



Date: 9/29/2025

Re: Cole Pensick-Mark Vincent Pelini Center of Excellence Award

Dear Coach:

In tribute to the enduring legacy of their sons, the Pensick and Pelini families proudly continue the tradition of celebrating Nebraska High School Class A football's most outstanding center through the Cole Pensick–Mark Vincent Pelini Center of Excellence Award (COE). We respectfully invite your renewed support in illuminating this honor across the state of Nebraska.

The Center of Excellence will be awarded in the name of Cole Pensick and Mark Vincent Pelini who both were teammates at the University of Nebraska, and both played the Center position and unfortunately both tragically passed away in fatal car accidents, six months apart: Mark Vincent Pelini 10/2/2022 and Cole Pensick on April 8, 2023!

As they navigated the pain of their loss, the families and former teammates found purpose in honoring the memory of Cole & Mark, ensuring their spirit of compassion, leadership, and dedication to the team lives on.

The Criteria for the Center of Excellence Award is a cultivation of virtues and values that they both possessed on and off the field.

Cole Pensick was a member of Lincoln Northeast High School football team; he was a 3-year starter for Coach Dave Svehla's Rockets and dominated the line of scrimmage on both offense & defense. Cole was the first player to commit to Nebraska's 2009 class. Cole went on to become a starting Center and Guard at the University of Nebraska. He was named to the Rimington Trophy watch list 2013, All-Big 10 (2013), Academic All-Big 10 (2013), Cletus Fischer Native Son Award 2013, Nebraska Scholar Athlete (2012,2013) Big 12 Commissioners Academic Honor Role (2009).

Mark Pelini was a member of the Cardinal Mooney High School 2009 15-0 State Championship Football team; Mark went on to become a starting Center at The University of Nebraska. He was named to both the 2014 Rimington Trophy and Campbell Trophy watch list, Academic All-Big 10 (2012, 2013, 2014), eight-time Nebraska Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll, The Brook Berringer Citizen Team (2014), The Tom Osborne Citizenship Team (2014) and the Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Academic Honor Roll (2011).

We are looking for like-minded and spirited High School players to recognize and be awarded on December 10, 2025! We will be naming 3 finalists on December 3, 2025!

Please look at the Nomination Criteria & Form, then complete and return your team's nominees to The Center of Excellence Committee Representative, Dee Felici – dfelici4631@gmail.com, by 11/14/2025. All nominees will be considered by a selection committee made up of former teammates of Cole & Mark.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and please don't hesitate to contact the COE Committee Representative if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bev & Abby Pensick

Mark Vincent Pelini Foundation

Cole Pensick, Mark Vincent Pelini Center of Excellence Committee Representative: Dee Felici





Recognizing an Outstanding Center in Nebraska Class A High School Football

How to select your Cole Pensick-Mark Vincent Pelini Center of Excellence (COE) Award Nominee

1. Review the nomination criteria

Pensick Pelini Center of Excellence Award will be presented to an outstanding Nebraska High School Senior Class A Football Center who excels on the field, in community and classroom.

Each high school coach will be permitted to nominate one player.

The Committee will choose 3 finalists and announce publicly on 12/3/25 and the winner will be announced on December 10th, 2025.

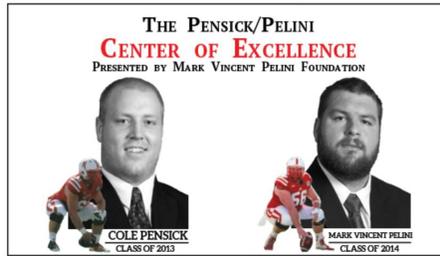
Each high school is encouraged to nominate a Senior who plays the Center position on your football team who also meets the following criteria.

Criteria

1. Leadership
 2. Character
 3. Commitment to Team
 4. Performance on Field
 5. In Good Academic Standing
2. Submit a Coach's Assessment
The Head Coach or Position Coach is asked to define his Center's strength in the above nomination criteria. Please include any stories or insight about your nominee that will assist the COE committee which is made up of former teammates of Cole & Mark.
 3. Return the completed nomination form via email to the COE Committee Representative, Dee Felici dfelici4631@gmail.com by 11/14/2025 or postmarked by 11/11/2025, to Dee Felici, please email if needing to send by mail.



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mvpfoundation56@gmail.com



2025 NOMINATION FORM – Pensick/Pelini Center of Excellence

Recognizing an Outstanding Center in Nebraska Class A High School Football

Nominated Center's Name _____

HIGH SCHOOL TEAM: _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Parent or Guardian First Name; Last Name

Parent or Guardian Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Jersey # _____

Year/Graduate _____ Grade _____

Head Coach _____ Athletic Director _____

Head Coach Email _____ Head Coach Phone _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Highlight Link or Video (if have) Highlight should consist of 8-12 plays.
_____ Emailed (Please include nominated player's name and High School in subject line)

Intended College _____



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