integrating lesbian, gay and bisexual themes in the curricula.

Source: *Massachusetts Governor's Commission On Gay and Lesbian Youth*

40% of minority children attend urban schools, where more than half of the students are poor and fail to reach even "basic" achievement levels.

Source: *The Washington Post*

Hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians and bisexuals increased almost 60% between 1991 and 1997.

Source: *Human Rights Campaign*

### MONEY

Poverty in the U. S., according to the census, is defined as having an income of less than \$17,029 for a family of four and \$13,290 for a family of three.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the poverty rate has hit its lowest level in 21 years—11.8%. The percentage of children living in poverty has fallen to 16.9%, also the lowest figure in 21 years.

The median household income is higher than it has ever been at \$40,816. Both Republicans and Democrats are taking credit for the "good news." House Republicans believe that their role in passing welfare reform has had a significant impact.

Almost 24% of African Americans live in poverty and almost 23% of Hispanics (any nationality) do as well. Less than 11% of Asians and Pacific Islanders live in poverty, while less than 8% of non-Hispanic whites do.

In addition, the gap between the rich and the poor continues to grow. Just over 49% of the money is being earned by 20% of the population.

Source: *Associated Press*