

Former Husker: Do the right thing

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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Matt Davison speaks at back-to-school night.

A past Nebraska Cornhusker, who made what many called a “miracle catch” during a 1997 football game against the Missouri Tigers, now speaks about what influenced him during his growing up years.

Tecumseh native Matt Davison spoke during Gothenburg Public School’s back-to-school night Aug. 16 in the performing arts center.

Now a radio broadcaster for Husker Sports Network, Davison lives in Chicago.

Davison said he learned the value of work while growing up on a farm.

He learned discipline and responsibility from his parents and at school.

“Parents have an unbelievable opportunity to be great examples to kids,” Davison said.

Several things account for the fact that the Cornhuskers won more football games in 40 years than any other team.

“We didn’t have all of the best guys but our leadership was good,” Davison said, noting that head coach Tom Osborne was a great leader and made sure assistant coaches were good leaders.

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Good recruitment and time in the weight room paid off as did a goal “to be the best at everything we did.”

“We had the ability to prepare better than other teams,” Davison said.

Davison played for the team when the Huskers won a national championship in 1997.

Discipline in life means a better chance of success on the football field, Davison said.

That means working hard during 110 degrees in the summer and below-freezing temperatures in the winter.

Davison also told students to choose friends wisely and know how they will react to peer-pressure situations before they are encountered.

Leadership opportunities ence come about on a daily basis and are influenced by people with whom a person associates, he said.

“All of us are leaders who set examples all of the time,” he said.

Next time a kid is faced with a big decision, Davison suggested imagining a person that child admires most standing beside him or her when the decision is made.

“Now imagine it when no one is watching,” Davison said.

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During back-to-school night, 32 businesses and organizations set up tables in the Main Street area of the school and school board members served a hot dog meal.

Athletes played games with youngsters outside while parents and students met teachers and located lockers and classrooms.

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