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(Neb.)-Abdullah will return for senior year

By: Andrew Lacy Posted at: 01/09/2014 03:56 PM

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — All-Big Ten running back Ameer Abdullah says he is returning to Nebraska for his senior season.

Abdullah, who ran for more than 1,800 yards as a junior, announced his decision Thursday. He had been considering declaring for the NFL draft after his second straight 1,000-yard season.

Abdullah said each of his eight older siblings has graduated from college and it is important to him and his family that he finish his education.

Coach Bo Pelini said he would have supported Abdullah regardless of the decision he made. Pelini said Abdullah will contend for the Heisman Trophy next season and could rank among the greatest running backs in Nebraska history.