

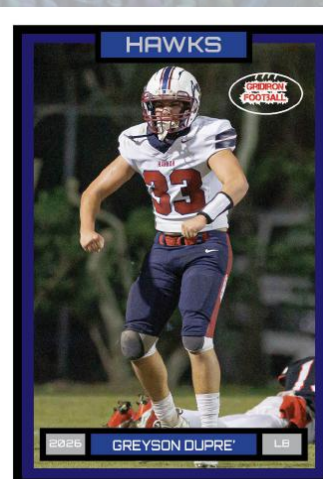
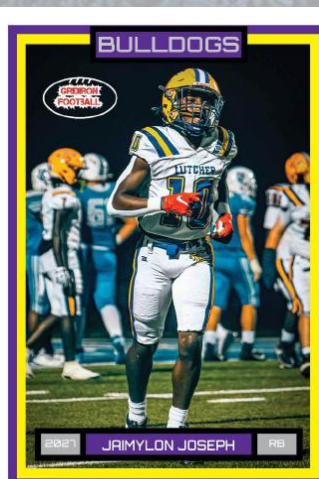
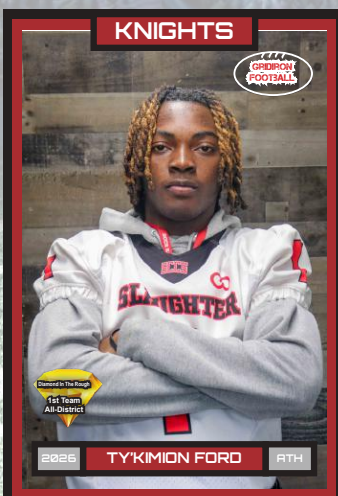
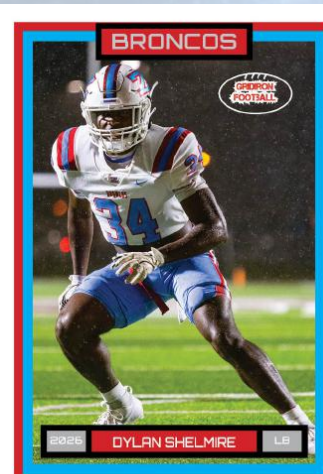
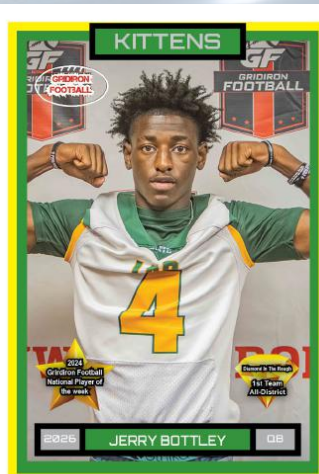
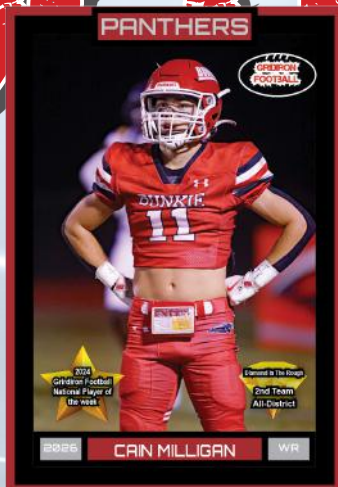
GRIDIRON

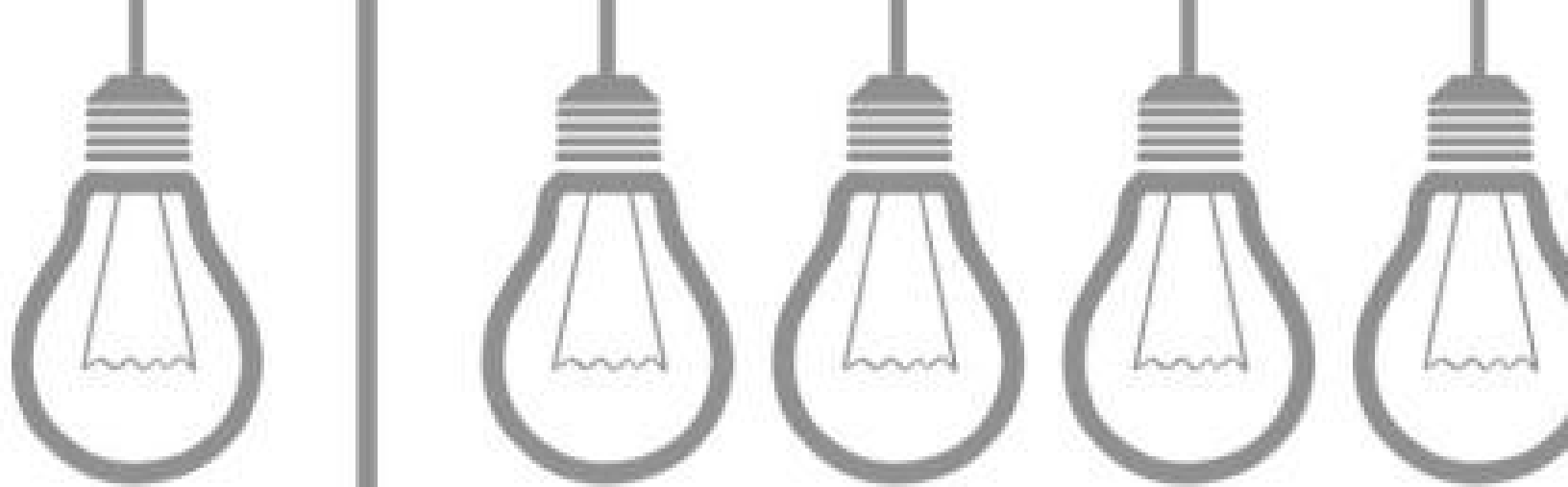
FOOTBALL

MAGAZINE

NFL, College, and High School

**Over 100 Prospects from Texas,
Louisiana, Arkansas, and
Mississippi Rated and Ranked**





You Imagine... We Deliver!



WE MAKE YOU LOOK GOOD ON PAPER
ON MAILERS
ON PENS
ON POSTCARDS
ON SHIRTS
ON BANNERS
ON FOLDERS
ON CATALOGS
ON COFFEE CUPS
ON ENVELOPES
ON BROCHURES
ON BUSINESS CARDS
ON INVITATIONS

Fox Litho for Fast, Affordable Printing - On Time and Local



Print • Digital • Wide Format • Mail • Promo
985-951-3300 • www.FoxLitho.com

FOR A FREE QUOTE ON YOUR NEXT PROJECT! CALL 985-951-3300

ADVERTISE WITH GRIDIRON FOOTBALL

IN DEMAND CONTENT | COMPETITIVE PRICING | EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE



To ADVERTISE
Call: 985-789-9351

Address:
132 NORTH HUMMEL
DENHAM SPRING, LA 70726





Staff



Andy Bryson
CEO | Owner
Former DI Coach
Navy Veteran



Marcus Randall
VP Operations
Former LSU QB
NFL Veteran



Jason Saucier
Head Photographer



Jace LeJeune
LSU Beat
Head Writer



Alex Allison
Southern Beat
High School Writer



Billy Metcalf
LSU Photographer

Win A Cruise for 2

Winner will be announced on July 25th



Gridiron Football is raising money to support its mission as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to helping student-athletes earn college opportunities. Every ticket sold funds exposure camps, recruiting assistance, and the Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Game. By entering the raffle, supporters not only get a chance to win a dream vacation but also invest in changing lives through football. "To change one life is to change a community."

www.GridironFootballUSA.com

Winner will be able to select which cruise, departure, and date they want. Cruise provided by Anywhere Adventures. Package is a \$1500 value.

Anywhere Adventures
WE MAKE PLANS YOU MAKE MEMORIES

\$25 per ticket
or
5 for \$100

Writers

Willow Lamphier
Jenna Davis
Alex McDougal
Matthew Theriot

Follow Us



AS SEEN ON



www.GridironFootballUSA.com

Letter From Andy

As I sit down to reflect on the incredible journey we've taken with Gridiron Football, I am filled with pride, gratitude, and excitement for the road ahead. Over the past 11 years, we have built something truly special—a platform that doesn't just promote football, but changes lives. What started as a passion project has evolved into a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that has helped thousands of young athletes earn exposure, education, and opportunities they may not have otherwise received.

Our mission has always been simple: "To change one life is to change a community." And through the dedication of our staff, partners, coaches, and supporters, we've seen that mission in action time and time again. We've hosted elite football camps across multiple states, reaching athletes in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas, and beyond. These camps provide professional-level coaching and real recruiting opportunities—something we take immense pride in.

Over the past decade, we've assisted over 10,000 athletes in gaining college attention, and many of them have gone on to sign scholarships, attend college, and continue their academic and athletic careers. Through our camps, online content, All-American Bowl, and magazine, we are committed to giving under-recruited players the same spotlight that top-tier recruits receive.

Which brings me to something I'm especially excited about: we're bringing back our print magazine! After a short break, we heard the voices of parents, players, and coaches who said loud and clear—they missed having Gridiron Football in their hands. There's just something about flipping through the pages and seeing your team, your athlete, or your story in print. This isn't just a publication—it's a platform of recognition for athletes who deserve their moment to shine. Expect athlete spotlights, camp recaps, national rankings, and features from across the country.

Looking ahead, we're building even more momentum. In July, we are thrilled to host our third annual Media Day, where athletes will receive professional media coverage, photo shoots, and interviews to help boost their recruiting profiles. It was a massive success last two years, and we're planning to make it even bigger in 2025. That same week, we'll be hosting our second Gridiron Football Breakfast, bringing together community leaders, business sponsors, and football families to celebrate the impact of this platform and to further support our nonprofit mission.

And of course, we are counting down the days until our 2025 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Game this December—an event that has quickly become a must-watch showcase of the nation's best under-the-radar talent. This game is about more than football. It's about bringing families together, highlighting student-athletes who've worked tirelessly, and giving them the chance to perform on a national stage in front of college scouts and fans alike.

None of this would be possible without our incredible supporters. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, we rely on generous donors, sponsors, and volunteers who believe in our mission. Every dollar raised helps fund our camps, provide scholarships, run events, and keep this magazine going strong. If you've supported Gridiron Football in any way—thank you. If you're new to our story, welcome to the family. If you would like our mission and would like to donate again or for the first time, use the QR Code below to do so. We invite you to join us in continuing this mission to uplift young athletes and build a better future through football.

We're just getting started.

Sincerely,
Andy Bryson
CEO, Gridiron Football
www.GridironFootballUSA.com

Use this QR Code
to Donate



Use this QR Code
to watch our story





Contents

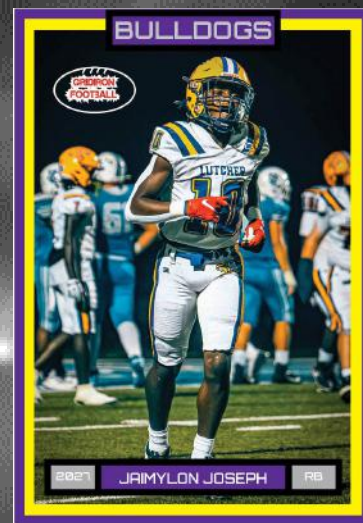
8	Player Profiles	51	Delta State
10	NFC South	53	University of Florida
11	NFC North	54	University of Idaho
12	NFC West	55	Sterling College
13	NFC East	56	Kentucky State
14	AFC South	57	University of West Florida
15	AFC North	58	South Alabama
16	AFC East	59	2024 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Game Signings
17	AFC West	61	School Spotlight: Westwood High School (Palestine, TX)
20	Ultimate Louisiana Food Tour	63	School Spotlight: Evangal Christin (Shreveport, LA)
22	LSU	65	School Spotlight: John Curtis (New Orleans, La)
24	La Tech	68	DITR: Dylan Shelmire
25	University of Louisiana	68	DITR: Greyson Dupre'
26	ULM	69	DITR: Jaimylon Joseph
27	Tulane	69	DITR: Jerry Bottley
28	Southeastern	70	DITR: Brice Duhon
29	Northwestern State	70	DITR: Bryce Restovich
30	Nicholls State	71	DITR: Cayden Randall
32	McNeese State	71	DITR: Ty'Kimion Ford
33	Grambling Sthate	72	Carencro's Carson Gurzi: Louisiana's Next Star QB
34	Southern Universirty	72	DITR: Cain Milligan
35	Louisiana Christian University	73	Class of 2026 Player Ratings
36	Centenary College	76	Class of 2027 Player Ratings
37	University of Texas	79	Class of 2028
38	Texas A&M	80	Class of 2029
39	Rice	81	Class of 2030
40	East Texas Baptist University	81	Class of 2031
42	North Carolina	81	Class of 2032
43	Ohio State	82	Rising Stars To Watch Out For (2028-2032 Class):
44	Syracuse		
45	Arkansas Pine Bluff		
46	Arkansas Monticillo		
47	Mary Hardin-Baylor		
48	Mississippi State		
49	Ole Miss		
50	Murray State		



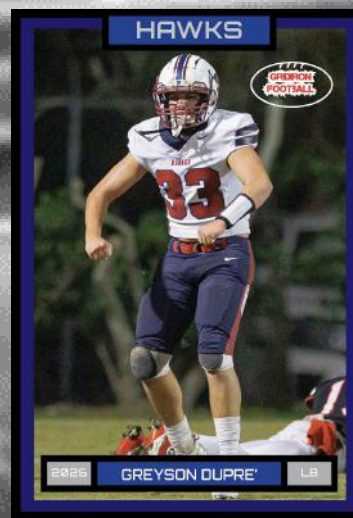
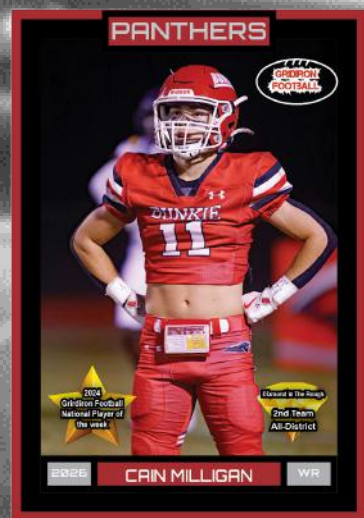
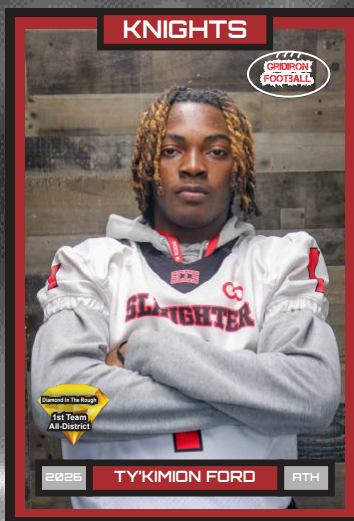
**Class of 2026
DB / LB
Cayden Randall
Woodlawn-BR**

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)
"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

No matter what's happening in your life today, remember: you are not limited by your resources, your family or your background. God has equipped and empowered you. He has given you creativity, ideas, inventions, skills and talents. Don't you dare settle for a mediocre life! Today, I call on the greatness inside of you. Today, I declare that your best days are yet to come That you are going to go further than anyone in your family ever did; that you are going to dream bigger and live higher. I declare that you are a leader, an influencer, a representative of reconciliation, and a healer. There is more to you than you probably realize. There are great things in your near future. Prepare today for the promotion that is coming to you. Don't doubt in yourself another second. Take your purpose and let it led you to your destiny.



Get your card
today
Call Jace
225-270-0130



GRIDIRON FOOTBALL PLAYER PROFILE CARD

College Coaches Recommendations

"Gridiron Football has done a great job of creating exposure for thousands of players in Louisiana, that otherwise may not have been found."



Ron Roberts,
Defensive Cord. University of Florida

"Gridiron Football is a first class publication that gives high school players exposure. I highly recommend them to High School and College Coaches."



Gabe Fertitta
Offensive Coordinator
Nicholls State University

"Gridiron Football is who I trust to keep me updated on the top prospects in the state of Louisiana."



Brandon Lacy,
Defensive Line Western Michigan

"When I am looking 4 OLES, I always check with Gridiron Football."



Eric Pulley
Running Backs Coach
St. Olaf College



In the first two years that we have offered this opportunity, there has been a 100% success rate with our profile card with helping get kids offers.

- Constant Coverage
- Webpage dedicated to athlete
- Interviews
- Sent monthly to 4,000 college coaches
- Be in monthly magazine
- Discounts on Gridiron Football camps/events
- Now in 2025, 1000 printed football cards

The 1,000 printed football cards is a new fun way to remember your time playing this sport we all love and enjoy. With 1,000 cards, you can give cards to your loved ones, friends, trade with team mates, and/or give to college coaches as they visit your school.

Cost \$1,000 for full package or \$750 for just the 1,000 printed football cards one time charge. If you purchase the full package, your athlete will be invited to participate in all of our Elite spring camps at no extra charge.

Call Jace
225-270-0130



Sample Football Cards

New Orleans Saints

Lock Down the Trenches with No. 9 Pick Kelvin Banks Jr.

The New Orleans Saints made a major investment in their offensive future by selecting Kelvin Banks Jr., an elite offensive tackle from the University of Texas, with the 9th overall pick in the 2025 NFL Draft. Banks, standing at 6-foot-5 and weighing 315 pounds, was widely regarded as one of the top linemen available and a future cornerstone for any NFL franchise.

Banks' résumé is as decorated as it gets. Over three dominant seasons at Texas, he started 42 consecutive games at left tackle, protecting the quarterback's blind side and leading a Longhorns offensive line that propelled them to the College Football Playoff in 2024. His final season capped an extraordinary college career, where he won the Lombardi Award and Outland Trophy, was named a First-Team AP All-American, and shared the Jacobs Blocking Trophy as the SEC's best lineman.

Renowned for his technique, athleticism, and consistency, Banks allowed just one sack in each of his last two seasons, while anchoring one of the nation's best pass-blocking units. His ability to neutralize elite pass rushers and open running lanes makes him a perfect fit for the Saints' commitment to building from the inside out under new head coach Kellen Moore.

Saints fans can expect Banks to step in immediately and provide critical protection for their offense, adding both stability and toughness to the line. The selection of Kelvin Banks Jr. signals a strong commitment to building a dominant offense for years to come.

2025 Draft Picks

Kelvin Banks Jr., OT, Texas
1st round, No. 9
Tyler Shough, QB, Louisville
2nd round, No. 40
Vernon Broughton, DT, Texas
3rd round, No. 71
Jonas Sanker, S, Virginia
3rd round, No. 93
Danny Stutsman, LB, Oklahoma
4th round, No. 112
Quincy Riley, CB, Louisville
4th round, No. 131
Devin Neal, RB, Kansas
6th round, No. 184
Moliki Matavao, TE, UCLA
7th round, No. 248
Fadil Diggs, DL, Syracuse
7th round, No. 254

Buccaneers Strengthen Defense, Add Playmakers in 2025 NFL Draft

After returning one of the NFL's top offenses but struggling with defensive consistency in 2024, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers entered the 2025 NFL Draft aiming to bolster their defense. However, with the 19th overall pick, the Bucs couldn't resist the value of Ohio State's dynamic wide receiver Emeka Egbuka, adding yet another elite weapon to an already loaded offense.

The Bucs returned to their defensive focus on Day Two and Day Three, selecting cornerbacks Benjamin Morrison and Jacob Parrish, as well as pass rushers David Walker and Elijah Roberts. Assistant GM Rob McCartney summed it up best: *"I think we're going to be a better team pressuring the quarterback and a better team probably taking the ball away, too."*

Late in the draft, the Bucs grabbed another offensive spark plug, selecting Tez Johnson, an electric wide receiver and return specialist from Oregon. Despite his smaller frame, Tampa Bay believes Johnson's explosive playmaking ability will translate at the next level.

The Buccaneers' 2025 draft class reflects a strategic blend of best-player-available selections and targeted defensive reinforcements. With a foundation built on four straight division titles and a Super Bowl title after the 2020 season, the Bucs hope this draft will help push them back to championship contention.

"We're jacked upstairs," said McCartney, emphasizing the team's excitement about the new additions. If their recent draft success is any indication, Tampa Bay's future remains very bright.

2025 Draft Picks

Emeka Egbuka, WR, Ohio State
Round 1, No. 19 overall
Benjamin Morrison, CB, Notre Dame
Round 2, No. 53
Jacob Parrish, CB, Kansas State
Round 3, No. 84
David Walker, Edge, Central Arkansas
Round 4, No. 121
Elijah Roberts, DL, SMU
Round 5, No. 157
Tez Johnson, WR, Oregon
Round 7, No. 235

Falcons Focus on Defense, Land Two First-Round Stars in 2025 NFL Draft

The Atlanta Falcons entered the 2025 NFL Draft with only five picks but made a major splash on defense. With the 15th overall pick, they grabbed Jalon Walker, the versatile linebacker from Georgia. Despite being known for playing off the ball, Walker's athleticism, size (6-1, 243 pounds), and ability to contribute in multiple roles made him a huge win for Atlanta. "Walker is the first player from the University of Georgia drafted by the Falcons in the first or second round since 1966," a historic pick sure to thrill local fans.

The Falcons then made a bold move, trading with the Rams to land James Pearce Jr. at No. 26 overall. Pearce, the explosive edge rusher from Tennessee, posted a 19.6% pressure rate over the past two seasons, the second highest in the FBS. With elite speed (4.47 40-yard dash) and proven production in the SEC, Pearce fills Atlanta's most glaring need for a dynamic pass rusher.

Atlanta continued adding defensive firepower with the selections of safeties Xavier Watts (Round 3) and Billy Bowman Jr. (Round 4), both known for their ball-hawking skills. They capped their draft by addressing offensive line depth, selecting Jack Nelson, a big-bodied tackle from Wisconsin, in the seventh round.

The Falcons' 2025 draft focused squarely on building a faster, more disruptive defense—one that should quickly make an impact under new coordinator Jeff Ulbrich.

2025 Draft Picks

Jalon Walker, LB, Georgia
Round 1: No. 15 overall
James Pearce Jr., DE, Tennessee
Round 1: No. 26 overall (L.A. Rams)
Xavier Watts, S, Notre Dame
Round 3: No. 96 overall (Eagles)
Billy Bowman Jr., S, Oklahoma
Round 4, No. 118
Jack Nelson, T, Wisconsin
Round 7, No. 218 (from Cleveland through Los Angeles Chargers)

Panthers Bolster Offense and Defense in 2025 NFL Draft

The Carolina Panthers approached the 2025 NFL Draft determined to support quarterback Bryce Young while laying the groundwork for a stronger defense. Their first move was a bold one—selecting Arizona wide receiver Tetairoa McMillan with the No. 8 overall pick. McMillan's size (6'4", 219 lbs) and proven production (2,721 yards, 18 TDs over two seasons) offer Young a much-needed big, fast target in the passing game.

On Day Two, Carolina shifted its focus to defense, picking up two edge rushers: Nic Scourton from Texas A&M and Princely Umanmielen from Ole Miss. With veteran pass rusher Jadeveon Clowney's future uncertain, these two young defenders could be critical to revamping the Panthers' defensive front.

The Panthers continued building depth on both sides of the ball, selecting Georgia running back Trevor Etienne, Ohio State safety Lathan Ransom, Florida nose tackle Cam Jackson, Notre Dame tight end Mitchell Evans, and Colorado wide receiver Jimmy Horn Jr. in the later rounds. Etienne adds versatility to the backfield, Ransom strengthens the secondary, and Jackson brings much-needed size against the run.

Carolina's 2025 class blends immediate playmakers with developmental prospects, aiming to help the Panthers bounce back from a rough 2024 season. Coach Dave Canales and GM Dan Morgan clearly believe they've landed a group that will grow alongside Young and form the core of a brighter future in Carolina.

2025 Draft Picks

Tetairoa McMillan, WR, Arizona
Round 1, No. 8
Nic Scourton, Edge, Texas A&M
Round 2, No. 51
Princely Umanmielen, Edge, Ole Miss
Round 3, No. 77
Trevor Etienne, RB, Georgia
Round 4, No. 111
Lathan Ransom, S, Ohio State
Round 4, No. 122
Cam Jackson, NT, Florida
Round 5 No. 140 (from Giants)
Mitchell Evans, TE, Notre Dame
Round 5, No. 163
Jimmy Horn Jr., WR, Colorado
Round 6, pick 208



Chicago Bears Add Firepower and Depth in 2025 NFL Draft

The Chicago Bears made eight selections in the 2025 NFL Draft, highlighted by the addition of tight end Colston Loveland with the No. 10 overall pick. Loveland, a product of Michigan, is expected to make an immediate impact in new offensive coordinator Ben Johnson's system, which will heavily utilize two-tight-end sets. Chicago views Loveland as a mismatch weapon to complement veteran Cole Kmet.

In the second round, the Bears doubled down on offensive firepower by selecting wide receiver Luther Burden III from Missouri, an explosive slot option with elite production. They also added offensive tackle Ozzy Trapilo to fortify their offensive line and defensive tackle Shemar Turner to strengthen the pass rush.

On Day 3, Chicago focused on depth, selecting linebacker Ruben Hyppolite II, cornerback Zah Frazier, and offensive lineman Luke Newman. Their final pick, running back Kyle Monangai, brings power and ball security to the backfield, boasting zero fumbles over 669 carries at Rutgers.

The Bears addressed major needs on both sides of the ball, improving quarterback Bryce Young's supporting cast while adding critical defensive pieces. With these selections, Chicago hopes to continue its upward trajectory and build a playoff-caliber roster for the 2025 season.

2025 Draft Picks

Colston Loveland, TE, Michigan
Round 1, pick 10
Luther Burden III, WR, Missouri
Round 2, pick 39
Ozzy Trapilo, OT, Boston College
Round 2, pick 56
Shemar Turner, DL, Texas A&M
Round 3, pick 62
Ruben Hyppolite II, LB, Maryland
Round 4, pick 132
Zah Frazier, CB, UTSA
Round 5, pick 169
Luke Newman, OT, Michigan State
Round 6, pick 195
Kyle Monangai, RB, Rutgers
Round 7, pick 233

Packers End 2025 Draft with Weapons and Depth Across the Board

The Green Bay Packers wrapped up the 2025 NFL Draft from Lambeau Field by selecting eight players, focusing on adding playmakers for quarterback Jordan Love and bolstering depth across the roster.

With the 23rd overall pick, Green Bay broke a two-decade trend by selecting Texas wide receiver Matthew Golden, giving Love a speedy (4.29 40-yard dash) deep threat after Christian Watson's injury. Golden's 10 catches of 25+ yards last season showcase his big-play ability, much needed in the Packers' offense.

In Round Two, the Packers added offensive tackle Anthony Belton from NC State, a massive 6-foot-6 lineman who provides versatility across the offensive front. They doubled up at wide receiver with Savion Williams (TCU) in the third round, a versatile playmaker with rushing, receiving, and even passing touchdowns in college.

Green Bay finally addressed the pass rush by drafting Barryn Sorrell (Texas) in Round Four and Collin Oliver (Oklahoma State) in Round Five. In the late rounds, they focused on the trenches and secondary, picking defensive tackle Warren Brinson (Georgia), cornerback Micah Robinson (Tulane), and offensive lineman John Williams (Cincinnati).

The Packers focused on size, speed, and versatility, aiming to support Love's development and strengthen their 2025 roster on both sides of the ball.

2025 Draft Picks

Matthew Golden, WR, Texas
Round 1, pick 23
Anthony Belton, OL, NC State
Round 2, pick 54
Savion Williams, WR, TCU
Round 3, pick 87
Barryn Sorrell, EDGE, Texas
Round 4, pick 124
Collin Oliver, LB, Oklahoma State
Round 5, pick 159
Warren Brinson, DL, Georgia
Round 6, pick 198
Micah Robinson, CB, Tulane
Round 7, pick 237
John Williams, OT, Cincinnati
Round 7, pick 250

Detroit Lions Address Key Needs in Well-Rounded 2025 Draft Class

The Detroit Lions wrapped up the 2025 NFL Draft with a strong, need-based approach, selecting seven players who fit both their roster holes and their gritty team identity.

In the first round, Detroit added run-stuffing defensive tackle Tyleik Williams from Ohio State, a powerful interior presence who can immediately help anchor the line. In the second round, the Lions boosted their offensive line by grabbing Tate Ratledge, a tough, NFL-ready guard from Georgia who will push for a starting job.

The Lions continued adding weapons for quarterback Jared Goff, selecting Isaac TeSlaa (WR, Arkansas) in the third round and Dominic Lovett (WR, Georgia) in the seventh. TeSlaa offers size and athleticism, while Lovett brings quickness and slot ability.

Detroit strengthened its trenches even further, adding versatile guard Miles Frazier from LSU in the fifth round and athletic edge rusher Ahmed Hassanein from Boise State in the sixth. Finally, the Lions rounded out the draft with safety Dan Jackson (Georgia), a high-motor special teams ace with upside as a run-stopping defensive back.

General Manager Brad Holmes and the Lions front office stayed patient, made strategic trades, and came away with a class that fills all their major needs while maintaining the toughness and versatility that has defined Detroit's resurgence.

2025 Draft Picks

Tyleik Williams, DL, Ohio State
Round 1, pick 28
Tate Ratledge, IOL, Georgia
Round 2, pick 57
Isaac TeSlaa, WR, Arkansas
Round 3, pick 70
Miles Frazier, IOL, LSU
Round 5, pick 171
Ahmed Hassanein, EDGE, Boise St
Round 6, pick 196
Dan Jackson, S, Georgia
Round 7, pick 230
Dominic Lovett, WR, Georgia
Round 7, pick 244

Vikings Prioritize Protection and Speed in 2025 NFL Draft

The Minnesota Vikings entered the 2025 NFL Draft with a clear plan: fortify the interior offensive line and add explosive playmakers. With their first-round pick (No. 24 overall), the Vikings selected Ohio State guard Donovan Jackson, passing on multiple trade offers. Jackson's versatility and toughness impressed head coach Kevin O'Connell, who emphasized solidifying the pocket after the team's playoff struggles. Although the Vikings will host a competition at left guard, Jackson is expected to be a rookie starter.

In the third round (No. 102), the Vikings bolstered their receiving corps by selecting Tai Felton from Maryland. Known for his blazing 4.37-second 40-yard dash and strong production (96 catches in 2024), Felton adds much-needed speed and depth, especially with uncertainty surrounding Jordan Addison's availability.

Minnesota turned to defense in the fifth round, grabbing defensive lineman Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins from Georgia to inject youth into an aging front. In the sixth round, the Vikings rounded out their draft with two picks: tight end Gavin Bartholomew from Pittsburgh, offering depth behind T.J. Hockenson, and linebacker Kobe King from Penn State, a high-motor player expected to contribute immediately on special teams.

Though it was a small draft class, the Vikings focused on high-impact, high-character players to complement their core as they aim for a stronger 2025 campaign.

2025 Draft Picks

Donovan Jackson, IOL, Ohio State
Round 1, pick 24
Tai Felton, WR, Maryland
Round 3, pick 102
Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins, DL, Georgia
Round 5, pick 139
Kobe King, LB, Penn State
Round 6, pick 201
Gavin Bartholomew, TE, Pittsburgh
Round 6, pick 202



Cardinals Rebuild Defense, Add Key Pieces in 2025 NFL Draft

The Arizona Cardinals wrapped up a productive 2025 NFL Draft, using their eight selections to bolster their defense and add depth across the roster.

The Cardinals kicked off their draft by selecting Walter Nolen, a dominant defensive tackle from Ole Miss, with the 16th overall pick. Nolen brings immediate strength to the defensive front, complementing veterans like Calais Campbell and Dalvin Tomlinson. His ability to disrupt plays at the line makes him a potential Day 1 starter.

In the second round, Arizona may have landed a steal in Will Johnson (CB, Michigan), a former projected top-10 pick who slipped due to knee concerns. If healthy, Johnson could develop into the Cardinals' CB1 alongside rising star Marvin Harrison Jr.

Third-round pick Jordan Burch (DE, Oregon) adds depth and explosiveness off the edge, while Cody Simon (LB, Ohio State) brings versatility and leadership to the linebacker corps after a stellar college career.

The Cardinals continued strengthening the secondary by drafting Denzel Burke (CB, Ohio State) in the fifth round, adding a veteran college defender with 51 career starts. Hayden Conner (OG, Texas) was selected in the sixth to bolster the offensive line, and Kitan Crawford (S, Nevada) rounded out the class as a potential special teams contributor.

Overall, Arizona prioritized toughness, versatility, and long-term upside, laying the foundation for an exciting future.

2025 Draft Picks

Walter Nolen, DL, Ole Miss
Round 1, pick 16
Will Johnson, CB, Michigan
Round 2, pick 47
Jordan Burch, DL, Oregon
Round 3, pick 78
Cody Simon, LB, Ohio State
Round 4, pick 115
Denzel Burke, CB, Ohio State
Round 5, pick 174
Hayden Conner, IOL, Texas
Round 6, pick 211
Kitan Crawford, S, Nevada
Round 7, pick 225

49ers Reinforce Defense, Add Speed in 2025 NFL Draft

The San Francisco 49ers completed the 2025 NFL Draft by selecting 11 players, emphasizing defense early before rounding out the offense and special teams.

The 49ers kicked off their draft by taking edge rusher Mykel Williams from Georgia at No. 11 overall. Williams, known for his ability to set the edge, is expected to start opposite Nick Bosa right away. In Round 2, they bolstered their defensive front with Alfred Collins (DT, Texas), adding size and power inside. They continued building defensively with linebacker Nick Martin (Oklahoma State) and cornerback Upton Stout (Western Kentucky), addressing key roster needs.

The team finally turned to offense in Round 4, selecting receiver Jordan Watkins (Ole Miss), followed by running back Jordan James (Oregon) and safety Marques Sigle (Kansas State) in the fifth round. Day Three also saw quarterback Kurtis Rourke (Indiana), offensive lineman Connor Colby (Iowa), and receiver/returner Junior Bergen (Montana) added for depth and development.

San Francisco's focus on rebuilding the defensive core while adding playmakers and depth on offense showcases a balanced strategy. With strong competition expected at multiple positions, the 49ers have positioned themselves well to maintain their status as NFC contenders heading into the 2025 season.

2025 Draft Picks

Mykel Williams, EDGE, Georgia
Round 1, pick 11
Alfred Collins, DL, Texas
Round 2, pick 43
Nick Martin, LB, Oklahoma State
Round 3, pick 75
Upton Stout, CB, Western Kentucky
Round 3, pick 100
CJ West, DL, Indiana
Round 4, pick 113
Jordan Watkins, WR, Ole Miss
Round 4, pick 138
Jordan James, RB, Oregon
Round 5, pick 147
Marques Sigle, S, Kansas State
Round 5, pick 160
Kurtis Rourke, QB, Indiana
Round 7, pick 227
Connor Colby, IOL, Iowa
Round 7, pick 249
Junior Bergen, WR, Montana
Round 7, pick 252

Seahawks Build for the Future with 2025 NFL Draft Class

The Seattle Seahawks focused heavily on building the trenches and adding playmakers during the 2025 NFL Draft, starting with a key selection at No. 18 overall: Grey Zabel, a versatile offensive lineman from North Dakota State. Zabel's athleticism and familiarity with zone schemes should solidify Seattle's shaky interior offensive line, addressing a major weakness from last season.

In the second round, Seattle traded up to grab Nick Emmanwori, a hard-hitting safety from South Carolina, adding another chess piece for defensive coordinator Mike Macdonald. They followed with Elijah Arroyo, a talented Miami tight end, providing insurance (and potential competition) for veteran Noah Fant.

The Seahawks also took a flyer on Alabama quarterback Jalen Milroe in the third round, hoping to develop him behind Sam Darnold while tapping into his explosive athleticism.

Seattle kept reloading in the later rounds, adding versatile linemen Rylie Mills and Bryce Cabeldue, receivers Tory Horton and Ricky White III, and a physical back in Damien Martinez. Tight end Robbie Ouzts and offensive tackle Mason Richman round out a class heavy on physical traits and scheme fits.

Overall, Seattle made it clear they are focused on toughness, versatility, and long-term development, aiming to rebuild the foundation under new leadership while competing now.

2025 Draft Picks

Grey Zabel, OL, North Dakota St.
Round 1, pick 18
Nick Emmanwori, S, So. Carolina
Round 2, pick 35
Elijah Arroyo, TE, Miami
Round 2, pick 50
Jalen Milroe, QB, Alabama
Round 3, pick 92
Rylie Mills, DL, Notre Dame
Round 5, pick 142
Tory Horton, WR, Colorado State
Round 5, pick 166
Robbie Ouzts, TE, Alabama
Round 5, pick 175
Bryce Cabeldue, OT, Kansas
Round 6, pick 192
Damien Martinez, RB, Miami
Round 7, pick 223
Mason Richman, OT, Iowa
Round 7, pick 234
Ricky White III, WR, UNLV
Round 7, pick 238

Rams Reload in 2025 NFL Draft with Balanced Approach

The Los Angeles Rams wrapped up their 2025 NFL Draft with six new additions, focusing on both immediate needs and long-term depth.

After trading out of the first round, the Rams made their first selection at No. 46 overall, grabbing Terrance Ferguson, a talented tight end from Oregon. Ferguson, who set a single-season tight end record at Oregon, will help boost a position group that ranked last in the NFL for receiving yards in 2024.

In the third round, Los Angeles added edge rusher Josaiah Stewart from Michigan. Despite being undersized at 6'1", Stewart's relentless motor and 14 career sacks made him a smart pickup for a pass rush needing reinforcements after offseason losses.

The Rams addressed the backfield next, trading up in the fourth round for Jarquez Hunter, a tough Auburn running back known for breaking tackles and averaging over 4 yards after contact.

On Day Three, they continued bolstering the defense with Ty Hamilton, a durable Ohio State defensive tackle, and Chris Paul Jr., a linebacker from Ole Miss who excelled in both tackling and pass coverage.

Finally, in the seventh round, the Rams added speedy wide receiver Konata Mumpfield from Pittsburgh, adding even more depth to an already talented receiving corps.

Overall, the Rams filled critical gaps while building for the future in a draft marked by smart trades and value selections.

2025 Draft Picks

Terrance Ferguson, TE, Oregon
Round 2, pick 46
Josaiah Stewart, EDGE, Michigan
Round 3, pick 90
Jarquez Hunter, RB, Auburn
Round 4, pick 117
Ty Hamilton, DL, Ohio State
Round 5, pick 148
Chris Paul Jr., LB, Ole Miss
Round 5, pick 172
Konata Mumpfield, WR, Pittsburgh
Round 7, pick 242



New York Giants Take Big Swing For QB of the Future in 2025 NFL Draft

The New York Giants made major waves on the first day of the draft by aggressively trading up late into the first to secure two exciting first-round picks. They kicked things off with blue-chip edge rusher Abdul Carter, a linebacker-to-defensive-end convert with elite first-step quickness, lightning burst, and a relentless motor that causes havoc. Then, instead of risking disappointment, the Giants boldly traded up to pick 25 to land Ole Miss QB Jaxson Dart. Dart, a strong-armed, mobile, gunslinging quarterback, will make or break this draft as a polarizing prospect. If he develops, the Giants' future looks thrilling and full of potential.

The remainder of the draft focused on gritty, physical playmakers. Cam Skattebo's elite contact balance and violent running style will energize the backfield. Thomas Fidone brings excellent blocking and red-zone versatility. Darius Alexander, one of the oldest prospects, offers experience and immediate impact on the defensive line. Marcus Mbow is an intelligent, position-flexible lineman with impressive athleticism, while Korie Black boasts strong instincts and ball skills as a developing cornerback.

2025 Draft Picks

Abdul Carter, EDGE, Penn St
Round 1, Pick 3
Jaxson Dart, QB, Ole Miss
Round 1, Pick 25
Darius Alexander, DT, Toledo
Round 3, Pick 65
Cam Skattebo, RB, Arizona St
Round 4, Pick 105
Marcus Mbow, OT, Purdue
Round 5, Pick 154
Thomas Fidone II, TE, Nebraska
Round 7, Pick 219
Korie Black, CB, Oklahoma St
Round 7, Pick 246

The Philadelphia Eagles Restock on Defense in 2025 NFL Draft

The Philadelphia Eagles look to defend their Super Bowl with a solid value-getting draft started with five picks on defense. Jihaad Campbell is a top 15 talent recovering from injury, but the Eagles have the luxury of gradually working him into the rotation since they're loaded. Andrew Mukuba is a pure free safety with great coverage instincts and room to grow in run defense. They continued on day three with Ty Robinson's violent physicality, Mac McWilliams' agility and toughness, and Smael Mondon's rare level of overall athleticism.

The Eagles continued the draft by going heavy in the trenches, with the exception of sixth round QB Kyle McCord, one of the high floor backup QB prospects this year. Drew Kendall has NFL pedigree and a lot of all-around strengths, just needing to get a bit stronger. Myle Hinton and Cameron Williams are two developmental OT prospects that will work under legendary OL coach Jeff Stoutland. Finally, Antwaun Powell-Ryland is an undersized edge rusher with bendiness and burst as a pass rusher, a fun rotational depth piece.

2025 Draft Picks

Jihaad Campbell, LB, Alabama
Round 1, Pick 31
Andrew Mukuba, S, Texas
Round 2, Pick 64
Ty Robinson, DT, Nebraska
Round 4, Pick 111
Mac McWilliams, CB, UCF
Round 5, Pick 145
Smael Mondon Jr., LB, Georgia
Round 5, Pick 161
Drew Kendall, C, Boston College
Round 5, Pick 168
Kyle McCord, QB, Syracuse
Round 6, Pick 181
Myles Hinton, OT, Michigan
Round 6, Pick 191
Cameron Williams, OT, Texas
Round 6, Pick 207
Antwaun Powell-Ryland, EDGE, Virginia Tech
Round 6, Pick 209

Washington Commanders Get Beef in 2025 NFL Draft

The Washington Commanders had a short draft class, but combined with their explosive trades and free agent signings, the future is bright in DC following a sensational 2024. Even after acquiring Laremy Tunsil, the Commanders still wanted another tackle, and Josh Conerly filled the role perfectly at pick 29. His elite mirroring ability and reasonable size can make him a solid tackle for years to come. Trey Amos will continue bolstering the secondary alongside midseason acquisition Marshon Lattimore, as his size and speed gives him a high ceiling as an outside corner.

After adding vet Deebo Samuel, the Commanders hit another WR with Jaylin Lane, another fast and athletic player who can take the top off the defense with a connection to Jayden Daniels. Kain Medrano is a coverage linebacker still learning the nuances of run defense. Finally, Jacory Croskey-Merritt has genuine starting RB upside despite his draft capital. He has the capacity to take the starting role from an unspectacular and aging RB room heading into 2025.

2025 Draft Picks

Josh Conerly Jr., OT, Oregon
Round 1, Pick 29
Trey Amos, CB, Ole Miss
Round 2, Pick 61
Jaylin Lane, WR, Virginia Tech
Round 4, Pick 128
Kain Medrano, LB, UCLA
Round 6, Pick 205
Jacory Croskey-Merritt, RB, Arizona
Round 7, Pick 245

Dallas Cowboys Draft Recap in 2025

The Dallas Cowboys had an interesting draft this year, mixing reaches and value picks throughout. They started with Tyler Booker, a powerful guard who struggles with agility. He was outside of the consensus top 30, but the Cowboys wanted their guy and got him here at pick 12. They made up for it with their day 2, taking fringe first round talents in Donovan Ezeiruaku and Shavon Revel. Ezeiruaku's size and Revel's ACL tear pushed them down the boards, but the Cowboys can benefit with two great players in the second and third rounds.

The Cowboys restocked RB on day 3 with Jaydon Blue and Phil Mafa, a speed and power combo of players that complement each other well. Ajani Cornelius was a top 100 player going into the draft before struggling in 2024 and falling to the Cowboys in round 6, and Shemar James is a developmental LB with raw athleticism and potential to transition to edge rusher. Jay Toia and Tommy Akingbesote are a pair of developmental DTs with good size.

2025 Draft Picks

Tyler Booker, G, Alabama
Round 1, Pick 12
Donovan Ezeiruaku, EDGE, Boston College
Round 2, Pick 44
Shavon Revel, CB, East Carolina
Round 3, Pick 76
Jaydon Blue, RB, Texas
Round 5, Pick 149
Shemar James, LB, Florida
Round 5, Pick 152
Ajani Cornelius, OT, Oregon
Round 6, Pick 204
Jay Toia, DT, UCLA
Round 7, Pick 217
Phil Mafa, RB, Clemson
Round 7, Pick 239
Tommy Akingbesote, DT, Maryland
Round 7, Pick 247



Jax Jaguars Make Blockbuster Trade to Add Superstar in 2025 NFL Draft

The Jacksonville Jaguars made a bold move during the 2025 NFL Draft, trading up from pick No. 5 to No. 2 in a deal with the Cleveland Browns. In return, the Jaguars gave up their 2025 second-round pick and a 2026 first-rounder, all to secure two-way superstar and Heisman Trophy winner Travis Hunter. Known for his dominance at both wide receiver and cornerback, Hunter will initially line up on offense, giving quarterback Trevor Lawrence another dangerous weapon alongside standout Brian Thomas Jr.

The Jaguars kept adding to their roster with versatile talent. In the third round, they selected Tulane's Caleb Ransaw, a physical nickel corner who could eventually transition to safety. They followed that up with offensive lineman Wyatt Milum from West Virginia, a former standout tackle expected to move inside due to arm length concerns.

In the fourth round, explosive RB Bhayshul Tuten joined the fold to bolster a solid but unspectacular backfield. Linebackers Jack Kiser and Jalen McLeod, picked in the fourth and sixth rounds, bring contrasting skill sets—Kiser's consistency and McLeod's power.

Finally, USC lineman Jonah Monheim rounded out the draft class. But make no mistake—this draft will be defined by Travis Hunter's impact in Jacksonville.

2025 Draft Picks:

Travis Hunter, WR/CB, Colorado. Round 1, Pick 2
Caleb Ransaw, CB, Tulane. Round 3, Pick 88
Wyatt Milum, G, West Virginia. Round 3, Pick 89
Bhayshul Tuten, RB, Virginia Tech. Round 4, Pick 104
Jack Kiser, LB, Notre Dame. Round 4, Pick 107
Jalen McLeod, LB, Auburn. Round 6, Pick 194
Rayuan Lane III, S, Navy. Round 6, Pick 200
Jonah Monheim, C, USC. Round 7, Pick 221

Indianapolis Colts Have Balanced Approach in 2025 NFL Draft

The Indianapolis Colts took a well-rounded approach to the 2025 NFL Draft, addressing critical roster needs early while finding value in the later rounds. Their first-round selection was Tyler Warren, a versatile tight end from Penn State who was widely projected to land in Indianapolis. Warren fills a major hole at the position and brings a complete skill set—he can block, catch, rack up yards after the catch, and even pass or snap the ball, making him a true Swiss Army knife for the Colts' offense.

In the second round, the Colts landed one of the draft's safest defensive players in Ohio State edge rusher JT Tuimolau. A former five-star prospect, Tuimolau brings a polished pass-rushing repertoire and excellent run-stopping ability, making him an every-down contributor. Third-round cornerback Justin Walley from Minnesota adds agility and awareness to the secondary, while fourth-round offensive tackle Jalen Travis out of Iowa State has the athleticism to eventually earn a starting role.

Fifth-round pick DJ Giddens gives star running back Jonathan Taylor a solid backup with starter potential. Sixth-round quarterback Riley Leonard is a name to watch with the starting QB job still unsettled in Indy. The draft wrapped with two front-seven depth additions: DT Tim Smith and LB Hunter Woehler.

2025 Draft Picks:

Tyler Warren, TE, Penn St. Round 1, Pick 14
JT Tuimolau, EDGE, Ohio St. Round 2, Pick 45
Justin Walley, CB, Minnesota. Round 3, Pick 80
Jalen Travis, OT, Iowa St. Round 4, Pick 127
DJ Giddens, RB, Kansas St. Round 5, Pick 151
Riley Leonard, QB, Notre Dame. Round 6, Pick 189
Tim Smith, DT, Alabama. Round 6, Pick 190
Hunter Woehler, LB, Wisconsin. Round 7, Pick 232

Houston Texans Address Big Offensive Needs in 2025 NFL Draft

The Houston Texans entered the 2025 NFL Draft looking to replenish talent at wide receiver and offensive tackle after losing Stefon Diggs and Tank Dell, and trading away Laremy Tunsil. They wasted no time addressing these needs.

After trading out of the first round for extra capital, the Texans selected Iowa State's Jayden Higgins in the second round. Higgins, a big-bodied and versatile target, projects as a strong complement to Nico Collins. In the third round, they doubled down by picking Higgins' college teammate Jaylin Noel, hoping their chemistry carries into the NFL. Sandwiched between those picks was offensive tackle Aireontae Ersery, a massive lineman with raw tools who needs technical refinement.

Houston rounded out day two by selecting USC defensive back Jaylin Smith, who offers positional versatility despite average speed. On day three, they added explosive Mississippi State running back Woody Marks and physical safety Jaylen Reed. Florida quarterback Graham Mertz provides developmental depth behind C.J. Stroud, while DT Kyonte Hamilton brings a wrestling background to the trenches. Seventh-round TE Luke Lachey is a potential sleeper if he regains pre-injury form.

2025 Draft Picks:

Jayden Higgins, WR, Iowa St. Round 2, Pick 34
Aireontae Ersery, T, Minnesota. Round 2, Pick 48
Jaylin Noel, WR, Iowa St. Round 3, Pick 79
Jaylin Smith, CB, USC. Round 3, Pick 97
Woody Marks, RB, USC. Round 4, Pick 116
Jaylen Reed, S, Penn St. Round 6, Pick 187
Graham Mertz, QB, Florida. Round 6, Pick 197
Kyonte Hamilton, DT, Rutgers. Round 7, Pick 224
Luke Lachey, TE, Iowa. Round 7, Pick 255

Tennessee Titans Find Hopeful Franchise Savior in 2025 NFL Draft

The Tennessee Titans began the 2025 NFL Draft by selecting quarterback Cam Ward, the consensus top signal-caller in the class. Known for his electric big-play ability, Ward brings excitement and hope to a franchise searching for stability at quarterback. While his aggressive style comes with turnover risk, the Titans are betting on his upside to break free from years of QB uncertainty.

The rest of the draft added key depth and potential playmakers. In round two, the Titans picked up athletic LB-EDGE convert Oluwafemi Oladejo, who boasts great upside but needs refinement. Third-rounder Kevin Winston Jr., a safety from Penn State, was a first-round talent before an ACL injury in 2024—if healthy, he could be a major steal.

Tennessee focused on weapons for Ward in the fourth round, adding WRs Chimere Dike (elite speed), Elic Ayomanor (big-bodied route runner), and TE Gunnar Helm (versatile playmaker).

Late-round picks included OL Jackson Slater, CB Marcus Harris, and RB Kalel Mullings, who aims to rise in a competitive backfield alongside Tony Pollard and Tyjae Spears.

2025 Draft Picks

Cam Ward, QB, Miami. Round 1, Pick 1
Oluwafemi Oladejo, EDGE, UCLA. Round 2, Pick 52
Kevin Winston Jr., S, Penn St. Round 3, Pick 82
Chimere Dike, WR, Florida. Round 4, Pick 103
Gunnar Helm, TE, Texas. Round 4, Pick 120
Elic Ayomanor, WR, Stanford. Round 4, Pick 136
Jackson Slater, G, Sacramento St. Round 5, Pick 167
Marcus Harris, CB, Cal. Round 6, Pick 183
Kalel Mullings, RB, Michigan. Round 6, Pick 188

Baltimore Ravens Get Best Value of the 2025 NFL Draft

The Baltimore Ravens made waves in the 2025 NFL Draft, landing an impressive 11 picks that balanced high-end talent with depth. First-rounder Malaki Starks, arguably the top safety in the class, instantly upgrades the secondary and frees up Kyle Hamilton. Second-round pick Mike Green slid due to off-field issues but is considered the second-best edge rusher in the draft, with elite power and run-stopping ability.

On the offensive line, the Ravens took Emery Jones, a former top-50 prospect with positional versatility, and LSU teammate Garrett Dellinger in the seventh. Linebacker Teddy Buchanan and SWAC standout OT Carson Vinson add depth and upside.

In the sixth round, Baltimore made five picks: Bilhal Kone and Robert Longerbeam bolster the secondary, LaJohntay Wester adds explosiveness at WR, and Aeneas Peebles provides pass-rush juice inside. Lastly, the Ravens drafted kicker Tyler Loop, potentially eyeing a replacement for Justin Tucker after a down 2024 and off-field concerns.

2025 NFL Draft Picks

Malaki Starks, S, UGA
Round 1, Pick 27
Mike Green, EDGE, Marshall
Round 2, Pick 59
Emery Jones, OT, LSU
Round 3, Pick 91
Teddy Buchanan, LB, Cal
Round 4, Pick 129
Carson Vinson, OT, Alabama A&M
Round 5, Pick 141
Bilhal Kone, CB, Western Michigan
Round 6, Pick 178
Tyler Loop, K, Arizona
Round 6, Pick 186
LaJohntay Wester, WR, Colorado
Round 6, Pick 203
Aeneas Peebles, DT, Virginia Tech
Round 6, Pick 210
Robert Longerbeam, CB, Rutgers
Round 6, Pick 212
Garrett Dellinger, G, LSU
Round 7, Pick 243

Cleveland Browns Trade Down For Future In 2025 NFL Draft

The Cleveland Browns entered the 2025 NFL Draft with the No. 2 overall pick but traded down to No. 5 with the Jacksonville Jaguars, acquiring an extra second-round pick and a first-rounder in 2026. With the fifth pick, they selected Mason Graham, a disruptive defensive tackle with elite pass-rushing production, making him a worthy "consolation prize" after Jacksonville selected Travis Hunter.

With the added second-round pick, the Browns drafted Quinshon Judkins, a once-dominant running back at Ole Miss who had a quieter 2024 at Ohio State but remains a complete offensive threat. They also grabbed coverage-focused linebacker Carson Schwesinger and tight end Harold Fannin Jr., who excelled against elite teams like Texas A&M and Penn State.

The Browns doubled down at key positions on Day 3, selecting RB Dylan Sampson, a 1,500-yard rusher at Tennessee, and two quarterbacks: Dillon Gabriel and Shedeur Sanders. Sanders' surprising draft slide ended in Round 5, offering him a shot at redemption while competing with Gabriel for a backup role in Cleveland's reshaped quarterback room.

2025 NFL Draft Picks

Mason Graham, DT, Michigan
Round 1, Pick 5
Carson Schwesinger, LB, UCLA
Round 2, Pick 33
Quinshon Judkins, RB, Ohio St
Round 2, Pick 36
Harold Fannin Jr., TE, Bowling Green
Round 3, Pick 67
Dillon Gabriel, QB, Oregon
Round 3, Pick 94
Dylan Sampson, RB, Tennessee
Round 4, Pick 126
Shedeur Sanders, QB, Colorado
Round 5, Pick 144

Cincinnati Bengals Fix Run Defense in 2025 NFL Draft

The Cincinnati Bengals made a bold move by selecting Shemar Stewart, a former 5-star recruit with elite athleticism but underwhelming college production. Stewart has massive upside as a pass rusher if he can unlock his potential, but even as a run-stopper, he fills a major need for the Bengals' defense.

Linebacker Demetrius Knight brings the opposite profile—NFL-ready with leadership and experience, but limited upside due to average athleticism. Pairing him with Barrett Carter, a three-year starter at LB with solid, consistent production, should significantly boost the team's run defense.

On offense, the Bengals addressed long-standing protection issues for Joe Burrow. Third-round pick Dylan Fairchild, a mobile guard, and fifth-rounder Jalen Rivers provide depth and potential for improvement on the offensive line.

They closed out the draft with Tahj Brooks, a vision-first runner who lacks top-end speed but could form a reliable 1-2 punch with Chase Brown. Altogether, Cincinnati focused on building depth and physicality in the trenches while betting on Stewart's athletic ceiling.

2025 Draft Picks

Shemar Stewart, EDGE, Tx A&M
Round 1, Pick 17
Demetrius Knight, LB, S. Carolina
Round 2, Pick 49
Dylan Fairchild, G, Georgia
Round 3, Pick 81
Barrett Carter, LB, Clemson
Round 4, Pick 119
Jalen Rivers, OT, Miami
Round 5, Pick 153
Tahj Brooks, RB, Texas Tech
Round 6, Pick 193

Pittsburgh Steelers go Heavy Defense in 2025 NFL Draft

The Pittsburgh Steelers' 2025 offseason was one of the NFL's busiest, and their draft complemented those moves. First-round pick Derrick Harmon transformed from a run-stuffing nose tackle at Michigan State to a gap-shooting pass rusher at Oregon, emerging as the top disruptor on a loaded defensive front.

The Steelers traded away their second-round pick for star WR DK Metcalf, later sending George Pickens out for future picks—revamping the wide receiver room for new quarterback Aaron Rodgers. In the third round, they added Kaleb Johnson, a tough runner with limited receiving experience who could lead the Steelers' ground attack.

Day three brought further reinforcements on defense with Jack Sawyer and Yahya Black adding depth to an already formidable defensive line. Sixth-rounder Will Howard, a national champion QB, will likely back up Rodgers. The draft wrapped with LB Carson Bruener and DB Donte Kent, both expected to contribute on special teams.

Pittsburgh's draft strategy bolstered its defense while its veteran acquisitions upgraded the offense for a final Rodgers run.

2025 Draft Picks

Derrick Harmon, DT, Oregon
Round 1, Pick 21
Kaleb Johnson, RB, Iowa
Round 3, Pick 83
Jack Sawyer, EDGE, Ohio St
Round 4, Pick 123
Yahya Black, DT, Iowa
Round 5, Pick 164
Will Howard, QB, Ohio St
Round 6, Pick 185
Carson Bruener, LB, Washin
Round 7, Pick 226
Donte Kent, CB, C. Michigan
Round 7, Pick 229



Buffalo Bills Spend First 5 Picks on Defense in 2025 NFL Draft

The Buffalo Bills dedicated their entire 2025 draft to aggressively revamping the defense, trusting reigning MVP Josh Allen to continue leading the explosive, high-powered offense. Their first four picks all came from the SEC, bringing elite, battle-tested talent to every level. Cornerback Maxwell Hairston, who posted the fastest 40 time at the combine, brings blazing recovery speed, rare quickness, but needs improvement in tackling consistency. Defensive tackle TJ Sanders offers excellent size, strength, and pass-rushing potential with plenty of developmental upside. Landon Jackson, a polished, reliable every-down edge rusher, adds both powerful leverage and consistent run-stopping ability. Deone Walker, once hyped as a top nose tackle prospect, slid due to an underwhelming 2024 season but still offers tremendous long-term upside.

Continuing the defensive rebuild, the Bills selected Jordan Hancock to play versatile nickel and Dorian Strong as a skilled, though undersized, shutdown cornerback. The team finally addressed offense with powerful blocking specialist TE Jackson Hawes, athletic OT Chase Lundt, and physical WR Kaden Prather. This defensive overhaul could quickly transform Buffalo's 2025 unit into one of the league's most dangerous.

2025 Draft Picks

Maxwell Hairston, CB, Kentucky
Round 1, Pick 30
TJ Sanders, DT, South Carolina
Round 2, Pick 41
Landon Jackson, EDGE, Arkansas
Round 3, Pick 72
Deone Walker, DT, Kentucky
Round 4, Pick 109
Jordan Hancock, CB, Ohio St
Round 5, Pick 170
Jackson Hawes, TE, Georgia Tech
Round 5, Pick 173
Dorian Strong, CB, Virginia Tech
Round 6, Pick 177
Chase Lundt, OT, UConn
Round 6, Pick 206
Kaden Prather, WR, Maryland
Round 7, Pick 240

Miami Dolphins Add Size in the Trenches in 2025 NFL Draft

The Miami Dolphins focused on getting bigger, stronger, and tougher in the trenches during the 2025 NFL Draft. With their first-round pick, they selected Kenneth Grant, the top nose guard in the class, who was instrumental in Michigan's 2023 National Championship and continued to dominate in 2024. Grant's size and ability to clog up running lanes made him a top priority. In the second round, Miami added Jonah Savaiinaea, one of the largest of offensive linemen available. A former tackle at Arizona, Savaiinaea likely projects as a guard who brings tremendous size but still needs refinement and added strength to reach his ceiling. The Dolphins completed their power-packed start with Jordan Phillips, a physically imposing defensive tackle known for his weight room strength.

The Dolphins then targeted depth and upside. Defensive backs Dante Trader and Jason Marshall bring physicality and run-stopping skills to the secondary. On offense, Miami took a chance on former Doak Walker Award winner Ollie Gordon and quarterback Quinn Ewers, who brings potential as a talented backup behind the injury-prone Tua Tagovailoa.

2025 Draft Picks

Kenneth Grant, DT, Michigan
Round 1, Pick 13
Jonah Savaiinaea, G, Arizona
Round 2, Pick 37
Jordan Phillips, DT, Maryland
Round 5, Pick 143
Jason Marshall Jr., CB, Florida
Round 5, Pick 150
Dante Trader Jr., S, Maryland
Round 5, Pick 155
Ollie Gordon II, RB, Oklahoma St
Round 6, Pick 179
Quinn Ewers, QB, Texas
Round 7, Pick 231
Zeek Biggers, DT, Georgia Tech
Round 7, Pick 253

New York Jets Add Counterparts to Superstars in 2025 NFL Draft

The New York Jets had a lot of speculation around their 7th overall pick in the 2025 draft, as many thought they would take a top flight weapon to help new starting QB Justin Fields. Instead, they took arguably the best OT in the draft in Armand Membou, a long-armed elite pass protector with some of the best production in the SEC in 2024. Alongside 2024 first rounder Olu Fashanu, the tackle position should be locked down in New York for many years to come.

On day 2, the Jets took high-pedigree Tiger TE Mason Taylor, a solid all-around weapon for Justin Fields to use as a safety valve. They then followed up with Azaraye'h Thomas, one of the few bright spots for a rough 2024 season for FSU, whose size and athleticism will make him a solid starting CB across the field from superstar Sauce Gardner.

The Jets kicked off day 3 with speed demon WR Arian Smith, a threat to take the top off the defense. Malachi Moore has experience in Alabama's secondary learning under Nick Saban, bringing elite play recognition skills to the table. The finished the draft with a pair of front 7 players from Miami, Francisco Mauigoa and Tyler Baron, who will rotate as depth and special teams pieces for them this year.

2025 Draft Picks

Armand Membou, OT, Missouri
Round 1, Pick 7
Mason Taylor, TE, LSU
Round 2, Pick 42
Azaraye'h Thomas, CB, Florida St
Round 3, Pick 79
Arian Smith, WR, Georgia
Round 4, Pick 110
Malachi Moore, S, Alabama
Round 4, Pick 130
Francisco Mauigoa, LB, Miami
Round 5, Pick 162
Tyler Baron, EDGE, Miami
Round 5, Pick 176

New England Patriots Crush it With Great Value Across the Board in 2025 NFL Draft

The New England Patriots landed one of the most praised draft classes in 2025, grabbing excellent value at nearly every pick. They opened with LSU's Will Campbell, whose versatility across the offensive line makes him a future anchor, whether at tackle or guard. In round two, they added TreVeyon Henderson, a dynamic running back to complement Rhamondre Stevenson's steady presence. Third-round picks included quick slot receiver Kyle Williams and interior lineman Jared Wilson, who projects as the team's long-term center.

On day three, New England loaded up on special teams contributors like kicker Andy Borregales, long snapper Julian Ashby, and Mr. Irrelevant Kobee Minor. However, standout selections included Bradyn Swinson, a top-75 talent who surprisingly fell into the fifth round, and defensive tackle Joshua Farmer, who brings explosive upside to the interior. Safety Craig Woodson adds aggression in the box, while Marcus Bryant was the third offensive lineman added to strengthen a previously weak position group.

2025 Draft Picks

Will Campbell, OT, LSU
Round 1, Pick 4
TreVeyon Henderson, RB, Ohio St
Round 2, Pick 38
Kyle Williams, WR, Washington St
Round 3, Pick 69
Jared Wilson, C, Georgia
Round 3, Pick 95
Craig Woodson, S, Cal
Round 4, Pick 106
Joshua Farmer, DT, Florida St
Round 4, Pick 137
Bradyn Swinson, EDGE, LSU
Round 5, Pick 146
Andy Borregales, K, Miami
Round 6, Pick 182
Marcus Bryant, OT, Missouri
Round 7, Pick 220
Julian Ashby, LS, Vanderbilt
Round 7, Pick 251
Kobee Minor, DB, Memphis
Round 7, Pick 257

Las Vegas Raiders Load Up on Offense in 2025 NFL Draft

The Las Vegas Raiders used the 2025 draft to reshape their offense around new QB Geno Smith. They opened with electric RB Ashton Jeanty, one of college football's most explosive playmakers with elite burst and contact balance. In round two, they addressed the wide receiver room by selecting Jack Bech, a versatile, physical pass catcher who can play multiple positions and block effectively.

The Raiders continued to build with Darien Porter, a former WR turned CB, who brings size, speed, and elite ball skills despite his limited experience. Offensive linemen Caleb Rogers and Charles Grant were added as developmental prospects to strengthen Geno Smith's protection. On day three, the team selected speedy WRs Dont'e Thornton and Tommy Mellott to round out the receiving corps.

Defensively, Tonka Hemingway and JJ Pegues will rotate alongside Christian Wilkins, while Cam Miller (QB) and Cody Lindenberg (LB) provide depth at key positions. The Raiders now boast a dynamic, youthful roster.

Kansas City Chiefs Prioritize the Trenches in 2025 NFL Draft

The Kansas City Chiefs, just one win shy of a historic three-peat, made it clear they were determined to fix their biggest weakness: the trenches. Their Super Bowl struggles protecting Patrick Mahomes and generating pressure shaped their 2025 draft strategy. First, they took Josh Simmons, one of the most talented tackles in the draft, who fell due to a season-ending injury in 2024. If healthy, Simmons could be Mahomes' blindside protector for years to come. Next, they grabbed Omarr Norman-Lott and Ashton Gilotte, two undersized but highly disruptive pass rushers, hoping to boost their defensive front.

Beyond the trenches, the Chiefs added cornerback Nohl Williams, whose physical style reminds many of former star LaJarious Sneed. At wide receiver, Jalen Royals brings dependable hands to a group devastated by injuries last season. Jeffrey Bassa adds linebacker depth with starting upside, while Brashard Smith, the workhorse behind SMU's playoff run, strengthens a running back room that needed more depth behind Isaiah Pacheco. The Chiefs addressed key needs to remain championship contenders.

2025 Draft Picks

Ashton Jeanty, RB, Boise St
Round 1, Pick 6
Jack Bech, WR, TCU
Round 2, Pick 58
Darien Porter, CB, Iowa St
Round 3, Pick 68
Caleb Rogers, OL, Texas Tech
Round 3, Pick 98
Charles Grant, OT, William & Mary
Round 3, Pick 99
Dont'e Thornton Jr., WR, Tenn
Round 4, Pick 108
Tonka Hemingway, DT, S. Carolina
Round 4, Pick 135
JJ Pegues, DT, Ole Miss
Round 6, Pick 180
Tommy Mellott, WR, Montana St
Round 6, Pick 213
Cam Miller, QB, North Dakota St
Round 6, Pick 215
Cody Lindenberg, LB, Minnesota
Round 7, Pick 222

Los Angeles Chargers Take Potential Superstar Weapons in 2025 NFL Draft

The Los Angeles Chargers built off a strong first season under Jim Harbaugh by addressing their offensive weapons in the 2025 draft. They opened with Omarion Hampton, an explosive RB with rare 4.4 speed at 220 pounds, excellent vision, and physicality—perfect for Harbaugh's run-heavy system. Next, they added WR Tre Harris, a deep threat who complements Ladd McConkey perfectly. Despite injury concerns, Harris has elite playmaking ability when healthy, giving the Chargers one of the league's most dynamic receiving duos.

On defense, Jamaree Caldwell was selected to anchor the interior as a run-stuffing nose tackle, while edge rusher Kyle Kennard brings pass-rushing potential to revamp the defensive front. The Chargers also added KeAndre Lambert-Smith and Oronde Gadsden, who will compete for WR3 duties, with Gadsden's size making him a hybrid receiving threat. Branson Taylor offers depth along the offensive line, and DBs RJ Mickens and Trikweze Bridges bring length, instincts, and special teams value.

2025 Draft Picks

Omarion Hampton, RB, N. Carolina
Round 1, Pick 22
Tre Harris, WR, Ole Miss
Round 2, Pick 55
Jamaree Caldwell, DT, Oregon
Round 3, Pick 86
Kyle Kennard, EDGE, S. Carolina
Round 4, Pick 125
KeAndre Lambert-Smith, WR, Auburn
Round 5, Pick 158
Oronde Gadsden II, TE, Syracuse
Round 5, Pick 165
Branson Taylor, G, Pitt
Round 6, Pick 199
RJ Mickens, S, Clemson
Round 6, Pick 214
Trikweze Bridges, CB, Florida
Round 7, Pick 256

Denver Broncos Loads Up in 2025 NFL Draft

The Denver Broncos opened the 2025 draft with a surprise move. Despite boasting an elite defense in 2024 and needing offensive firepower, they used pick 20 to grab one of the best values on the board: Jahdae Barron. Widely projected as a top-15 pick, Barron's elite agility and coverage skills make him an instant fit, whether as an outside or nickel corner. His addition strengthens an already dominant Broncos secondary, making their defense a serious contender to finish top-five in 2025.

After shoring up the defense, Denver pivoted to offense by selecting RJ Harvey and Pat Bryant. Harvey brings dynamic, three-down capability to the backfield, offering excellent pass-catching skills and elusiveness that should complement the Broncos' ground game. Bryant adds size, route-running precision, and an outside threat, pairing nicely with Courtland Sutton as a true X-receiver.

The Broncos then focused on building their pass rush, drafting SEC EDGE rushers Sai'vion Jones and Que Robinson. Jones brings length, while Robinson adds explosive quickness, though both remain developmental prospects. Denver wrapped up its draft class by selecting specialist punter Jeremy Cranshaw and project tight end Hunter Lohner, a basketball convert with intriguing athletic upside.

2025 Draft Picks

Jahdae Barron, CB, Texas
Round 1, Pick 20
RJ Harvey, RB, UCF
Round 2, Pick 60
Pat Bryant, WR, Illinois
Round 3, Pick 74
Sai'vion Jones, EDGE, LSU
Round 3, Pick 101
Que Robinson, EDGE, Bama
Round 4, Pick 134
Jeremy Cranshaw, P, Florida
Round 6, Pick 240
Caleb Lohner, TE, Utah
Round 7, Pick 241



In **Baton Rouge**, power outages can strike without warning, especially during storm season.

Having a reliable generator isn't just a luxury—it's a **must-have** to keep your home or business running smoothly.

With a dependable generator, you can **ensure your family stays safe** and your operations continue without a hitch.

**BE PREPARED &
CALL NOW!**





ONAL GENERATOR

Services

GENERATORS:

year warranty

iet

el efficient

ustrial grade machines

Regional
Generator
Services

CONTACT US



225.276.9711

Gridiron Football's Ultimate Louisiana Food Tour

A Delicious Journey Through the Bayou State



Over the years, I've burned rubber all across the beautiful, vibrant, flavor-packed state of Louisiana, hopping from one electrifying football game to the next. Just last year alone, I clocked in over 50 adrenaline-filled games, from high school Friday night lights to intense, action-packed college gridiron battles. So, safe to say, I've seen my fair share of roaring stadiums, passionate small-town rivalries, die-hard fans, and, of course, some of the most mouthwatering, finger-licking, belly-busting post-game eats this foodie paradise has to offer.

During a recent epic matchup between St. Edmund and Vermilion Catholic, a friend leaned over with a grin and said, "Andy, you've eaten at more hidden-gem Louisiana restaurants than most full-time travel bloggers. You should absolutely write an article about the best places to eat." Well, challenge enthusiastically accepted! Consider this my fun, unofficial, taste-bud-approved guide to the best eats in the Boot. And if you know a spot that deserves a shoutout, let me know! This is just the flavorful start of a delicious series highlighting some of the incredible, hardworking, family-owned local businesses Louisiana proudly offers.

Oh, and before anyone asks—at the time of this writing, none of these awesome businesses have sponsored, donated, or even fed me for free. (But if any of them want to, I promise to very graciously, happily, and hungrily accept!)

Best Gumbo

Rice & Roux

2158 O'Neal Lane, Baton Rouge, LA

If you want gumbo done right, Rice & Roux is the spot. Veterans and first responders get a discount, and I know firsthand how good this place is—they catered the 2021 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl. Let me tell you, the kids on both teams devoured that gumbo like it was their last meal.

D.C.'s

1601 W Laurel Ave, Eunice, LA

Look, we're in the heart of vibrant, flavorful Cajun Country, so you better believe D.C.'s knows a thing or two about crafting rich, hearty, soul-warming, perfectly seasoned gumbo. If I'm lucky enough to be in town for an exciting, action-packed St. Edmund Blue Jay game, you'll absolutely find me either pre-game or post-game happily devouring a hot, savory, mouthwatering bowl of their legendary gumbo.



Best Étouffée

Crazy 'Bout Crawfish

1905 Rees St, Breaux Bridge, LA

No need for a debate — this is hands down the absolute best, mouthwatering, rich, creamy, perfectly seasoned, soul-satisfying crawfish étouffée in all of Louisiana. Period. End of discussion. Don't believe me? Go ahead, grab a steaming, flavor-packed bowl, savor every spicy, buttery, succulent bite, and tell me I'm wrong. (Spoiler alert: I'm absolutely, 100% not.)

Best Crawfish

The Crawfish Shack

Oberlin, LA

When you're surrounded by crawfish ponds, you expect quality. This place delivers spicy, flavorful crawfish that ranks among the best in Louisiana. 4.9 stars out of 5 for a reason!

Steamboat Bill's

1004 N Lakeshore Dr, Lake Charles, LA

If you've never been to the legendary, mouthwatering Steamboat Bill's, do you even truly love spicy, juicy, finger-licking crawfish? This iconic, vibrant, always-buzzing spot is the go-to destination for piping hot, perfectly seasoned crawfish in Lake Charles, and it's one of my absolute must-stops whenever I'm lucky enough to be in the lively, flavorful area.

Best BBQ

Brister's Smokehouse BBQ

1420 Cooktown Rd, Ruston, LA

When I brought my wife here, she was speechless—and that doesn't happen often. I make it a point to stop at Brister's anytime I'm covering a Louisiana Tech or Ruston game. Their brisket is next-level.



Best Seafood

Phil's Marina

1194 Harbor Dr, Slidell, LA

Ask for the shrimp special. Trust me. Sitting right on Lake Pontchartrain, this place delivers fresh, top-tier seafood every time. Pro tip: try the alligator sampler!

Rusty Pelican

500 Girod St, Mandeville, LA

If you've got a picky eater in the family (like my four-year-old son, Sam), this place is a lifesaver. Sam is obsessed with their fried catfish, but honestly, everything on the menu is a winner. Perfect stop after a day on the Mandeville lakefront.

Best Dessert

Not Your Mama's Café & Tavern

9025 US-190, Livonia, LA



Two words: heavenly chocolate cake. Actually, two more: order cold milk. This thing is so rich, gooey, luscious, indulgent, and sinfully decadent, you'll absolutely need something to wash it down. It's positively dreamy and dangerously addictive. (Also, I'm not talking about the German chocolate cake—I'm not a coconut guy, but you do you, my adventurous friend.)



Best Pizza

Gameday Pizza

526 US-90, Patterson, LA

This place was an unexpected, delicious surprise gem. Marcus Randall and I stumbled upon it years ago after a fun meeting in charming Patterson, and it quickly turned into a legendary, unforgettable stop. While we were devouring cheesy, piping-hot pizza, people kept sneaking curious, hilarious looks at Marcus. Turns out, his famous photo from the miraculous Bluegrass Miracle was proudly hanging right behind us! The friendly waitress finally asked if he was the guy in the epic photo, and we couldn't stop laughing when we realized his own smiling face was watching him eat. Marcus gladly signed the picture, and now we both make it a fun, mouthwatering tradition to swing by every time we're in town.

Best Steakhouse

Still Searching!

Believe it or not, I'm still hunting for the best Louisiana steakhouse outside of a franchise. Funny enough, when my wife and I were dating, I took her to San Antonio for a coaching conference, and we spent a week trying to find the best steak in town. We ate steak for lunch and dinner every day, and the winner? Ruth's Chris—right back to our Louisiana roots.

The best steak I've ever had, though? Waco, Texas. But I'm still on the lookout for Louisiana's best local steakhouse, so let me know where I should go next!



Want Us to Visit Your Favorite Spot?

If you've got a hidden gem that absolutely deserves a juicy spot on this ever-growing, flavor-packed list, let me know! Marcus, Jace, and I are always up for a mouthwatering, belly-filling, finger-licking good meal. If there's a legendary, cozy, hole-in-the-wall restaurant that belongs in this tasty series, we'll excitedly roll up, forks in hand, and happily check it out. (And hey—if they want to sponsor us, serve up some crawfish, or toss in a few extra beignets, well, that's just smart, delicious business.)

Louisiana is so much more than epic football—it's about vibrant community, rich culture, friendly people, and food that hugs your heart and feeds the soul. So whether I'm covering Friday night lights in a packed, roaring, small-town stadium or catching an intense college rivalry under bright lights, you can bet I'll also be chasing down the most flavorful, savory, down-home cooking this great state offers.

Stay tuned, folks, because this is just the exciting, mouthwatering beginning of our wild Louisiana food journey! And if you enjoyed this article, do us a solid and follow Gridiron Football on Facebook, YouTube, X (Twitter), Instagram, and LinkedIn. Let's keep this tasty ride rolling!!

If you liked this article, help us out by following Gridiron Football on Facebook, YouTube, X (Twitter), Instagram, and LinkedIn.



LSU

by Jace LeJeune

The LSU Tigers wrapped up spring football a couple of weeks ago and Brian Kelly has raved about how his team has been performing and preparing over the offseason. Multiple occasions, Kelly has mentioned that this is shaping up to be the best roster he has had since he took over the job four seasons ago. He is most excited about all the young freshmen talent that have taken advantage of the early time in spring.

"For me, this spring has been outstanding for the young guys to pick it up like Solomon Thomas, Carius Curne, DJ Pickett, they have done a good job of coming in as young players and understanding how to compete. All of our mid-year freshmen have come in and have adapted so quickly. They are so far ahead of their freshmen counterparts and why they are able to enroll early in high school. They were much more mature. Those guys have done an incredible job of really blending and showing they belong right away. They are going to be so far ahead coming into camp and that has been a surprise to me. This is the first class that I had mid semester and it feels like they have been there."

LSU Head Coach Brian Kelly

Spring has always been a time for younger players to learn and it is also an opportunity to show that they can compete with the veterans. Highly recruited profile names like running back Harlem Berry and DJ Pickett have shown that they truly belong and could be instant impact performers in the fall. Berry has shown his playmaking speed and explosiveness while Pickett has locked down some of the Tigers' best receivers during 1v1s constantly throughout camp.



QB Garrett Nussmeier

The surprising emergence of some of its younger players falls in line with some of the veterans that are expected to have big seasons in 2025. The leading candidate is quarterback Garrett Nussmeier. In his first year starting with the Tigers, Nussmeier put up some nice numbers completing 64% of his passes for 4,052 yards and 29 touchdowns. Some of his predecessors including Joe Burrow and Jayden Daniels each had huge jumps from year one to year two enroute to a Heisman Trophy and a high overall draft pick. The Tigers' gunslinger has been constantly working in the off-season to make sure that jump happens according to his offensive coordinator Joe Sloan.

"This offseason, he's been able to be a little bit different because now he's going back and when he's studying, he's

not just studying his practice tape or maybe our tape and what could happen. He's looking at specifically some stuff that he needs to improve on. He's been really intentional." LSU Offensive Coordinator Joe Sloan

A reason that Nussmeier has the opportunity to set himself up for a big year is the number of dynamic offensive weapons around him. At wide receiver, transfers Barion Brown (Kentucky), Destyn Hill (Florida State), and Nic Anderson (Oklahoma) have all made plays throughout spring and they each have a different role within the offense that supports veteran speedsters like Chris Hilton Jr., Aaron Anderson, and Zavion Thomas.

Not only will Nussmeier have receiving weapons at receiver, but the offense will feature the tight ends heavily including Trey'Dez Green, who could be in for a big jump this season as another pass catching weapon. Oklahoma transfer Bauer Sharp has been one of the most consistent players throughout spring when it comes to his ability as both a blocker and a receiver. Add in talented runners like Caden Durham, Kaleb Jackson, and Harlem Berry, the sky's the limit when it comes to the potential of the offense.

"We have the potential to be the best offense in the country. We are going to prove a lot of doubters wrong and like Coach Kelly said, we keep the receipts." LSU TE Trey'Dez Green

Defensively, the Tigers will return a strong front seven. Despite losing both starting defensive ends, the Tigers were able to fill those spots really quickly through the transfer portal in getting edge rushers

Patrick Payton (Florida State), Jack Pyburn (Florida), and Jimari Butler (Nebraska) to pair with guys such as Gabriel Reliford, Damien Shanklin, C.J. Jackson, and Kolaj Cobbins.

The interior of the defensive line will feature longtime veteran Jacobian Guillory plus rising sophomores Ahmad Breaux and Dominick McKinley. They are now being developed by former LSU and Buffalo Bills great Kyle Williams as the defensive line coach.

"He (Kyle) is very good at articulating it to the players. I think he's done an outstanding job. I think you're already seeing that. Some of our guys are able to use their quick twitch and their get off and create havoc in the backfield. It's helped us and they're starting to see themselves make plays."

LSU DC Blake Baker

With star linebackers Harold Perkins Jr. and Whit Weeks sitting out spring, it has helped the development of Davhon Keys and West Weeks as they are both expected to play a lot behind the two talented linebackers in Blake Baker's 4-2-5 defense.



TE Trey'Dez Green



RB Harlem Berry



WR Zavion Thomas

Lastly, the cornerback position is really coming together under Corey Raymond as the godfather of DBU is trying to bring that moniker back to LSU. DJ Pickett has gotten the headlines, but Virginia Tech transfer Mansoor Delane and Florida transfer Ja'Keem Jackson have looked the part during practice. Ashton Stamps returns as a starter last season where he's been a solid player while PJ Woodland and Michael Turner have made great strides in the spring.

Although there are some things the team still needs to work on, especially trying to solidify the offensive line and safety positions, the combination of veteran leaders and exciting new young players should get Tiger fans excited for the fall.

"We are not afraid to admit it. We set the standard where we expect to be and we expect to play football in January next year." LSU QB Garrett Nussmeier



WR Aaron Anderson

Comprehensive
RESIDENTIAL,
COMMERCIAL &
post-construction
cleanup services

**Stop Cleaning
and Start Living!**



225-452-5866



Season Ticket Pricing:

DAC: \$2,500
Box Seats: \$300
Premium Bench: \$225
West Bench Reserved: \$125
East Bench Reserved: \$100
General Admission: \$75

For all the latest in Bulldog Football, follow them on Twitter (@LATechFB), Instagram (@LATechFB), and Facebook (LATechFootball) or visit the official website at LATechSports.com.

2025 Signing Class

Kameron Carter | CB | 6-1 | 180 | Southwest Mississippi CC | Natchez, Miss.

Amari Butler | CB | 5-10 | 180 | Pearl River CC | Petal, Miss.

Kolby Thomas | WR | 5-10 | 160 | Calvary Baptist Academy | Shreveport, La.

Daejawn Smith | WR | 5-11 | 180 | Edna Karr HS | New Orleans, La.

Jaylon Parnell | LB | 5-11 | 230 | Pascagoula HS, | Pascagoula, Miss.

Jackson Bradley | QB | 6-3 | 200 | Oak Grove HS | Oak Grove, La.

Jalen Mickens | WR | 5-9 | 180 | Willis HS | Willis, Texas

Johnnie Thiel IV | WR | 6-0 | 180 | Destrehan HS | Destrehan, La.

Daylin Page | DE | 6-4 | 220 | North Forrest HS | Hattiesburg, Miss.

Zheric Hill | LB | 6-0 | 220 | Ruston HS | Grambling, La.

Sentel Simpson | S | 6-4 | 190 | Frisco Panther Creek | Little Elm, Texas

Ervin Smith | OL | 6-1 | 280 | Catholic HS | Baton Rouge, La.

Tobias Gary | S | 6-0 | 180 | South Oak Cliff HS | Dallas, Texas

"We were really able to hit Louisiana, east Texas and some towns around the Dallas and Fort Worth area," Cumbie said. "We are really excited about this group. It is fun to get them all officially signed. We have been able to be around these players and their families a lot and there is a lot of inspiring stories in this signing class. We look forward to getting them here in June and immersing them in our culture at Louisiana Tech."

Louisiana Tech 2024 Football Season Review

Offense

Louisiana Tech's offense showed flashes of potential throughout the 2024 season, averaging 333.5 total yards and 20.9 points per game. Quarterback Evan Bullock led the way, throwing for 2,101 yards and 14 touchdowns with a completion rate of 65.78%. Tru Edwards was the standout at receiver, totaling 989 yards and six touchdowns on 85 catches. The Bulldogs' ground game, however, was less consistent, averaging just 110 rushing yards per contest. Omiri Wiggins paced the backfield with 527 rushing yards and four touchdowns, while Jimmy Holiday contributed four rushing scores as well. Overall, the Bulldogs produced 32 total touchdowns but struggled at times with red-zone efficiency and protecting the quarterback, allowing 41 sacks over the season.

Defense

Defensively, Louisiana Tech was resilient but inconsistent, allowing 21 points and 308.4 total yards per game. The defensive front tallied 22 sacks, with David Blay (6.5 sacks) and Sifa Leota (3.5 sacks) leading the way. Linebacker Zach Zimos anchored the defense with 84 tackles and six tackles for loss. Louisiana Tech's secondary managed five interceptions, with Jacob Fields recording two picks. While the defense was strong against the pass, holding opponents to just 172.9 passing yards per game, they struggled to stop the run, surrendering 135.5 rushing yards per contest and 21 rushing touchdowns. In key moments, the Bulldogs' defense occasionally faltered, especially on late downs and in overtime situations.

Special Teams

Special teams proved to be a relative strength for the Bulldogs in 2024. Kicker Buck Buchanan converted 13 of 20 field goal attempts, with a long of 57 yards, and made 29 of 31 PATs. Drew Henderson also contributed with two successful field goals, including a 44-yarder. Punter Patrick Rea averaged 39.6 yards per punt, pinning opponents inside the 20-yard line 23 times. In the return game, Demarcus Griffin-Taylor provided a spark, averaging 25.4 yards per kickoff return, while Solo Lewis averaged 16.8 yards per punt return. The Bulldogs also excelled in kickoff coverage, boasting a strong 45.6 net kickoff average. Overall, the special teams unit kept Louisiana Tech competitive in several tight games, proving crucial in flipping field position and contributing valuable points.

Despite finishing 5-8 overall, Louisiana Tech showed promise across all three phases, setting a strong foundation to build upon for 2025.



RAGIN' CAJUNS

Coming off a stellar 10-3 season and another Sun Belt West Division title, the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns are building a formidable future. Head coach Michael Desormeaux and his staff have made bold moves in both recruiting and the transfer portal to ensure 2025 is a championship-caliber campaign. With 27 new signees — including 20 high school standouts and 7 transfers — the Ragin' Cajuns are locked in on their mission to reclaim the Sun Belt crown.

Offense: High-Octane and Balanced

Louisiana's offense in 2024 was dynamic and diverse, racking up 5,611 total yards — averaging 431.6 yards and 33.1 points per game. The unit showcased a balanced attack with 2,224 rushing yards and 3,387 passing yards.

Quarterback Ben Wooldridge passed for 2,392 yards and 17 touchdowns in 10 games, while backup Chandler Fields added 897 yards and five scores. Newcomer Walker Howard, a former top-ranked dual-threat QB from LSU and Ole Miss, will compete for the starting job in 2025 and brings immense upside.

On the ground, Bill Davis led all rushers with 775 yards and nine touchdowns, supported by Zylan Perry (646 yards) and Dre'lyn Washington (478 yards). The arrival of JJ Garner from Timpson, Texas, who rushed for 1,506 yards and 25 touchdowns in his senior year, adds explosive depth.

Lance LeGendre and Terrance Carter were the top receivers with 48 catches each. Carter's 74-yard reception was the team's longest play from scrimmage. The addition of LSU transfer Shelton Sampson Jr. — a 4-star recruit and the all-time leading WR at Catholic High — makes the 2025 receiving corps potentially elite.

Defense: Opportunistic and Tough

Defensively, the Ragin' Cajuns allowed just 23.4 points per game, totaling 22 sacks, 15 interceptions, and 8 forced fumbles. They held opponents to under 350 yards per game and excelled at creating momentum-swinging plays.

Linebacker K.C. Ossai led the team with 110 total tackles and added an interception and three pass breakups. Cameron Whitfield (7.5 TFL, 6 sacks) and Jordan Lawson (9.5 TFL, 5.5 sacks) created havoc in the trenches. The secondary was ball-hawking, led by Tyree Skipper and Tyrone Lewis, who combined for eight interceptions.

New faces like Jaelen Crider (Youngstown State), a 310-pound defensive lineman, and DBs Curley Reed III and Trae Tomlinson, both Power 5 transfers, bring size and experience to a defense that already thrives on depth and rotation.

Special Teams: Game-Changing Talent

Special teams were a strength in 2024. Kicker Kenneth Almendares was nearly automatic, hitting 27-of-29 field goals, including a 60-yarder. He scored 127 points, making him one of the top scorers in the Sun Belt.

Return man Robert Williams electrified fans with a 96-yard kickoff return touchdown and averaged over 30 yards per return. Zylan Perry also contributed significantly with 423 kick return yards.

Punter Nathan Torney averaged 39.5 yards per punt, pinning opponents inside the 20-yard line nine times. The Cajuns also recovered five fumbles and blocked one kick, showing attention to detail on special teams.

What to Look For in 2025

The 2025 season promises to be a defining year. Louisiana opens on August 30 against Rice in the newly renovated Our Lady of Lourdes Stadium. With nine signees already enrolled for spring, the chemistry and leadership foundation is forming early.

Coach Desormeaux emphasized the team's relentless pursuit of a conference title. *"The identity of our team will be built in the next seven months. Just like last year, we have the experience and the ability to be a conference-championship caliber team,"* he said. *"But 2025 will be about the relentless pursuit to attain that and build a team that has its focus centered around one thing ... our success in achieving that conference championship."*

Expect fierce quarterback competition, a deeper and faster secondary, and an even more explosive offense. The recruiting class includes highly touted linemen, playmakers, and athletes prepared to contribute early. With continued growth, Louisiana is primed to make noise not only in the Sun Belt but nationally.

The road to a Sun Belt title starts now — and Ragin' Cajuns Nation should be ready.

2025 LOUISIANA RAGIN' CAJUNS FOOTBALL SIGNING CLASS

Korbin Ashmore | DT | 6-5 | 265 | Wesson, Miss. | Wesson Attendance Center

Russell Babineaux | WR | 5-9 | 170 | Lafayette, La. | Acadiana HS

Coleman Carter | QB | 6-1 | 180 | Natchez, Miss. | Adams County Christian School

Trenton Chaney | WR | 5-9 | 160 | Lutchter, La. | Lutchter HS

Brock Chappell | TE | 6-5 | 245 | Holly Springs, N.C. | Cardinal Gibbons/Furman

Quandre Coates | TE | 6-5 | 250 | Anahuac, Texas | Anahuac HS

Jaelen Crider | DL | 6-3 | 310 | Stow, Ohio | Stow-Munroe Falls/Youngstown State

JJ Garner | RB | 5-11 | 195 | Timpson, Texas | Timpson

Jayden Glosten | CB | 5-10 | 170 | Prairieville, La. | University Lab School

Brent Gordon Jr. | S | 5-11 | 180 | Cecilia, La. | Cecilia HS

Chase Howard | DE | 6-4 | 235 | Blount, Ala. | Blount HS

Walker Howard | QB | 6-0 | 190 | Lafayette, La. | St. Thomas More/Ole Miss/LSU

Jakoby Isom | OL | 6-3 | 320 | Houston, Texas | North Shore HS

Khristian Mackintrush | TE | 6-3 | 200 | McKinney, Texas | McKinney HS

Kevin Malone | CB | 5-9 | 165 | Prichard, Ala. | Vigor HS

Jayden McAllister | OL | 6-5 | 305 | Missouri City, Texas | Fort Bend Hightower HS

Trey Miller | TE | 6-3 | 230 | Weston, Nebraska | Bishop Neumann/Wayne State

Steven Ranel II | S | 6-1 | 170 | Baton Rouge, La. | Central HS

Curley Reed III | CB | 6-1 | 191 | Lake Charles, La. | Lake Charles College Prep/Washington

Cam Riley | CB | 5-11 | 170 | Monroe, La. | Neville HS

Shelton Sampson Jr. | WR | 6-4 | 190 | Baton Rouge, La. | Catholic/LSU

Darrell Smith | RB | 5-8 | 180 | Picayune, Miss. | Picayune Memorial HS

Jaiden Smith | WR | 6-1 | 175 | Semmes, Ala. | Mary G. Montgomery HS

AJ Spencer | OLB | 6-4 | 210 | Houston, Texas | Klein Forest HS

Evan Stroman | WR | 6-4 | 205, Spring, Texas | Westfield HS

Trae Tomlinson | CB | 5-10 | 175 | Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada | Clearwater Academy International/Richmond

Baylynn Williams | OL | 6-5 | 287 | Palestine, Texas | Palestine HS



The University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM) football team wrapped up the 2024 season with a 5-7 overall record and a 3-5 mark in Sun Belt Conference play. While the season ended short of bowl eligibility, there were standout performances on both sides of the ball and special teams that provide optimism heading into 2025.

Offense

The offensive identity of ULM in 2024 centered around its ground game, and that effort was led by star running back Ahmad Hardy. The fifth-year senior delivered an outstanding season, rushing for 1,351 yards and 13 touchdowns on 237 carries — averaging an impressive 112.6 yards per game and 5.7 yards per carry. Hardy was the engine of the offense and a bright spot throughout the season.

Quarterback Aidan Armenta managed the offense as the primary signal-caller, completing 104 of 190 passes for 1,292 yards and nine touchdowns. However, he also threw 10 interceptions and was sacked 21 times. The passing game as a whole struggled to find rhythm, averaging just 134.7 yards per game. Top receiving targets included Jake Godfrey (265 yards, 2 TDs), Davon Wells (262 yards, 2 TDs), and Tyler Griffin (193 yards, 1 TD). The unit will need to find more consistency in the passing attack next season to take a step forward.

Defense

ULM's defense had a few strong performances but ultimately allowed 345 total points (28.8 per game), including 2401 rushing yards and 2207 passing yards to opponents. Linebacker Wydett Williams Jr. led the team with 100 total tackles, including 4.5 tackles for loss, one sack, and three interceptions. He was a cornerstone for the defense and will be a key leader in 2025 if he returns.

The defensive front was led by Billy Pullen

and Kevontay Wells. Pullen recorded 7.5 tackles for loss and six sacks, while Wells added 11.0 tackles for loss and three sacks. The defense registered 21 sacks total, matching their opponents, but was outpaced in total yardage and time of possession. Improving third-down defense (43.2% opponent conversion rate) will be crucial moving forward.

Defensive back Car'lin Vigers provided a defensive touchdown on a 30-yard interception return, one of just six interceptions by the Warhawks all year. Creating more turnovers will be a point of emphasis in 2025.

Special Teams

Special teams were a consistent unit for ULM. Kicker Max Larson was a standout, converting 14 of 17 field goal attempts (82.3%) with a long of 54 yards and going 27-for-28 on extra points. Larson's reliability helped keep ULM in games where the offense stalled in the red zone.

Punter Makenzie Ryan averaged 39.2 yards per punt on 58 attempts, landing 18 inside the 20-yard line. In the return game, Davon Wells led with 92 kick return yards and 61 punt return yards, though no touchdowns were scored via return.

One of the season's highlights on special teams came from Daniel Knudsen, who returned a fumble 82 yards for a touchdown.

What to Look for in 2025

ULM has several areas to build on as they aim for bowl eligibility in 2025. The return of offensive leaders like Armenta and key receivers could help the passing game mature, especially if the offensive line can reduce pressure on the quarterback. Identifying a new workhorse at running back will be critical if Hardy does not return.

On defense, continuity in the linebacker corps and improved secondary play could help reduce explosive plays and get more

2025 Signing Class

Roscoe Tucker |OL| Meridian, Miss.
East Mississippi CC
Kaliem Crowell |OL| Philadelphia, Pa.
Garden City CC
Zy Jackson |CB| Hazlehurst, Miss.
Co-Lin CC
Ethan Bailey |DE| Montgomery, Ala.
Wetumpka HS
AJ Vinson |OT| Social Circle, Ga.
Garden City CC
Jalen Foster |DB| Lakeland, Fla.
Highland CC
Bryson Kimbrough |QB| Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Hillcrest-Tuscaloosa HS
Fred Clark |LB| Monroe, La.
Wossman HS
Jabari Tiller |DB| Sumter, S.C.
Coffeyville CC
JP Coulter |WR| Ocean Springs, Miss.
Mississippi Gulf Coast CC
JJ Moultrie |CB| Hoover, Ala.
Hoover HS
Mikel Hines |DL| Hueytown, Ala.
East Mississippi CC
Noah Flemmings |LB| Austin, Texas
Trinity Valley CC

"They own the mission of getting this team to the second bowl game in school history, to winning the Sun Belt West Division Conference Championship and ultimately winning the Sun Belt Championship. They understand those are our goals and that's the mission" said ULM head coach Bryant Vincent.

stops. Forcing more turnovers and creating pressure in key moments will be crucial.

Head coach Bryant Vincent will be in a pivotal year as he looks to break through and secure a bowl berth. With a few tweaks, ULM has the talent to make noise in the Sun Belt and return to postseason play in 2025.



The Tulane Green Wave concluded the 2024 football season with a strong 9-5 record, marking the program's third consecutive bowl appearance and its sixth in seven years. Despite falling short in the Gasparilla Bowl and the AAC Championship Game, Tulane proved it remains one of the premier Group of Five programs, compiling a 32-10 record over the past three seasons — the fourth-best mark nationally.

Offense

Tulane's offense was dynamic and balanced in 2024, averaging 405 yards and 35 points per game. The rushing attack was led by standout junior running back Makhi Hughes, who carried the ball 265 times for 1,401 yards and 15 touchdowns. Hughes averaged over 100 yards per game and was the engine of the offense. Quarterback Darian Mensah threw for 2,723 yards and 22 touchdowns while completing 66% of his passes. His ability to distribute the ball efficiently was key to Tulane's success, particularly when targeting Mario Williams (60 receptions, 1,031 yards, 6 TDs) and Yulkeith Brown (35 receptions, 470 yards, 4 TDs).

Tulane led the AAC in scoring offense and third-down conversion percentage (50%). This efficient production was driven by a strong offensive line, anchored by All-AAC first-teamers Derrick Graham and Shadre Hurst.

Defense

The Green Wave defense held opponents to just 20.6 points per game and led the nation with six defensive touchdowns. The unit was aggressive, forcing 14 interceptions and recovering 8 fumbles. Linebacker Tyler Grubbs led the team with 67 total tackles, including 6 for loss and 3 sacks. Sam Howard and Bailey Despanie also played critical roles, combining for 116 tackles and 8.5 tackles for loss.

Tulane's defensive front was disruptive, tallying 35 sacks and ranking among the AAC leaders in passing efficiency defense (111.65). Their ability to apply pressure and force turnovers allowed them to win the turnover battle in key games, contributing to an 8-0 start in AAC play.

Special Teams

Special teams were solid throughout the season. Kicker Jacob Barnes and Ethan Head combined for 13 field goals on 18 attempts. Head handled most of the kickoff duties, averaging 63.3 yards per attempt with 50 touchbacks. Punter Will Karoll averaged 42.8 yards per punt with 11 landing inside the 20.

Return man Rayshawn Pleasant was electric, returning two kicks for touchdowns and averaging 34.5 yards per return, including a 100-yard score. Punt returner Dontae Fleming added value with 61 yards on 12 returns, helping the Green Wave win the field position battle.

What to Expect in 2025

Looking ahead, the 2025 season offers plenty of excitement and challenges. Tulane opens at home against Big Ten opponent Northwestern and follows with a tough road game at South Alabama, a bowl participant in 2024. Other marquee matchups include Ole Miss, UTSA, and a key home game against Army.

With key returners like Hughes, Williams, and linemen Graham and Hurst back, the offense is poised to thrive again. Mensah's continued development will be crucial, and the wide receiver corps will look to take another step forward.

Defensively, Grubbs, Howard, and Despanie return to lead a unit that thrives on disruption. If the Green Wave can maintain their takeaway production and improve red-zone defense, they will be contenders again.

Tulane's consistent success and ability to develop talent under Coach Willie Fritz has solidified the program as a New Year's Six contender and perennial AAC powerhouse. With a strong returning core, another trip to the AAC Championship Game — and potentially a marquee bowl — is well within reach for the Green Wave in 2025.

2025 Signing Class

Nik Alston (DL) 6-3 271 Thompson HS Hoover, AL
Juelz Baptiste (OL) 6-5 295 St. Augustine New Orleans, LA
Jay Beamon (QB) 6-3 205 Cleveland Central Cleveland, MS
Josh Brantley (ATH) 6-4 220 Ruston HS Ruston, LA
PaLanding Drammeh (DL) 6-4 270 Hoover HS Hoover, AL
Javin Gordon (RB) 5-10 200 Stephens County HS Toccoa, GA
Landon Hammond (DB) 6-1 161 Opelousas HS Opelousas, LA
Michael Igbinoehene (DB) 5-10 180 Hewitt-Trussville Trussville, AL
Josh Lewis (DL) 6-5 250 Dutchtown HS Gonzales, LA
Gabe Lovorn (TE) 6-4 230 South Gibson HS Medina, TN
Oliver Mitchell, Jr. (WR) 6-3 175 Edna Karr HS Harvey, LA
Antwaun Parham (WR) 6-4 200 Monarch HS Coconut Creek, FL
Gresham Perry (OL) 6-5 310 Teurlings Catholic Lafayette, LA
Cameron Roberts (TE) 6-5 221 St. Thomas Aquinas Opa-Locka, FL
Warren Roberts, Jr. (BAN) 6-2 225 St. Augustine HS New Orleans, LA

2025 Football 2025 Schedule

Saturday, August 30 – Northwestern
Saturday, September 6 - at South Alabama
Saturday, September 13 – Duke (Hall of Fame)
Saturday, September 20 – at Ole Miss
Saturday, September 27 – at Tulsa
Thursday, October 9 – East Carolina
Saturday, October 18 – Army
Thursday, October 30 – at UTSA
Friday, November 7 – at Memphis
*** Saturday, November 15 – Florida Atlantic**
Saturday, November 22 – at Temple
Saturday, November 29 - Charlotte

Bold = Home Games
***** = Homecoming



2023 Gridiron Football
All-American
Beau Perez
Jesuit High School
(New Orleans, LA)

Southeastern 2025 Football Preview:

The Southeastern Louisiana Lions are poised for an exciting 2025 football season building on a solid 7-5 record in 2024. Under the leadership of eighth-year head coach Frank Scelfo, the team aims to continue its upward trajectory in the Southland Conference and beyond. Here's an in-depth preview of what to expect from the Lions this season.

Offense:

The Lions' offense enters 2025 with some question marks replacing several top play-makers, but they also return a lot of talent. Quarterback Tanner Murray, a junior, is the favorite to be the starting quarterback after Eli Sawyer graduated. He'll be supported by a dynamic group of running backs, including Rodeo Graham, Deantre Jackson, a junior transfer from Copiah-Lincoln Community College, and sophomore Christian Womack. The receiving corps are led by veterans Jaylon Domingeaux and Brandon Hayes, with emerging talents like Khai Prean and Jayson Salkey adding depth. The tight end position boasts versatility with Brant Monistere, Cade Collier, and former Gridiron Football All-American Beau Perez offering reliable targets.

According to Frank Scelfo, the offensive line has stood out to him during spring and has gotten a lot better over that time.

"We've got a better idea of who our guys are offensively than we did this time last year," Scelfo said. "Because of that, we have a better idea of what we do well and who we're going to be offensively."

Defense:

Defensively, the Lions are fortified by the return of key All-Southland Conference players such as defensive lineman Kaleb Proctor, linebacker KK Reno and defensive back Khamron Ford. The defensive line gains strength with the addition of Gabriel Harvey and Gridiron Football All-American Laramie Guidry, both promising freshmen who enrolled early to participate in

spring practice. Guidry, a 6'6" defensive end from Baton Rouge, is expected to make an immediate impact.

The linebacker corps remains a cornerstone of the defense, with veterans like Reno anchoring the unit. The secondary, led by Ford, provides stability and experience, aiming to limit big plays and support the front seven.

"The defense has really shown their athleticism and come up with some big stops in the scrimmage portions of practice this spring," Scelfo said.

Overall, the defense seeks to build on its strengths and address areas for improvement to become a formidable force in the Southland Conference.

Special Teams:

The Lions will have one of the strongest units in the Southland Conference returning All-Conference kicker Alec Mahler. Mahler will handle both duties for the Lions. His consistency and leg strength provide the Lions with a reliable option in both field goals and punting situations. The special teams unit aims to maintain its high standards and contribute significantly to the team's overall success.

What To Expect:

The season opener on August 30 at Louisiana Tech sets the tone, followed by a visit to Murray State on September 6. A significant matchup occurs on September 20 when Southeastern Louisiana faces LSU at Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge, marking their first meeting since 2018. This game offers a unique opportunity for the Lions to test their mettle against an SEC powerhouse.

Southland Conference play kicks off on September 27 at home against UTRGV, with key matchups against McNeese, Lamar, and defending conference champion UIW. The regular season concludes with the River Bell Classic on November 20, hosting Nicholls for Senior Day in Hammond. The Lions aim to build on their 6-1 conference record from 2024 and compete for the Southland Conference title.

2025 Signing Class:

BJ Ausmer | DE | 6-3 | 230 | Ocean Springs, Miss. | Ocean Springs HS
Carter Byrd | DB | 6-1 | 190 | Gulf Shores, Ala. | Gulf Shores HS
Jackson Casanova | LB | 6-1 | 220 | Crowley, La. | Notre Dame HS
Aamir Ellis | WR | 6-0 | 170 | Locust Grove, Ga. | Locust Grove HS
Deshawn Feazell | OL | 6-2 | 330 | Moss Point, Miss. | Moss Point HS
Lennis Finister Jr. | DB | 6-0 | 170 | Metairie, La. | Archbishop Rummel HS
Laramie Guidry | DE | 6-6 | 235 | Baton Rouge, La. | Navy/University Lab
Gabriel Harvey | DE | 6-3 | 230 | Watson, La. | Live Oak HS
Deantre Jackson | RB | 5-8 | 165 | Marrero, La. | Copiah-Lincoln CC/Edna Karr
Jakyri Jones | DB | 5-10 | 190 | Monroe, Ga. | Georgia Military Col/Monroe Area
Conner Nelson | QB | 6-2 | 215 | Leeds, Ala. | Leeds HS
Kyree Paul | WR | 5-9 | 165 | Baton Rouge, La. | Istrouma HS
Etison Pholo | DT | 6-2 | 275 | Ottawa, Ontario, Canada | McCallie HS (TN)
Lonnie Shinn | TE | 6-5 | 235 | Columbus, Miss. | New Hope HS
Calvin "CJ" Smith Jr. | RB | 5-11 | 210 | Boutte, La. | Hahnville HS
Tanner Spears | LB | 6-0 | 200 | Amite, La. | Oak Forest Academy

2025 Schedule:

Saturday, August 30th- @Louisiana Tech
Saturday, September 6th-@Murray State
Saturday, September 13th-Mississippi Valley State
Saturday, September 20th- @LSU
Saturday, September 27th-UTRGV
Saturday, October 4th-@McNeese
Saturday, October 18th-Northwestern State
Saturday, October 25th-@Houston Christian University
Saturday, November 1st- East Texas A&M
Saturday, November 8th-@ Lamar
Saturday, November 15th-@UIW
Thursday, November 20th-Nicholls

With a balanced mix of experienced leaders and promising newcomers, the 2025 Southeastern Louisiana Lions are poised to make a significant impact in the Southland Conference and on the national stage. The challenging non-conference schedule, highlighted by the game against LSU, provides an opportunity to showcase the team's growth and aspirations. As the season unfolds, the Lions will look to build on their recent successes and continue their ascent in the FCS hierarchy.



Northwestern State 2025 Football Preview:

The Northwestern State Demons are gearing up for the 2025 football season with renewed energy and determination. After a challenging 0-12 campaign in 2024, the team is under the guidance of second-year head coach Blaine McCorkle, who is committed to rebuilding the program and fostering a competitive spirit. With a mix of returning talent and promising newcomers, the Demons aim to make significant strides in the Southland Conference this season.

Offense:

Offensive coordinator Norman Joseph enters his second season with the Demons, bringing a wealth of experience to the role. The offense is expected to operate under a spread scheme, focusing on quick passes and versatile running plays to keep defenses off balance.

The quarterback position remains a focal point for the Demons. Senior Eli Anderson is the favorite to be the starting quarterback after coming in as a transfer from Mississippi Gulf Coast. Talented redshirt freshman Abram Johnston will certainly be a wild card as he has the ability to start games too for the Demons as well.

The backfield features senior Zay Davis, a transfer from Northwest Mississippi Community College, who is expected to provide stability and experience. Sophomore Ray McKneely-Harris, a transfer from Memphis, adds depth and versatility, capable of contributing both in the running game and as a receiving threat out of the backfield.

The wide receiver group is led by senior Ty Moore, a transfer from Baylor and Southwest Mississippi Community College, who brings size and experience to the position. Redshirt freshmen Camryn Davis and Amaaz Eugene are poised to make significant contributions, adding speed and agility to the receiving corps.

Led by center Cam Billiot, the offensive line is expected to be more cohesive this season, with several returning starters and the addition of new talent. Their ability to protect

the quarterback and create running lanes will be pivotal for the offense's success.

Defense:

Defensive coordinator Matt Conner returns for his second season, aiming to instill a more aggressive and disciplined defensive scheme.

The defensive line is anchored by redshirt senior Jeremiah Bodwin, a transfer from Nevada, who brings experience and leadership to the unit. His ability to collapse the pocket and disrupt the quarterback will be essential for the defense's success.

The linebacker group is led by redshirt senior Cam George, a transfer from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, who is expected to provide stability and leadership. Team captain Danny Sears adds depth, bringing energy and enthusiasm to the position.

The secondary is bolstered by the return of redshirt senior cornerback Caesar Magee III, who brings experience and playmaking ability. Freshmen Gylan Ford and Ja'Marion Bonner are expected to contribute early, adding youth and speed to the defensive backfield.

Special Teams:

Special teams coordinator Cade Camp returns for his second season, focusing on improving all aspects of special teams play. The Demons aim to be more consistent in their kicking game and return units, seeking to gain an edge in field position and scoring opportunities. All positions are open for competition.

What To Expect:

The 2025 season presents an opportunity for the Demons to rebuild and establish a competitive identity. The challenging non-conference schedule, including games against Minnesota and Cincinnati, will provide valuable experience and test the team's resilience. These matchups offer a chance to measure progress and identify areas for improvement.

2025 Signing Class:

Ben Taylor | QB | 6-1, 180 | Bossier City, La., Airline HS
 Darius "Big Baby" Servick, DL, 6-2, 250, Hammond, La., Hammond HS
 Sam Nations, OL, 6-3, 280, Ruston, La., Ruston HS
 Jimmie Duncan, WR, 5-11, 180, Alexandria, La., Alexandria Senior HS
 Nehemiah Barrett, LB, 6-1, 230, Shreveport, La., Huntington HS
 Eli Anderson, QB, 6-2, 200, Sr., Philadelphia, Miss./Neshoba Central HS
 (Mississippi College/East Mississippi CC/Mississippi Gulf Coast CC)
 Luke Carter, TE, 6-4, 240, Fr., Houston, Texas/Katy HS (North Texas)
 Preston Hickey, DL, 6-1, 300, Jr., Mandeville, La./St. Paul's (LSU/Oklahoma State)
 Myion Hicks, RB, 5-11, 210, Sr., DeSoto, Texas/Pantego Christian Academy (Furman)
 Anthony James II, DE, 6-5, 270, So., Wylie, Texas/Wylie East HS (Washington/Eastern Washington)
 Garrett Morphis, OL, 6-4, 305, So., Waco, Texas/Waco Midway HS (Texas Tech)
 Dylan Rhodes, WR, 6-2, 202, So., McKinney, Texas/McKinney HS (Texas State)
 Rahmaan Rinkin, CB, 6-0, 175, Jr., Memphis, Tenn./Bartlett HS (Coahoma CC)
 Tyler Siddons, TE, 6-5, 250, Jr., Salem, Ark./Salem HS (Central Arkansas)
 Fernando Washington, LB, 6-1, 220, Jr., Macon, Ga./Aca Class Edu (Columbia-Lincoln CC)
 Trevor Allen Jr., RB, 6-0, 195, Fr., Shreveport, La./Spring Hill HS
 Andrew Fields, WR, 6-0, 180, Fr., Geismar, La./Dutchtown HS
 Rory Lambert, OL, 6-5, 300, Fr., New Roads, La./Catholic-Pointe Coupee HS
 Christian Menard, OL, 6-4, 270, Fr., Cecilia La./Cecilia HS
 Brendan Webb, WR, 6-0, 175, Fr., Gilmer, Texas/Gilmer HS
 Tyler Welch, CB, 6-1, 188, Fr., Shreveport, La./Huntington HS



GF All-American Update:

One of the gems from this year's signing class is 2024 GF All-American WR Jimmie Duncan (Left), who led the Alexandria Trojans to a state championship runner-up finish this past season.



Nicholls State 2025 Football Preview:



The 2025 Nicholls State Colonels football season marks a fresh chapter under new leadership with Tommy Rybacki taking the helm as head coach. After a 4–8 finish in 2024, the Colonels are set to rebuild with a blend of returning talent and promising newcomers.

Offense:

Offensive coordinator Gabe Fertitta joins Rybacki to revamp a unit that averaged 22.7 points per game last season. The Colonels aim to establish a balanced attack, integrating experienced returners with dynamic transfers.

The quarterback position is up for grabs following the departure of Pat McQuaide. Deuce Hogan, a transfer from New Mexico State, brings FBS experience, while Jackson Firmin, a local talent from Baton Rouge, offers a dual-threat capability. Their competition will be pivotal in setting the offensive tone.

Now a coach on the staff, the Colonels' rushing attack will have to replace the production of two time All-Conference back Collin Guggenheim, who finished 2nd in program history in yards (3,282) and 3rd in TDs (33). Leading the new look backfield will be Southland Freshman of the Year Miquele Brock, Corey Warren, Damondrick Blackburn from Louisiana and Tamaj Hoffman from Delta State.

The receiving corps features Scrappy Osby, who is the returning leading receiver last year, Landon Ibieta from LSU and Jordan Smith from New Mexico State, providing a mix of size and speed. Tight end Everett Hunter, a transfer from New Mexico, is expected to be a reliable target in the passing game. Up front, the offensive line welcomes Jacob Hood from Nebraska, Ja'Mard Jones from Rummel High School, and Gridiron Football All-American Preston Jones from U-High, aiming to fortify the trenches and create running lanes.

Defense:

Defensive coordinator Darion Monroe inherits a unit that ranked first in the Southland Conference in yards allowed per play last season. Despite the loss of key players like Eli Ennis and Kershawn Fisher, the defense remains a strength.

The defensive line is bolstered by the addition of Gavin Nelson from Mississippi State, adding size and strength to the front four. Alongside returners like Rasheed Lovelace, the line aims to disrupt opposing offenses and control the line of scrimmage.

The linebacker corps will look to fill the void left by Ennis and Fisher. Jacob Dalmado and Kylin White are expected to step up as leaders, bringing experience and playmaking ability. In the secondary, Elijah Sabbatini from Southern Miss, Ethan Lee, Laurence Sullivan, and Ty Marsh will anchor the defensive backfield, aiming to replicate last season's success in creating turnovers.

What To Expect:

The Colonels open the season with a challenging matchup against Troy on August 30, followed by a Week 0 game against Incarnate Word. These early games will test the team's readiness and provide insight into the effectiveness of the new system.

In the Southland Conference, Nicholls faces competition from teams like Southeastern Louisiana and UIW. The Colonels' success will depend on the development of their quarterback, the cohesion of the offensive line, and the defense's ability to maintain its high standards.

The 2025 season represents a pivotal moment for Nicholls State football. With a new coaching staff, a blend of returning players and transfers, and a focus on building a balanced and disciplined team, the Colonels are poised to make a competitive run in the Southland Conference. Fans can anticipate an exciting season as Nicholls embarks on this new era of football.



2025 Signing Class:

Jacob Hood OL 6-8 350 Nashville, Tenn. (Nebraska/Georgia/HillsboroHS)
 Preston Jones OL 6-4 290 Baton Rouge, La (U-High)
 Caleb Smith OL 6-3 300 New Orleans, La. (Brother Martin)
 Ja'Mard Jones OL 6-4 290 Metairie, La. (Rummel)
 Deuce Hogan QB 6-4 220 Southlake, Texas (NM State/Grapevine F. Christian)
 Jackson Firmin QB 6-3 200 Baton Rouge, La. (Central BR)
 Jonathan Dartez ATH 5-8 175 Abbeville, La. (Vermilion Catholic)
 Carsen Hebert ATH 5-11 185 Houma, La. (CCA)
 Everett Hunter TE 6-3 240 Modesto, La. (New Mexico/Modesto Christ)
 Landon Ibieta WR 5-11 195 Mandeville, La. (LSU/Mandeville HS)
 Jordan Smith WR 6-0 195 Slidell, La. (NM State/Fullerton/Slidell HS)
 Amari Clayton WR 6-2 200 Baton Rouge, La. (Catholic BR)
 Cohen LeBlanc WR 5-11 185 Baton Rouge, La. (Catholic BR)
 Kylin Wheeler WR 5-11 170 Rayne, La. (Rayne HS)
 Shay Collins DL 6-6 220 Mamou, La. (Mamou)
 Gavin Nelson DL 6-5 285 Birmingham, Ala. (Miss. State/Oak Mountain)
 Chase Chesser DL 6-6 250 New Orleans, La. (Brother Martin)
 Griffin Ellis DL 6-2 275 New Orleans, La. (Jesuit)
 Alec Haynes LB 6-2 225 Baton Rouge, La. (U-High)
 Keith Newsome, Jr. LB 6-1 200 New Orleans, La. (McDonogh 35)
 Cale Daigle LB 6-1 225 Covington, La. (St. Paul's)
 Kamp Shepherd LB 6-1 200 Flora, Miss. (Northwest CC/Tri-County Academy)
 Elijah Sabbatini DB 6-1 200 Biloxi, Miss. (USM/Ole Miss/Biloxi HS)
 Braylon Noel DB 5-11 165 Lafayette, La. (Acadiana)
 William Stewart LS 5-11 210 Hernando, Miss. (Memphis/ Lewisburg HS)
 Sean Hebert K 5-9 160 Houma, La. (Vandebilt Catholic)
 Pharrell Harewood P 6-3 215 United Kingdom (NFL Academy)

Recruiting Update:

Top (#75): Preston Jones OL 6-4 290 Baton Rouge, La (U-High)
 2024 Gridiron Football All-American

Left (#77) Beau Webb, OL, 6'3, 250
 Franklinton High School, Franklinton, LA
 2024 Gridiron Football All-American

BARTAGE & ANDERSON

Attorneys & Counselors at Law

- 
- Personal Injury
 - Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning
 - Successions and Probate Administration
 - Business and Transactional Law
 - IRS Tax Resolution
 - Criminal Defense and Expungements
 - Traffic Matters

Proud supporter of Gridiron Football

New Orleans
(504) 457-8508

Baton Rouge
(225) 364-9182

Shreveport
(318) 861-8618

Miranda Rhea



My son was invited to play in the Gridiron bowl this year by an opposing team coach. Although we have done camps and ball games before, none of them are ever the same, so we weren't sure what to expect. I can honestly say that this was the best experience he has ever had! He has said so many times how this was his favorite of all of the extra football events he has done. as a parent, I was so impressed with the organization, the affordability and the team that put the event on! If you ever get the chance to be a part of this or to join anything that this organization does I highly recommend it!



2023 Gridiron Football All-American
Diego Spears
Dutchtown High School
(Geismar, LA)

McNeese State 2025 Football Preview:

The 2025 McNeese State Cowboys football season ushers in a new era under head coach Matt Viator, who returns to Lake Charles after a decade-long tenure at Louisiana-Lafayette. Viator's previous stint at McNeese (2006-2015) was marked by multiple Southland Conference championships and playoff appearances. His return aims to restore the program's former glory.

Offense:

The Cowboys' offense enters the season with a mix of returning talent and new faces. One of the newest faces will be at the quarterback position as there is a current battle between Texas Tech transfer Jake Strong, San Antonio College transfer Alex Flores, and redshirt freshman Devin Lip-pold.

The running back room will include a promising group of young running backs that are eager to make an impact including Bryce Strong, Coleby Hamm, and Tre'Von-te Citizen.

The receiving corps is highlighted by sophomore Jer'Michael Carter, who recorded 37 catches for 537 yards and three touchdowns. His development, along with contributions from newcomers, will be crucial for the passing game. What helps is that the Cowboys' three other leading receivers in Jonathan Harris, Kameran Senegal, and Jessie Campbell also return to help bolster the passing attack.

Offensive coordinator Tyler Bolfig, in his first year, will look to implement a balanced attack that capitalizes on the depth at the skill positions.

Defense:

Defensively, McNeese returns several key players from a unit that showed promise in 2024, but will have to replace All-Southland Conference linebacker Micah Davey.

The secondary, featuring Boogsie Silvera, Levi Wyatt, Javon Davis and aims to build on its strong performance from the previous season. Silvera led the team with 85

tackles, 2 TFLs, 2 INTs, 5 PBUs, 1 QB hurry, 1 FR, and 2 FFs.

Defensive coordinator Tony Pecoraro, entering his fourth season, will continue to emphasize a fast and aggressive defense that can create turnovers and pressure opposing quarterbacks.

What To Expect:

The 2025 season presents both challenges and opportunities for McNeese. The non-conference schedule includes games against Louisiana Christian, Louisiana-Lafayette, Weber State, and Utah State. These matchups will test the team's readiness and provide valuable experience ahead of Southland Conference play.

In conference play, the Cowboys will face familiar foes such as Southeastern Louisiana, Houston Christian, and Northwestern State, along with newcomers like UT Rio Grande Valley. The Southland Conference's competitive landscape will require McNeese to perform consistently and capitalize on its strengths.

Coach Viator's leadership and experience are expected to have a positive impact on the program's culture and performance. His previous success at McNeese and Louisiana-Lafayette demonstrates his ability to build competitive teams. As he stated upon his return, *"I want people to embrace McNeese and Lake Charles and feel what I feel about this place"*.

The 2025 McNeese State Cowboys football season marks a pivotal moment for the program. With a new coaching staff, a blend of experienced players and promising newcomers, and a challenging schedule, the Cowboys are poised to make a significant impact in the Southland Conference. Fans can look forward to an exciting season as McNeese aims to reclaim its place among the league's elite.

2025 Signing Class:

Eric Aschenbeck | OL | 6-4 | 290 | Brenham, Texas | Blinn College
Trent Baker | LS | 6-2 | 210 | Friendswood, Texas | Kentucky
Trevon Bradford | TE | 6-7 | 230 | Monroe, LA | Ouachita Parish | NSU
Joseph Cryer | OL | 6-3 | 315 | Natchitoches, La. | Natchitoches HS | LSU/S. Miss
George Dixon | P | 6-2 | 210 | Melbourne, Australia | Pro-Kick Australia
Mason Edwards | CB | 6-2 | 175 | Denham Springs, La. | Utah State
Jermaine Hargraves | S | 6-2 | 185 | El Cerrito, Calif. | College of San Mateo
Keenan Landry | DT | 6-1 | 325 | Jennings, La. | Jennings HS | Florida/Kent State
Pierson Parent | LS | 5-8 | 180 | Geismar, La. | Houston
Jared Quenga | S | 5-10 | 180 | Elk Grove, Calif. | American River College
Ryan Robinson | CB | 5-11 | 185 | New Orleans, La. | Edna Karr | LSU/Iowa State
Emauri Sibley | LB | 6-0 | 215 | Zachary, La. | South Alabama
Safir Stills-Bey | CB | 6-2 | 180 | Oakland, Calif. | Diablo Valley College
Jake Strong | QB | 6-2 | 215 | Justin, Texas | Texas Tech
Ian Carter | OL | 6-6 | 295 | Fort Worth, Texas | North Crowley HS
Cohen Charles | S | 6-0 | 185 | Iowa, La. | Iowa
Marquez Davis | RB | 5-11 | 190 | Humble, Texas | Kingwood HS
Caden Dibetta | QB | 6-1 | 205 | Alexandria, La. | Acadiana HS
Kenyatta Fleet | CB | 6-2 | 195 | Hammond, La. | Hammond HS
Kesean Hines | LB | 6-2 | 230 | Monroe, La. | Wossman HS
TJ Hullaby | WR | 5-9 | 175 | Alexandria, La. | Peabody Magnet HS
Roman Jenkins | DE | 6-5 | 240 | Baton Rouge, La. | Liberty Magnet HS
Brandon Jones | S | 5-9 | 175 | Humble, Texas | Summer Creek HS
Ikenna Nwobu | TE | 6-4 | 230 | Katy, Texas | Paetow HS
Kevin Rideau Jr. | WR | 6-2 | 180 | Westlake, La. | Westlake HS
Andre Roy | DE | 6-2 | 215 | Cypress, Texas | Bridgeland HS
Morris Taylor | S | 6-1 | 190 | Houston, Texas | North Shore HS



Grambling 2025 Football Preview:

Grambling State University enters the 2025 football season with renewed energy and high expectations under the leadership of head coach Mickey Joseph. After a 5-6 finish in 2024, the Tigers aim to build upon their foundation and make a strong push in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC).

Offense:

Year two of the Mickey Joseph era will have a new quarterback under center as it is an ongoing battle between transfers C'Zavien Teasett from Southern and Ty Keyes from Southern Miss/East Mississippi CC. It is a close competition after spring and he says that it will come down to whoever makes the right decisions.

"Taking care of the football and making good decisions comes hand to hand. We still have a ways to go at the position. I am in no hurry to pick a starter. I thought they all did a good job this spring and we are going to go from there," Coach Joseph said.

The Tigers will also need to find new ball carriers at running back after both Ke'Travian Hargrove and Tre' Bradford have decided to enter the transfer portal. Both players combined to rush for 908 yards and 10 touchdowns. The running back room will feature Dedrick Talbert, Tony Phillips, Clyde McClendon, Byron Eaton Jr., Andre Crews, and Roderick McCray.

The receiving corps is led by Jacoby Bellazar and Nick Howard. Last season, the two combined for 38 catches for 428 yards and three touchdowns. Keith Jones also will be in the mix after catching a touchdown pass in the spring game as well as former Gridiron Football All-American Tramon Douglas. Tight end Covadis Knighten, who had 19 catches for 129 yards and a touchdown, could be a big factor as well as a pass catcher and as a blocker. The development of these receivers will be key to expanding the passing game.

Defense:

Defensively, the Tigers are under the guidance of defensive coordinator Jason Rollins, who brings a wealth of experience to the program. The defensive line, featuring key

returners such as Bryce Cage, Jon Horton, and Jaden Hardy, is expected to apply consistent pressure on opposing quarterbacks. The secondary, led by standout Blake Davis aims to create turnovers and disrupt passing lanes. The defense's ability to adapt and execute in critical moments will be crucial to the Tigers' success.

What To Expect:

The 2025 season presents a mix of challenges and opportunities for Grambling State. The Tigers open the season with the Shreveport Kickoff Classic against Langston University. Then, they go on the road for a high-profile matchup against defending national champions Ohio State on September 6, providing an early test of their capabilities. Subsequent games against Kentucky State and East Texas A&M at home offer opportunities to build momentum. The SWAC opener against Prairie View A&M at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas on September 27 is a significant early conference matchup.

Homecoming on October 11 against Texas Southern and the Bayou Classic against Southern University on November 29 at the Caesars Superdome are marquee events that will energize the fanbase and provide platforms for the Tigers to showcase their talents.

The leadership of Coach Joseph and his staff, combined with a roster eager to prove itself, sets the stage for a promising 2025 season.



2025 Signing Class:

Eddie Bennett Jr. | OL | 6'6, 340 lb | Meridian, Miss. | Hinds CC
 Ty Keyes | QB | 6'2 225 lb | Taylorsville, MS. | Southern MS / East MS CC
 Adam Lamar | DL | 6-3, 283 lb | Macon, Ga. | La Tech / Hutchinson CC
 Tory Morgan | LB | 6-0, 215 | New Orleans, La. | NSU / Southwest CC
 Ikemefuna Nnakenyi | DE | 6-4, 255 | Las Vegas, Nev. | U. of Nevada
 Tyrell Raby | DB | 5-11, 185 | Baton Rouge, La. | Middle Tennessee State
 C'Zavien Teasett | QB | 6-2, 200 | Baton Rouge, La. | Southern
 Darreyl Thomas | OL | 6-5, 310 | Del City, Okla. | Langston University
 Kameron Williams | TE | 6-3, 245 | Monroe, La. | Southern Arkansas/Hinds Community College



Above: WR Tramon Douglas, Woodlawn High, Baton Rouge, La. Son of Grambling Hall of Fame WR Tramon Douglas
 2022 Gridiron Football All-American
 (Played in Orange Beach, AL)

Left: QB Tydre Malone, Jonesboro-Hodge HS, Jonesboro, La.
 2021 Gridiron Football All-American



by: Alexander Allison

We're in the summer on The Bluff, and the Southern Jags are gearing up for a big 2025 season with sky-high possibilities.

Head Coach Terrence Graves goes into his 2nd year as head coach of Southern University, coming off of a successful but turbulent first campaign in 2024, where big wins against division rivals would be accompanied by crushing defeats, the rollercoaster continuing week to week. The Jags finished 8-5, going 7-2 in conference and winning the SWAC West. That took Southern to the SWAC championship game, where a promising first half led to a depressing conclusion as they got blown out by rival Jackson St. 41-13. Despite the unfortunate conclusion, there was a clear identity made for this Southern team that Coach Graves has a chance to build on going into this season.

That identity is built around an elite defense, one of the best in the entire conference. Southern finished 2024 with the #3 ranked defense in scoring and total yards, and had the #1 pass defense in the entire conference. Many of those key players from last year's elite defense return for another go around in 2025. Most important among them is reigning SWAC Co-Defensive Player of the Year and FCS All-American Ckelby Givens, who returns for his senior season to lead an elite pass rush.

Southern was at their best last year when that defense was supported by a solid offense led by a consistent passer under center. Solid QB play was difficult to come by, however, and they saw a revolving door at the position throughout the year because of it. That was until the Bethune-Cookman game, a 5-OT thriller that saw Red-shirt-Freshman Jalen Woods take the job and run with it, leading the Jags to a comeback victory. The other two members of last year's carousel, 2024 week 1 starter Noah Boddien and hometown hero Czavian Teasett, both transferred out from Southern this offseason, signalling that Woods has secured the job for 2025.

As clear cut as that may seem, there were some new additions to the room that could

muddy the waters. Top JUCO transfer Jamari Jones looked great in the spring game for Southern this year, and he figures to be the backup going into the year. Coach Graves has said that the job is "Jalen Woods' to lose", but Jones will be lurking on the bench as an alternate option going into week 1. Jackson St. QB Cam'Ron McCoy just transferred to Southern mere days ago, providing even more competition. Also worth mentioning is Gridiron Football All-American Dillon Compton, an FBS level prospect who chose Southern over Navy, as a potential future starter beginning his time on The Bluff this year.

Southern didn't lose too many seniors last year, but the position where they lost the most production was at running back. The Jags had three players with a significant workload - Kendric Rhymes, Kobe Dillon, and CJ Russell - and all three of them are gone this season. The team will have to look to their youth to fill the hole, with 3 underclassmen fighting for the starting job: Sophomores Jason Gabriel and Zaccheus Cooper, and Freshman Armariyan Asberry. The trio struggled early in the spring game, but seemed to improve throughout and grow from the experience.

After winning the division title last season, there are a lot of eyes on Southern Football now in 2025. The hype is real, but the expectations are high, and the sky's the limit out on the bluff this year.



Recruiting Update:

Top (Blue #15) Dillon Compton, QB, Bunkie High School, Bunkie, LA 6'1, 195
2024 Gridiron Football All-American

Left (Blue #18) Lyndon Vallery, DE, McDonogh 35 High School, New Orleans, LA, 6'3, 225
2024 Gridiron Football All-American

Left (Red #34): Jeremiah Coleman, LB, Istrouma, Baton Rouge, LA, 6'0 195
2024 Gridiron Football All-American

It's a big win for Southern University to sign three standouts from the 2024 Gridiron Football All-American Game. Quarterback Dillon Compton brings leadership and arm talent, while defensive end Lyndon Vallery adds size and explosiveness off the edge. Linebacker Jeremiah Coleman delivers physicality and speed to the second level. All three are high-motor athletes with playmaking ability, and their commitment signals a bright future for the Jaguars on both sides of the ball.



Eight Sign to Louisiana Christian University From Gridiron Football All-American Bowl

Eight standout athletes from the 2024 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl have officially signed with Louisiana Christian University, reinforcing a strong pipeline between the prestigious bowl game and one of NAIA's rising programs. Remarkably, nearly one-third of LCU's current roster now consists of Gridiron Bowl alumni. Despite finishing the 2024 season with a 4-7 record, the Wildcats remain the reigning 2023 NAIA SAC Champions and are on track to bounce back under second-year head coach Ben McLaughlin. With a foundation of bowl-tested talent and a renewed focus heading into the 2025 season, LCU is poised to be a force to be reckoned with in the SAC. The addition of these eight Gridiron alumni highlights the school's commitment to recruiting top-tier athletes who have proven themselves on a national stage. As the Wildcats prepare for the upcoming season, expectations are high for a major resurgence fueled by young talent and veteran leadership.





Centenary Bolsters 2024 Class with Five Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Standouts

Centenary College continues to make waves on the recruiting trail by signing five standout athletes from the 2024 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl. Each player brings unique skill sets and a competitive edge that will elevate the program immediately.

Leading the class is Caleb Joseph, a powerful 5'10", 195-pound running back from Belaire High School in Baton Rouge. Known for his vision and balance, Joseph showed off his explosive ability in the bowl game, proving he's ready to carry the load at the next level.

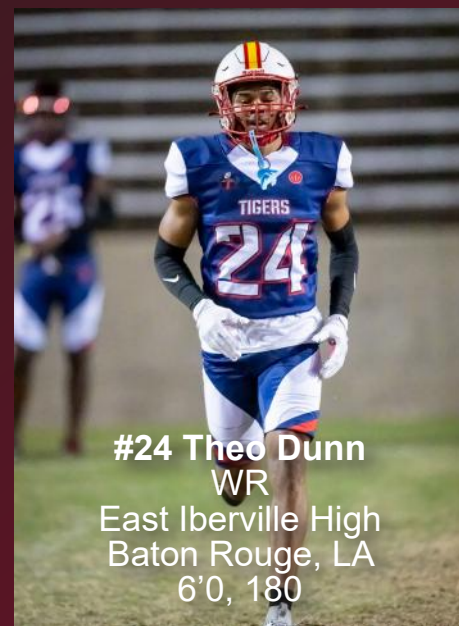
Joining him is Theo Dunn, a 6'0", 180-pound wide receiver from East Iberville High School. Dunn's speed and route-running precision make him a deep threat and a consistent target in the passing game.

Lewis Jackson Hayles, a 6'3", 290-pound offensive lineman from Acadiana Christian High School, adds muscle and experience up front. His performance at the All-American Bowl demonstrated strength, technique, and a high football IQ, making him a valuable asset in the trenches.

CHEF (Christian Home Educators-Fellowship) wideouts Chase McCall (6'1", 155 lbs) and Kade Whitehead (5'8", 162 lbs), both from Baton Rouge, round out the group. McCall is a dynamic playmaker with great hands, while Whitehead adds shiftiness and speed in space.



#21 Caleb Joseph
RB
Belaire
Baton Rouge, LA
5'10", 195



#24 Theo Dunn
WR
East Iberville High
Baton Rouge, LA
6'0", 180



#81 Chase McCall
WR
CHEF
Baton Rouge, LA
6'1", 155



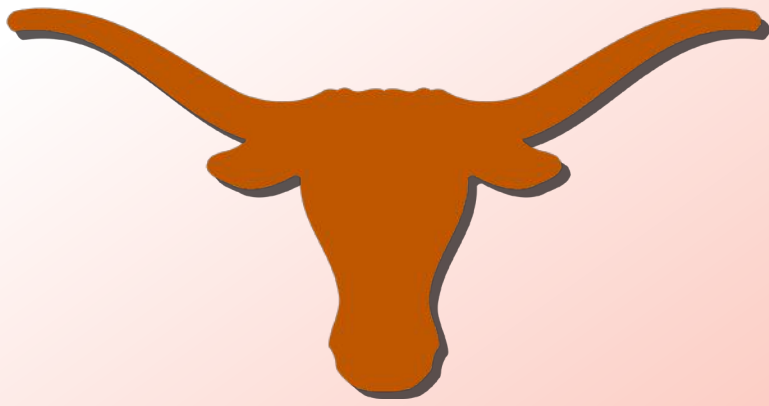
#85 Kade Whitehead
WR
CHEF
Baton Rouge, LA
5'8", 162

Together, these five All-Americans bring elite talent and chemistry to Centenary, promising a bright future ahead.

Their shared experience in the 2024 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl has already built a foundation of camaraderie and competitiveness that will benefit the Centenary program from day one. Having competed against and alongside some of the best talent in the country, these five signees have proven they can rise to the occasion on a big stage. Their commitment to Centenary is not only a testament to their individual talents, but also to the growing impact of Gridiron Football's mission to help young athletes reach the next level.



#71 Lewis Jackson Hayles
OL
Acadiana Christian
Lafayette, LA
6'3", 290



Arch Manning Era Begins: Texas' Future Takes the Reins in 2025

After sitting patiently behind Quinn Ewers and watching from the sideline, Arch Manning's time has finally arrived. The Texas Longhorns enter the 2025 season with the nation's eyes locked on Austin, and Manning, the former No. 1 overall recruit in the Class of 2023, is ready to lead the burnt orange back to college football's mountaintop.

Manning, a member of the sport's most storied quarterback family, has taken the developmental route — a rarity for five-star recruits. With uncles Peyton and Eli Manning being Super Bowl champions, and grandfather Archie Manning an NFL legend in his own right, the expectations on Arch have been nothing short of monumental. But the young Manning has handled the pressure with poise, patience, and a team-first mentality.

Now entering his redshirt sophomore season, Arch is expected to take full control of the Longhorns' offense following Ewers' departure to the NFL. His progression over the past two seasons has been steady. Despite limited in-game snaps, coaches and teammates have praised Manning's growth behind the scenes.

"I think there's something that's unique about Arch. You can watch him throw and you see when you get up on him in person, man, he's a bigger guy than maybe people think. When you watch him throw, the arm talent and the deep ball is there. Then you watch him move and you're like, wait, this guy's a better athlete than I thought. Definitely got grandpa's gene. It's not the uncles, he got grandpa's gene. There's an infectious leadership that he has, that I don't want to say is unintentional because he intention ally leads. You can feel that. But the unintentional leadership ability he has, players gravitate to him, they want to

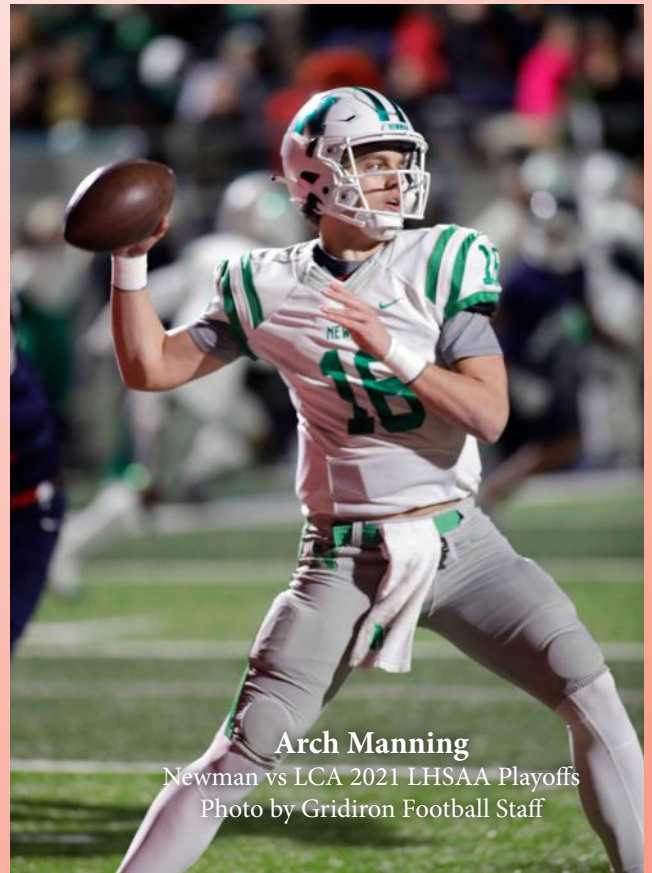
be around him," said Steve Sarkisian

At 6-foot-4 and 215 pounds, Manning boasts prototypical size, elite arm strength, and above-average athleticism — traits that make him a perfect fit for Sarkisian's pro-style, RPO-heavy offense. During the 2024 spring practices, Manning reportedly made significant strides with his footwork, pre-snap reads, and timing. In Texas' spring game, he displayed flashes of brilliance, connecting on multiple deep shots and showing an improved command of the huddle.

While he's not expected to immediately match the statistical production of his predecessor — Ewers threw for 3,471 yards and 31 touchdowns last season — Manning brings an upside that could redefine the Longhorns' offense in 2025 and beyond. His calm demeanor, mixed with his pedigree and work ethic, have many in Austin believing that the program is in good hands.

The weapons around him should help ease the transition. Returning playmakers like wide receiver Ryan Wingo, wide receiver DeAndre Moore Jr, and running back CJ Baxter give Manning a versatile supporting cast. Additionally, an experienced offensive line returns nearly intact, ready to protect the heir to the quarterback throne.

For Texas fans, the timing feels perfect. After reaching the College Football Playoff semifinals in 2024 and finishing with a top-five national ranking, the Longhorns are entering their first year in the SEC — a conference known for producing NFL-caliber talent and championship teams. Manning's debut as a full-time starter aligns with Tex



Arch Manning
Newman vs LCA 2021 LHSAA Playoffs
Photo by Gridiron Football Staff

as' entry into the gauntlet of SEC football. The pressure is immense, but so is the opportunity.

While some outsiders may continue to question whether the youngest Manning can live up to the name, those within the Texas program say he already has.

"He's not Peyton or Eli — he's Arch," said Cook. "And Arch can ball. He's got the swag, the arm, and the vision. He's our guy."

As the countdown to the 2025 season opener against Texas A&M looms, the Arch Manning era in Austin begins with sky-high expectations and boundless potential. For the Longhorns, it's not just about continuing the resurgence — it's about winning championships. And with Arch Manning at the helm, they just might.

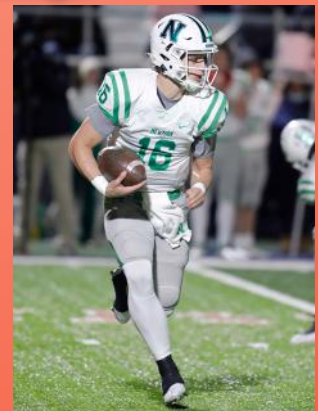




Photo by: Texas A&M Athletics

Texas A&M Football Gears Up for a Promising 2025 Season

The Texas A&M Aggies are entering the 2025 season with high expectations, driven by a new era of leadership and rising talent. The annual Maroon & White Game gave fans a preview of what to expect this fall. With the White team taking a 19-7 win, standout performances on both sides of the ball hint at a dynamic and competitive roster. The Aggies open their season on August 30 against UTSA at Kyle Field, and momentum is clearly building in College Station.

Offense

The offensive unit showcased both returning talent and exciting newcomers. For the White team, wide receiver Iziah Williams led the way with 51 yards on four receptions and a touchdown, showcasing strong chemistry with his quarterbacks. On the Maroon side, new additions KC Concepcion and Mario Craver made a splash—Concepcion hauled in a game-high seven receptions for 64 yards, while Craver added 78 yards on five catches. These performances suggest the Aggies may employ a more spread, aerial attack in 2025. In 2024, Texas A&M totaled 2,734 passing yards and 2,541 rushing yards, revealing a balanced offensive approach. With a new group of wide-outs and competition at quarterback, fans should expect a dynamic, fast-paced offense that can threaten defenses in multiple ways.

Defense

The defensive star of the spring game was undoubtedly freshman Marco Jones, who was a nightmare for the offensive line, recording five sacks and six total tackles for loss. On the Maroon

team, Marcus Ratcliffe led the way with six tackles. The Aggie defense was strong in 2024, tallying 92 tackles for loss, 25 sacks, and 16 interceptions. With athleticism and aggression up front and playmakers in the secondary, this group will look to increase its disruption rate. Veteran leadership combined with promising freshmen like Jones could make Texas A&M's defense one of the SEC's most feared units this season.

Special Teams

Special teams played a crucial role in the Maroon & White Game. Graduate kicker Jared Zirkel was perfect, connecting from 34 and 49 yards for the White team. In 2024, Zirkel hit 13 of 18 field goals, including a long of 49. The Aggies also demonstrated consistency on kickoffs and punts, averaging 43.4 yards per punt as a team. With reliable kicking and strong field position control, the special teams unit could be a hidden weapon for the Aggies in 2025.

What to Look For in 2025

With a tough SEC slate and a season opener against UTSA, all eyes are on how Texas A&M will respond under pressure. Fans should monitor the quarterback battle closely, as emerging talents vie for the starting spot. The addition of explosive receivers like Craver and Concepcion offers flexibility and depth, especially in spread sets. Defensively, Marco Jones is a name to remember, and his development could be key to the Aggies dominating in the trenches.

Under the direction of new coaches and a rejuvenated locker room, Texas A&M looks poised to build on last

season's foundation. With explosive weapons, defensive grit, and reliable special teams, the 2025 Aggies could be one of the most complete teams in the SEC.



Aggie Freshman QB Earns National Honors in Stellar Debut Season

Texas A&M's freshman quarterback exploded onto the scene in 2024, earning SEC Freshman of the Week twice, the Shaun Alexander Freshman of the Week, and the Davey O'Brien National QB of the Week. Starting eight games, he totaled 22 touchdowns (15 pass, 7 rush) while averaging 4.7 yards per carry. He led comeback wins, including a three-touchdown rushing performance against No. 8 LSU. With multiple 290+ yard passing games and consistent dual-threat production, he became the first Aggie QB since 2019 with three games of two passing and one rushing touchdown—marking one of the best freshman seasons in Aggie history. His breakout season has Aggies fans excited for 2025.



(right) DJ Jenkins, St Paul High, and (left) Lyndon Vallery McDonogh 35 High, pressure (center) QB Nino Freeman, Escambia High, in 2024 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl.

From Gridiron to Greatness: DJ Jenkins Commits to Rice

Pope John Paul II High School standout DJ Jenkins has officially committed to play Division I football for the Rice Owls, marking the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and development — much of which he credits to his journey with Gridiron Football.

“First, I want to thank God for putting me in the position I am in,” Jenkins said. “I want to thank my support system — my mom, dad, sisters, and Coach Young — for pushing me this far, and my Pope John Paul family.”

Jenkins’ journey through high school football has been a testament to patience and perseverance. Standing at 6’4” and weighing 225 pounds, Jenkins has always had the physical tools — long arms, a rangy build, and an explosive burst off the line. He utilized those tools to earn first-team All-District and All-Parish honors with 112 tackles, 8 sacks, 19 QB hurries, and a defensive touchdown in 2023 for Salmen High School before transferring to Pope John Paul II for his senior season.

In his final year, Jenkins led his new team to one of their most successful seasons in program history, tallying 72 tackles, 7 sacks, 16 TFLs, 12 QB hurries, and multiple turnovers. “It was great playing for them. They welcomed me like family,” he shared.

But the real foundation for Jenkins’ success came through Gridiron Football. A two-time Elite Camp participant, Jenkins developed new techniques and polished his skills under the guidance of experienced coaches. “I learned new techniques and different ways of using my length at the camps,” Jenkins explained. Those skills transferred directly to the field, as he became a dominant force on the defensive line.

He capped off his high school career with a standout performance in the 2024 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Game, where he earned Defensive MVP honors for the Tigers after recording the game-winning sack. “It was definitely a top ten moment for me,” Jenkins said. “I was telling myself big-time players make big-time plays.”

Beyond the field, Gridiron Football also helped Jenkins grow socially and mentally. “I really want to thank Gridiron Football. I got to showcase my talents and develop not just as a player, but socially as well when it comes down to interviews or talking to others in this profession,” he said.

Now, he takes his talents to Rice University — a program that sees in him the potential of a game-changing defender. Compared by the coaching staff to legends like Lawrence Taylor and Micah Parsons, Jenkins will have opportunities to rush the passer, drop into coverage, and stop the run.

“They’ll be getting a great person and player that will impact this program very soon,” Jenkins promised. “I want to be a freshman All-American, continue to grow my game, and one day play in the Senior Bowl.”

His advice to the next generation? “Stay to your faith because God always makes a way. Keep your grades up, and don’t compare your journey to anyone else’s. Your time will come.”





DeRidder's Jatari Harris Commits to ETBU, Carrying Family Legacy of Leadership and Excellence

East Texas Baptist University (ETBU) has landed a key addition to its 2025 signing class with the commitment of Jatari Harris, a standout defensive back from DeRidder High School in Louisiana. Standing at 6'0" and weighing 180 pounds, Harris brings a physical presence and high football IQ to the Tigers' secondary.

A three-year starter at cornerback, Harris was one of the most consistent defenders in Louisiana's high school ranks over the past few seasons. In his senior campaign, he recorded four interceptions and nine pass breakups, showcasing not only his ball-hawking instincts but his ability to read quarterbacks and make game-changing plays.

"The same thing can be said about Jatari Harris. He is a three-year starter at corner and had six interceptions last year. He is an instinctive ball player," said DeRidder Head Coach Brad Parmley.

Harris' commitment to ETBU is a testament to his dedication both on and off the field. Known for his discipline, leadership, and high character, Jatari was selected to play in the prestigious 2024 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Game, held annually to showcase the top high school talent across the country. His selection confirmed what many around Louisiana already knew: Harris is one of the top defensive backs in the state.

Beyond his football accomplishments, Jatari represents a proud family legacy. His father, Michael Harris, made history on May 3, 2025, when he was elected the first Black mayor of DeRidder. It's

a moment that reflects the leadership and trailblazing spirit that runs deep in the Harris household.

With Jatari now continuing his academic and athletic journey at ETBU, he steps into a program that values integrity, work ethic, and faith — values that align perfectly with his upbringing. His signing is not just a win for ETBU on the field, but also a cultural win as the program gains a proven leader, both in performance and in character.

Harris will be expected to contribute early at ETBU thanks to his size, experience, and versatility in the defensive backfield. He plays with great anticipation, excels in man coverage, and is physical enough to provide run support — a complete package for a college-level cornerback.

As he prepares for his next chapter in Marshall, Texas, Harris carries the pride of a city, the legacy of his family, and the drive to make his mark on college football. With a strong support system behind him and years of experience under his belt, the sky is the limit for this young defensive star.



***Tomara
Cleans***

Professional
cleaning
service for
your
home or office

Call Today
(225) 287-4761

***“Gridiron Football has done a great
job of creating exposure for thou-
sands of players in Louisiana, that
otherwise may not have been found.”***



**Ron Roberts,
Defensive Cord. University of Florida**



Jaylon Nichols Commits to North Carolina: A Gridiron Football All-American Finds a New Home

In a deal that sent ripples through college football recruiting circles, Neville High School (Monroe, LA) standout and Gridiron Football All-American, Jaylon Nichols, has officially signed with the University of North Carolina. The announcement marks a pivotal moment for both the rising star and the Tar Heels program.

Nichols, a dynamic three-star running back and 2024 All-District Offensive MVP, recorded a phenomenal senior season. He amassed over 1,400 rushing yards and powered into the end zone 24 times, showcasing his vision, speed, and penchant for delivering in clutch moments. Those numbers helped fuel Neville High to an impressive 11–2 finish last season.

His eye-catching performance earned him an invitation to the prestigious Gridiron Football All-American Bowl, where he shone as Team Tigers' featured back. It was at camp and during that showcase that Nichols grabbed the attention of UNC's new coaching regime, led by none other than Bill Belichick, who extended the offer directly to the young Louisiana talent.

Nichols' commitment is more than just another recruit. It's a symbolic win for a program undergoing revival after he committed to the Tar Heels just two days after receiving the offer. His quick decision reflects a mutual chemistry and confidence in UNC's vision and in



Belichick's leadership.

At 5-foot-11 and 170 pounds, Nichols combines agility with vision—evidenced by his 1,527 all-purpose yards and 24 touchdowns in 2024. Ranked No. 140 at his position nationally and No. 50 in Louisiana, he brings both proven production and room to grow.

UNC's 2025 recruiting class is shaping up to be robust, now including three running backs: Nichols, Demon June, and Joseph Troupe. With 27 commits to date and a solid national rank, the Tar Heels are keen on building depth and versatility in their backfield.

For Nichols, the commitment is more than a next step—it's the culmination of a lifelong dream. Hailing from Louisiana, he had scholarship offers from mid-major schools but held out for a full Division-I offer. When "Michael Lombardi called," his perspective changed. That UNC seal of approval validated his talent and potential to play on one

of college football's most notable programs.

Looking ahead, Nichols is poised to join a developing UNC offense that blends established talent with next-gen promise. His work ethic and toolkit—evident through elite camp performances and game-time reliability—make him an intriguing addition to Belichick's offensive plans.

As National Signing Day concluded on February 5, 2025, Nichols' signature secured his place in Tar Heels history. For Neville High alumni and fans, it was a proud moment. For North Carolina, it was a stride closer to contending in the ACC. And for Nichols, it marked the beginning of a new journey—a boy from Monroe chasing big-time dreams in Chapel Hill.





The Ohio State Buckeyes are Eying a Repeat After Winning First Ever Expanded College Football Playoff Championship

The Ohio State Buckeyes enter the 2025 season with championship expectations following a successful 2024 campaign that saw them return to national prominence. Head coach Ryan Day has retooled his staff and reloaded the roster for a serious push toward another College Football Playoff berth. With a combination of elite returning talent and promising newcomers, Ohio State remains one of the most formidable programs in the country. Here's a look at what to expect from the Buckeyes on offense, defense, and special teams this season.

Offense: New Faces, Same High Standards

Ohio State's offense underwent significant changes this offseason, most notably at quarterback. With the departure of Will Howard, the Buckeyes are looking to crown a new leader under center. The frontrunner is Alabama transfer Julian Sayin, a former five-star prospect who turned heads during spring practice with his poise and precision. Also in the mix are sophomore Lincoln Kienholz and elite freshman Tavien St. Clair, providing Day with intriguing options.

Regardless of who wins the job, the Buckeyes' offense is set up to thrive thanks to one of the best receiving corps in the nation. Jeremiah Smith, a sophomore phenom, is expected to be the go-to weapon after a sensational freshman year. Fellow former five-stars Carnell Tate and Brandon Inniss give

Ohio State dynamic depth out wide. Tight end Max Klare, a transfer from Purdue, adds a reliable red-zone option.

In the backfield, the Buckeyes will lean on James Peoples, a powerful second-year back, and West Virginia transfer CJ Donaldson, who brings versatility and physicality. The offensive line is the biggest question mark, with multiple new starters needing to step up. However, athletic sophomore Luke Montgomery is expected to emerge as a key piece.

Defense: Patricia Era Begins with High Expectations

Former NFL head coach Matt Patricia

takes over as defensive coordinator, replacing Jim Knowles. While Patricia is new to the college game, he inherits a talented and experienced unit that finished among the nation's best in 2024. The defensive line will have to replace several key contributors but remains strong with Caden Curry, Kenyatta Jackson Jr., and sophomore standout Eddrick Houston expected to anchor the front. At linebacker, Cody Simon and Arvell Reese provide veteran leadership and speed.

The secondary may be the best in the country, led by All-American safety Caleb Downs, who returns after an elite season. Denzel Burke and Davison Igbinosun give the Buckeyes lockdown corners, while younger players like Malik Hartford add depth and flexibility in nickel packages. Patricia will be tasked with maintaining OSU's aggressive approach while blending in his NFL-style schemes.

Special Teams: Reliable, But Looking for Playmakers

Ohio State's special teams were steady in 2024 and look to build on that with returning contributors. Kicker Jayden Fielding returns after a consistent year, and Jesse Mirco is back to handle punting duties with his trademark precision. The return game is one area where OSU hopes to see more explosiveness. With players like Brandon Inniss and Jeremiah Smith available, the Buckeyes could turn special teams into a scoring threat.

Final Outlook:

With elite talent across the board, a manageable but challenging schedule, and high internal expectations, Ohio State is positioned to compete for the Big Ten title and a College Football Playoff spot. If the quarterback position stabilizes early, the Buckeyes could be national title favorites once again.

Ohio State 2025 Football Signing Class

CB	DEVIN SANCHEZ 6-2 170 North Shore (Houston, Texas)
QB	TAVIEN ST. CLAIR 6-4 210 Bellefontaine (Bellefontaine, Ohio)
LB	RILEY PETTIJOHN 6-1 215 McKinney (McKinney, Texas)
S	FAHEEM DELANE 6-2 195 Good Counsel (Olney, Maryland)
WR	QUINCY PORTER 6-3 190 Bergen Catholic (Oradell, New Jersey)
OT	CARTER LOWE 6-5 290 Whitmer (Toledo, Ohio)
DE	ZION GRADY 6-4 235 Enterprise (Enterprise, Alabama)
LB	TARVOS ALFORD 6-2 210 Vero Beach (Vero Beach, Florida)
RB	BO JACKSON 6-0 205 Villa Angela-St. Joseph (Cleveland, Ohio)
RB	ANTHONY ROGERS 5-8 190 Carver (Montgomery, Alabama)
TE	NATE ROBERTS 6-4 235 Washington (Washington, Oklahoma)
WR	PHILLIP BELL 6-2 195 Mission Viejo (Mission Viejo, California)
DT	JARQUEZ CARTER 6-2 284 Newberry (Newberry, Florida)
WR	BODPEGN MILLER 6-4 180 Ontario (Mansfield, OH)
TE	BRODY LENNON 6-4 220 Gates Mills (Gates Mills, OH)
WR	DE'ZIE JONES 6-0 180 DePaul Catholic (Wayne, New Jersey)
DT	MAXWELL ROY 6-3 270 St. Joseph's Prep (Philadelphia, PA)
DE	EPI SITANILEI 6-5 220 St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)
DT	TRAJEN ODOM 6-4 285 Weddington (Matthews, North Carolina)
S	DESHAWN STEWART 6-2 185 DePaul Catholic (Wayne, New Jersey)
OL	JAYVON MCFADDEN 6-5 300 Riverdale Baptist (Upper Marlboro, MD)
OL	JAKE COOK 6-5 295 Westerville North (Westerville, OH)
S	CODY HADDAD 6-1 175 St. Ignatius (Cleveland, Ohio)
LB	ELI LEE 6-3 230 Archbishop Hoban (Akron, Ohio)
RB	ISAIAH WEST 5-11 208 St. Joseph's Prep (Philadelphia, PA)
CB	JORDYN WOODS 6-3 175 Cartersville (Cartersville, GA)

Baton Rouge's Own Rickie Collins Jr. Named Starting QB at Syracuse

Rickie Collins Jr., the Baton Rouge native and former LSU Tiger, has officially been named the starting quarterback at Syracuse University heading into the 2025 season. For Collins, it's been a journey rooted in perseverance, faith, and the relentless pursuit of greatness — and now, that hard work has paid off in a big way.

Collins, a redshirt sophomore, transferred to Syracuse from LSU in December 2024 in search of a fresh opportunity. After an impressive spring, new Orange head coach Fran Brown announced that Collins had earned the starting job. The decision reflects Collins' growth, talent, and leadership, which have all been hallmarks of his career since his high school days.

"It's a surreal moment. A blessing, really, from God," Collins said. "Any backup quarterback or kid coming up that's getting recruited, you think about the day you get named the starter. It's never going to feel real."

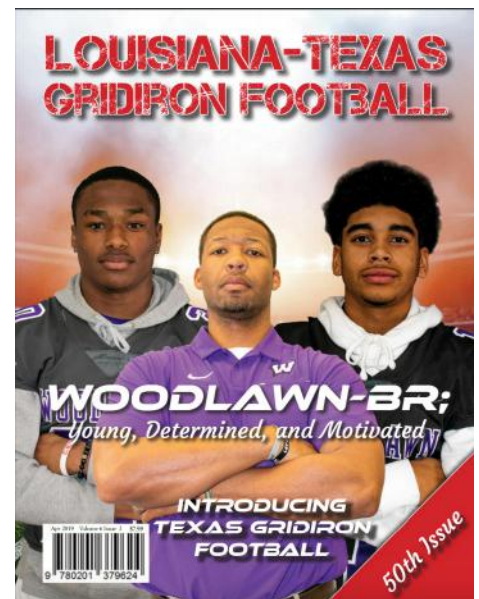
Long before making headlines in New York, Collins was a household name in Louisiana prep football. He starred at Woodlawn High School in Baton Rouge and was a three-time cover athlete for Gridiron Football Magazine. He first graced the cover in 2020 after a standout freshman season — one of the youngest players ever to earn that recognition.

"Rickie Collins was one of the best young quarterbacks I'd seen," said Andy Bryson, CEO of Gridiron Football. "After his freshman year, it was clear he had something special. That's why we put him on the cover — and he's continued to live up to that potential."

At LSU, Collins gained valuable experience learning behind veterans and adapting to the demands of SEC football. His decision to transfer was not about giving up — it was about finding the right place to thrive. Under Coach Brown's leadership and a fresh offensive system, Collins quickly emerged as a natural fit.

Now at Syracuse, Collins brings athleticism, a high football IQ, and a dual-threat capability that will be central to the Orange's offensive identity this fall. His calm under pressure and ability to make plays with both his arm and legs make him an exciting player to watch.

As he prepares to lead Syracuse onto the field in 2025, Rickie Collins Jr. represents more than just a quarterback battle won — he symbolizes the journey of a young athlete from Baton Rouge who continues to chase his dreams and make his city proud.



Gridiron Football Bowl Game MVP Ellis Stewart Commits To Arkansas Pine Bluff Adding Versatility and Playmaking Ability

When it comes to winning multiple awards and having a senior year to remember, Cecilia High School (Cecilia, LA) WR Ellis Stewart certainly had that in 2024.

The 6'0, 185 pound receiver was one of many dynamic weapons for the Bulldogs en route to their first ever state championship in the program's history. Earning All-District and All-State honors, he helped lead a Bulldogs team that made it all the way to the Dome by having to travel for each game during their playoff run.

Bringing versatility to the table, Stewart accounted for 1,500 yards and 14 touchdowns playing multiple different positions including quarterback, wide receiver, and even punter.

The Bulldogs' Swiss Army Knife's main job was at wide receiver where he ended up with 29 catches for 633 yards and 10 touchdowns. There was no catch bigger than in the Division II Non-Select State Championship Game against Franklinton in which he juggled and held on to what was the game winning score.

"My high school coaches helped me develop because coming over here, I was small and people didn't give me a chance, but they gave me a chance. I also want to really thank the Cecilia community as well," Stewart said.

Just a couple of weeks later after the season was over, the state champion got himself even more hardware as he got invited to play one last high school game for the Bulldogs in the 2024 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Game. Not only did he get himself a bowl game ring, but he earned Offensive MVP honors with two touchdown catches on two catches including a memorable first half scoring buzzer beater from Bunkie High School QB Dillon Compton. The celebration after was just as memorable as Stewart showcased his incredible athletic ability with a backflip.

"Those couple of days at the bowl game were fun. I got to know a lot of people from all over the country and got to play against them. Come game time, it was just time to lock in and play."



Stewart's versatility not only in football, but as a multisport athlete in track, basketball, and baseball certainly caught the eye of the Arkansas Pine-Bluff coaches that offered him. For the four sport athlete, being a Golden Lion was the right decision.

"I visited other schools, but whenever I saw UAPB, I knew that's where I wanted to go. Also, the type of offense that they run is the type of offense that I like," Stewart said.

Under head coach Alonzo Hampton, the Golden Lions are excited to add a secret weapon like Ellis Stewart to help them in year three of his program.





Gridiron Football All-Americans Jace Williams and Kaleb Daniels Sign with Arkansas-Monticello

Two standout Gridiron Football All-Americans, Jace Williams and Kaleb Daniels, have officially signed to continue their football careers at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Their commitments mark a major recruiting win for the Boll Weevils as they continue to build a competitive program within the Great American Conference.

****Jace Williams: The Anchor in the Trenches****

Jace Williams, a dominant offensive lineman from Assumption High School in Louisiana, has long been recognized for his physical presence and leadership on the field. At 6-foot-3 and over 300 pounds, Williams has consistently overpowered defenders and served as the anchor of Assumption's offensive line. His tenacity, footwork, and ability to dominate in both run and pass protection made him a clear standout during his high school career.

Williams capped off his senior season by earning a coveted spot in the Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Game, where he impressed scouts and coaches with his technique and consistency against elite-level talent. His performance in the Bowl confirmed what many already knew—he has the tools to thrive at the next level.



For Arkansas-Monticello, Williams brings immediate depth and potential to an offensive line that will benefit from his strength and experience. His work ethic and football IQ will allow him to compete for early playing time and possibly develop into a cornerstone of the Boll Weevils' offensive front.

****Kaleb Daniels: A Defensive Playmaker****

Joining Williams at Arkansas-Monticello is Kaleb Daniels, a hard-hitting defensive back from Teurlings Catholic High School in Lafayette, Louisiana. Daniels, listed at 6 feet tall and 180 pounds, was one of the most productive and impactful defenders in the state during his senior campaign.

In 2024, Daniels tallied an impressive 72 tackles, three tackles for loss, five forced fumbles, and five pass break-ups. His ability to read offenses, make open-field tackles, and create turnovers made him a force in the secondary. He was a two-time First-Team All-District selection and earned All-State Honorable Mention honors.

Like Williams, Daniels also shined in the Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Game, delivering a game-changing hit and making his presence felt throughout. Despite being a late selection for the Bowl, he seized the opportunity and proved he belonged among the nation's best.

Daniels brings to Arkansas-Monticello a versatile defensive back who can cover ground, hit with authority, and lead by example. His instincts and high motor should translate well to the college game, and his ability to contribute on special teams adds even more value to the Boll Weevils' roster.

The signings of Jace Williams and Kaleb Daniels reflect Arkansas-Monticello's commitment to bringing in high-character, high-talent players with championship pedigrees. Both players represent the best of Louisiana high school football and are ready to make their mark on the college stage.

With Williams protecting the trenches and Daniels patrolling the secondary, the future looks promising for the Boll Weevils. These Gridiron Football All-Americans are not just joining a program—they're helping build a new standard in Monticello.



Buda High's Dynamic Duo Commits to Mary Hardin-Baylor Football

Buda's Jack C. Hays High School has produced yet another pair of standout athletes, now making their mark at the collegiate level. Gridiron Football All-American defenders Hayden Jackson and Lynford Noriega have officially signed with the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB) in Belton, Texas, marking a significant coup for the Division III powerhouse.

Lynford Noriega: A Defensive Force
Lynford Noriega, a dominant 6-foot-3, 215-pound defensive end, emerged as one of the most feared pass-rushers in Texas high school football. He finished his senior season with an impressive stat line: 65 total tackles, including 28 solo stops, 12 sacks, five forced fumbles, and two pass deflections. He led the Texas 5A ranks in sacks and earned First-Team All-District honors. During the 2024 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Game, Noriega nearly captured Defensive MVP recognition, tallying 3.5 tackles, a sack, and two quarterback hurries/

Noriega's relentless motor and knack for disrupting plays drew high praise from college scouts. With his combination of size, athleticism, and skill, UMHB sees him as a perfect fit for its ferocious defensive front. His signing not only strengthens the Crusaders but also underscores the growing football prestige of Jack C. Hays High.



Lynford Noriega:
A Defensive Force

Hayden Jackson: Cornerback with Elite Instincts
Matching Noriega in talent is cornerback Hayden Jackson, a solid coverage specialist with keen instincts and athletic prowess. In his senior year, Jackson recorded 29 tackles, two interceptions, and eight pass breakups. He earned Second-Team All-District honors and was recognized as Academic All-District, showcasing his prowess on the field and in the classroom.

Jackson reportedly chose Mary Hardin-Baylor over several other offers, including Minnesota Vermillion, Schreiner University, and Texas Lutheran. That decision speaks volumes about

both UMHB's strong academic-athletic balance and the program's ability to attract high-caliber student-athletes.



Hayden Jackson:
Cornerback with Elite Instincts

Pairing Up in Belton
The coincidence of commitments—both Lynford Noriega and Hayden Jackson signing with the same college—is remarkable. Hailing from the same high school and both standouts in the 2024 Gridiron Football All-American class, their tandem move to Mary Hardin-Baylor brings immediate defensive synergy.

For UMHB's head coach, it's a win-win case: "Bringing in two proven disruptors from the same program and community boosts our depth and continuity," was the consensus among coaching staff, according to a source close to the program. The duo brings established chemistry that could shorten their adjustment curve and elevate the team's performance early on.

Jack C. Hays Gets National Recognition
This dual signing also highlights the increasing national exposure of Jack C. Hays High School—a community that's fast becoming a breeding ground for collegiate talent. With both players recognized as Gridiron Football All-Americans, their college commitments are a testament to the high level of coaching, training, and competition present in Buda.

Looking Ahead

As both Jackson and Noriega prepare to don the purple and gold of the Crusaders, expectations are high. Noriega will look to apply his game-changing pass rush abilities within UMHB's defensive unit. Meanwhile, Jackson aims to solidify the secondary, using his cover-to-run support and ball-hawk instincts.

Mary Hardin-Baylor already ranks among the nation's top Division III programs, with recent national championships reinforcing its elite status. The arrival of two local stars from Texas only strengthens the program's competitive outlook and deepens its recruiting presence within the Lone Star State.

For the Buda community, the success of Noriega and Jackson will be closely followed. Both players are expected to play significant roles as they embark on their collegiate journey this fall. If their high-school performances are any indication, they will be cornerstones of the Crusaders' defense—further solidifying UMHB's reputation as a national contender.



Bunkie Speedster Kyle Johnson Signs With Mississippi State After Leading Panthers To Impressive Two Year Run

Kyle Johnson, a four-star cornerback from Bunkie High School in Louisiana, has officially signed with Mississippi State University, marking a significant addition to the Bulldogs' 2025 recruiting class. Johnson, who previously committed to the University of Houston, flipped his decision on National Signing Day, providing a notable boost to Mississippi State's defensive lineup.

Standing at 5'11" and weighing 180 pounds, Johnson has been a standout athlete throughout his high school career. Under the guidance of head coach Jimmie Hillman, he contributed to Bunkie High School's impressive 13-0 record and a berth in the 3A Quarterfinals. Johnson's versatility was evident as he played both offense and defense, setting a school record with 10 receiving touchdowns in a single season. As a junior, he amassed 1,031 all-purpose yards and 13 total touchdowns, alongside 33 tackles on defense. His athletic prowess extended to track and field, where he recorded a personal best of 10.90 seconds in the 100-meter dash and qualified for the state finals in both the 100 and 200 meters.

"Everybody has been super supportive this last season. The community has been one of the biggest reasons we went on that impressive two year run," Johnson said.

Johnson's decision to join Mississippi State was influenced by several factors, including the departure of Houston's defensive coordinator, Shiel



Wood, to Texas Tech. This coaching change, coupled with Mississippi State's persistent recruitment efforts, played a pivotal role in his commitment flip. The Bulldogs' coaching staff, led by head coach Jeff Lebby, expressed enthusiasm about Johnson's addition, highlighting his speed, athleticism, and potential to make an immediate impact on special teams and in the secondary.

"It's a great feeling. I've been wanting the chance my whole life. I have been playing football since the third grade. I chose Mississippi State because of the environment, the people there, and Coach Lebby is a great coach and a great family man," Johnson said.

Ranked as the 187th player nationally and the 22nd cornerback in the country

by 247Sports, Johnson is also recognized as the seventh-best player in Louisiana. His commitment to Mississippi State underscores the program's dedication to strengthening its defense and acquiring top-tier talent from the region.

In addition to his athletic achievements, Johnson was the number one overall pick in the 2024 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Game Draft further showcasing his skills on a national platform. His performance in this prestigious event solidified his reputation as one of the nation's premier high school defensive backs.

As Johnson transitions to collegiate football, Mississippi State anticipates his contributions both on and off the field. With his combination of speed, agility, and football intelligence, he is poised to become a valuable asset to the Bulldogs' defense in the coming seasons.



Ole Miss

Former Gridiron Football All-American Standout, Wydett Williams Jr. Transfers to Ole Miss

Wydett Williams Jr., a standout safety from Lake Providence, Louisiana, has officially committed to the University of Mississippi, marking a monumental moment for both his career and his hometown. Williams Jr. becomes the first prospect from Lake Providence to sign with a Power Four school, opening doors for future athletes in the rural northeast Louisiana town and further solidifying his reputation as one of the most determined and talented players to come out of the area.

Williams Jr., a 2021 Gridiron Football All-American, first turned heads in high school, where he starred at General Trass High School. He capped his senior season by participating in the 2021 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl, held on December 30th, 2021, at Southeastern Louisiana University. His performance there helped launch what has been a steady and impressive rise through the college football ranks.

The son of East Carroll Parish Sheriff Wydett Williams Sr., who was first elected in 2012, Williams Jr. has carried his family's name with pride, establishing himself not only as a leader on the field but as a role model in his community. His journey reflects years of discipline, hard work, and the quiet confidence of someone determined to defy the odds.

Williams began his college career at Delta State, where he played in 23 games between 2022 and 2023. During his time with the Statesmen, he compiled 72 total tackles, including 3.5 tackles for loss, one sack, and six pass deflections. His performance was solid, but his hunger for greater competition led him to transfer to the University of Louisiana at Monroe for the 2024 season.

At ULM, Williams Jr. emerged as a defensive leader and quickly became one of the most impactful players on the team. In 2024, he compiled a staggering 100 total tackles, including 4.5 for a loss, one sack, one forced fumble, two fumble recoveries, three interceptions, four pass breakups, and one blocked kick. His performance earned



him a spot on the All-Sun Belt Conference team and caught the attention of national scouts and coaches alike.

Williams Jr. not only led the Warhawks in tackles and interceptions but also finished among the top 10 in the Sun Belt Conference in both categories. His ability to cover ground, support in run defense, and create turnovers made him a nightmare for opposing offenses.

One of the signature moments of his 2024 campaign came in a win over Jackson State, where he recorded 10 tackles, 0.5 sacks, and an interception. That dominant performance earned him Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week honors — the first ULM player to ever receive that distinction.

Now headed to Ole Miss, Williams Jr. is set to compete in the Southeastern Conference, one of the most prestigious and competitive leagues in college football. His commitment represents a huge addition to the Rebels' secondary and gives head coach Lane Kiffin a versatile and experienced playmaker capable of contributing immediately.

"Playing in the SEC has always been a dream of mine," said Williams Jr. "I'm grateful for my time at Delta State and

ULM. Each stop helped me grow as a player and a man. I'm excited to show what I can do at Ole Miss and represent Lake Providence on the biggest stage."

As he prepares for his next chapter, Williams Jr. stands as a beacon of hope for young athletes in rural Louisiana. From General Trass High School to the Gridiron Football All-American Bowl, and now to Ole Miss, his path has been a testament to perseverance, talent, and the belief that with hard work, anything is possible.

Ole Miss is not just getting an elite safety — they're getting a leader, a fighter, and someone who's been battle-tested at every level. Keep an eye on Wydett Williams Jr. this fall, because the best is yet to come.



Wydett Williams Jr. earns MVP Honors during 2021 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl



Valley View's "Man Mountain" Daniel Cole Signs with Murray State

Daniel Cole, a towering 6-foot-6, 330-pound offensive lineman from Valley View High School in Jonesboro, Arkansas, has officially committed to Murray State, joining the Racers' FCS football program. Known affectionately as "Man Mountain," Cole is a standout talent recognized as a Gridiron Football All-American, and his decision marks a significant pickup for Murray State's recruiting class.

Cole's imposing frame and flawless



fundamentals make him a formidable force on the offensive front. Over his impressive prep career—marked by 34 consecutive starts—he allowed just one sack and one holding penalty, a testament to his consistency and technique. A three-time conference champion and all-conference performer, his dominance in the trenches drew attention from multiple collegiate programs, including Missouri Southern, among others.

In the competitive landscape of FCS football, Murray State has made a statement by securing Cole's commitment. Opting for the Racers over offers elsewhere, Cole's decision underscores the program's growing credibility and appeal. Offensive linemen of his caliber are rare commodities at the FCS level, and his addition strengthens Murray State's line both in talent and reliability.

Cole's All-American distinction didn't

come by accident. It was earned through a combination of sheer physical attributes and refined skill—balance, leverage, hand placement, and awareness. His nickname—"Man Mountain"—is both literal and figurative, capturing his dominant presence on the field. As an anchor of his high school line, he not only performed at an elite level but also played a critical role in Valley View's three conference titles, cementing his place as a pillar of their sustained success.

Murray State's coaching staff views Daniel Cole as more than just a recruit—they see him as a foundational piece to a larger renaissance across their offensive front. In the high-stakes, high-traffic FCS games, bolstering the offensive line is a direct path to improved running efficiency and quarterback protection. Cole's freshman year could see him stepping into a meaningful role immediately, whether in rotational snaps or as a starter. His blend of size, consistency, and technique offers optimism for immediate impact.



While the sheen of athletic prowess draws initial attention, Cole's character and work ethic are equally noteworthy. It's apparent that he brings more than just physicality; he also brings thoughtful insight and dedication to the grind of development.

As Murray State enters fall training and



begins to set depth charts, Daniel Cole's name will likely feature prominently. His fresh start at the collegiate level comes with excitement and expectation, but he arrives more than prepared. With his All-American pedigree, physical tools, and mental readiness, Cole is poised to become a key contributor to the Racers' offensive line—fortifying its front and helping set the tone for the program's future.

In choosing Murray State, Daniel Cole takes his first steps as a Racer, following the same path that begins with small-town legend and leads to collegiate gridiron impact. His journey promises to be one worth following.





Delta State Football 2024 Season Breakdown

The 2024 Delta State University football team wrapped up a competitive season with a 6-4 record, including strong showings on both sides of the ball. Led by a potent offense, a gritty defense, and efficient special teams, the Statesmen showed resilience throughout the year in the Gulf South Conference. Here's a breakdown of how the team performed across offense, defense, and special teams.

Offense: Balanced and Explosive

Delta State's offense was both balanced and explosive, averaging 417.3 total yards per game, good for over 32 points per contest. The run game was powered by senior back Kelvin Smith, who racked up 736 yards and 6 touchdowns, averaging 5.3 yards per carry. Quarterback Cole Kirk led the aerial attack, passing for 2,052 yards and 18 touchdowns. His top target was Jaylen Green, who finished with 621 receiving yards and 9 touchdowns on 33 catches.

The team showed strong balance with 183.0 rushing yards and 234.3 passing yards per game, making it difficult for defenses to key in on any single threat. Delta State scored 40 total touchdowns, split almost evenly between the ground (18) and air (22). Their red zone efficiency was outstanding, converting on 36 of 39 trips with 23 resulting in touchdowns.

Defense: Aggressive and Opportunistic

Defensively, the Statesmen were opportunistic and aggressive, recording 23 sacks and 7 interceptions on the year. Linebacker Tye Holsey led the team in tackles with 53, while Mario Martin was a disruptive force in the backfield, notching 6.5 tackles for loss and 3.5 sacks.

Despite allowing 24.4 points per game, the defense held opponents under 160 rushing yards and just over 200 passing yards per game, showcasing its ability to bend but not break. They also forced 5 fumble recoveries, 28 pass breakups, and limited opponents to just 36% on third-down conversions.

Special Teams: Reliable and Productive

Special teams were a quiet strength for Delta State. Kicker Nick Herber was nearly automatic, converting 13 of 16 field goal attempts and going a perfect 38-for-38 on PATs, scoring 77 total points. Punter Parker Burleson averaged 40.3 yards per punt, pinning opponents inside the 20-yard line nine times.

The return game also offered sparks, with Tamaj Hoffman and Michael Carley combining for over 700 kick return yards, averaging more than 22 yards per return. Delta State also converted 100% of onside kick attempts and blocked four kicks, showcasing the unit's versatility.

2025 Signing Class

Chris Brown |DL| Jackson, Miss. | Copiah-Lincoln CC

LaDainian Davis |DL| Jackson, Miss. | Copiah-Lincoln CCe

Ahmad Thompson |DL| Tylertown, Miss. | East Central CC

Jordan McKnight |DB| Shelby, Miss. | East Mississippi CC

Ryan Pascal |OL| Picayune, Miss. | MS Gulf Coast CC

Brandin Talley |LS| Biloxi, Miss. | MS Gulf Coast CC

TJ Kelly |LB| Jackson, Miss. | Hinds CC

Tyler Abel |OL| Winona, Miss. | Holmes CC

Alex Larry |DL| Greenwood, Miss. | Itawamba CC

Harrison Knight |WR| Foley, Ala. | Jones CC

Davion Alston |RB| Flowood, Miss. | MS Delta CC

Jeffrey Anderson |DL| Buffalo, Miss. | Southwest Mississippi CC

Anthonee Dunn |OL| Terry, Miss. | Southwest Mississippi CC

Jeffrey Hobbs |DL| Mendenhall, Miss. | Southwest Mississippi CC

Maliek Robertson |DL| Donaldsville, La. | Southwest Mississippi CC

LeDell Finister |OL| New Orleans, La. | Campbell University

Jamison Kelly |DB| Columbia, Miss. | Indiana

Aaron Robinson |DL| Rolling Fork, Miss. | Mississippi College

Jacquez Tucker |DL| Calhoun City, Miss. | Mississippi College

Matt Rozier |WR| Harvest, Ala. | Chattanooga

Raymond Morales |K/P| Bay Springs, Miss. | Coahoma CC

Troy Griffin |ATH| Indianola, Miss. | Mississippi Delta CC

Kamran Anderson |DE| Millbrook, Ala. | Stanhope Elmore High

Taylor Barber |DE| Gadsden City, Ala. | Gadsden City

Tristan Chavis |DB| Collins, Miss. | Jefferson Davis

Ben Davis |OL| Athens, Ala. | Athens High

J.L. Davis |QB| Decatur, Ala. | Austin High

Rodriguez "Q" Hussey |CB| Cumming, Ga. | West Forsyth High

Timothy Jones |DB| Ruleville, Miss. | Ruleville Central

Cameron Kelly |DT| Leakesville, Miss. | Greene County

Justin Nelson |WR| Birmingham, Ala. | Huffman

Cash O'Callaghan |DB| Gainesville, Ga. | Gainesville

Jayson Parker |DL| Monroe, La. | Neville High

Caydon Smith |OL| Leeds Ala. | Moody High

Daniel Smith |RB| Dacula, Ga. | Mill Creek High

Aaron Taylor |OL| Montgomery, Ala. | Montgomery Catholic

“Gridiron Football is a first class publication that gives high school players exposure. I highly recommend them to High School and College Coaches.”



Gabe Fertitta
Offensive Coordinator
Nicholls State University

“Gridiron Football is who I trust to keep me updated on the top prospects in the state of Louisiana.”



Brandon Lacy,
Defensive Line Western Michigan



Head Coach
Billy Napier

Offense

The Florida Gators' offense in 2024 was explosive and deep, finishing the season with 5,030 total yards and averaging 387 yards per game. A standout in the spring game was fifth-year senior running back Ja'Kobi Jackson, who dominated with a spring-record 198 yards and three touchdowns on just 10 carries. He broke free for scores of 23, 40, and a jaw-dropping 90 yards. While Jackson only posted 509 rushing yards in the regular season, his spring performance positions him as a key offensive weapon for 2025.

At quarterback, Aidan Warner — a walk-on and Yale transfer — made the most of his spring game reps, throwing for 157 yards and two touchdowns. In 2024, Warner saw limited action (228 passing yards), but the spring game showed he's ready to be a reliable backup. The starter remains sophomore DJ Lagway, who threw for 1,915 yards and 12 touchdowns last season but was limited in spring due to a shoulder injury.

Wide receivers also impressed, with freshman Dallas Wilson catching 10 passes for 195 yards and two touchdowns in his debut, setting spring records. He looks to complement returning threats like Elijah Badger (806 yards, 4 TDs) and Chimere Dike (783 yards, 2 TDs).

Defense

Defensively, the Gators finished 2024 with 39 sacks and 14 interceptions. The unit was led by Shemar James (64 tackles), Tyreek Sapp (13 TFLs, 7 sacks), and Jack Pyburn (60 tackles). Florida's front seven was active and effective, holding opponents to just 3.8 yards per carry.

The secondary showcased its ball-hawking ability with key contributors like Bryce Thornton (3 INTs), Devin Moore (2 INTs)

for 84 yards), and Aaron Gates (1 INT, 30-yard return). The defense gave up 376.9 yards per game — a number they aim to improve, especially after giving up big passing numbers in the spring game.

Spring also saw the return of key contributors who were held out for precautionary reasons, such as safety Bryce Thornton and nickel Aaron Gates, both expected to anchor the secondary in 2025.

Special Teams

Special teams were rock solid for Florida in 2024. Kicker Trey Smack was nearly automatic, going 18-for-21 on field goals, including a spring-record 56-yarder. His consistency will be vital in 2025. Punter Jeremy Crawshaw averaged 45.8 yards per punt with a net of 42.4, pinning 25 punts inside the 20. Chimere Dike was a steady presence on punt returns, averaging 13.4 yards per return.

Looking Ahead to 2025

The 2025 season is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated years for Florida football in recent memory. DJ Lagway is expected to be fully healthy and a legitimate Heisman Trophy contender. With an explosive group of returning skill players, a veteran offensive line, and a defensive front that can wreak havoc, expectations are sky-high.

Head coach Billy Napier enters his fourth year with momentum after an 8-5 season capped by a bowl win over Tulane. The Gators open the season August 31 against Long Island and are projected to be ranked in the AP Top 25.

"We had a great spring," Napier said. "Now it's time to finish the summer strong and get ready for a big season."

2025 Signings

Brown III, Vernell (WR) Orlando, FL Jones High 5-11 175
Clark, Waltez 'Duke' (RB) Tampa, FL Plant High 6-0 197
Craig, Hayden (P) Mercier, QC Bridgton Academy 6-1 223
Dice, Tavaris 'TJ' (OL) College Park, GA Langston Hughes 6-3 302
Gasper Jr., Chad (RB) Katy, TX Katy Jordan High 5-10 208
Hanks III, Ben (DB) Overtown, FL Booker T. Washington 6-1 170
Hayward, Lagonza (DB) Lyons, GA Toombs County High 6-1 200
Jackson, Ty (ILB) Fort Lauderdale, FL Seminole Ridge 6-1 205
Johnson, Myles (ILB) Brewton, AL T.R. Miller High 6-0 213
Jones, Micah (TE) Madison, MS Madison Central 6-4 252
Jones Jr., Tramell 'TJ' (QB) Jacksonville, FL Mandarin 6-0 183
Konanbanny, Onis (DB) Columbia, SC Heathwood Episcopal 6 177
Louis, Bryon (RB) Miramar, FL American Heritage 5-11 206
Mbatchou, Joseph (DL) Loganville, GA Grayson 6-4 283
McCloud, Jermiah 'Zell' (DL) Sylvester, Ga Lee County 6-2 289
Medlock, Jahari (OL) Atlanta, GA Charles Drew 6-5 281
Montgomery, Naeshaun (WR) Central Falls, RI Miami Central 6-1 178
Mulhern, Mack (LS) Scottsdale, Ariz. Horizon 6-0 223
Noel, Evan (K) Bay St. Louis, MS St. Stanislaus 6-0 154
Pierre-Louis, Daniel (OL) Royal Palm Beach, FL Seminole Ridge 6-4 332
Shivers, Stephon 'Trell' (DL) Humboldt, TN Brentwood Academy 6-4 384
Stubbs, Drake (DB) Jacksonville, FL Mandarin 6-1 187
Tounkara, Muizz (WR) League City, TX Clear Springs 6-3 196
Wiggins, Jalen (EDGE) Tallahassee, FL James Rickards 6-4 257
Wilson, Dallas (WR) Tampa, FL Tampa Bay Tech 6-3 195
Woods, Jayden (EDGE) Shawnee, KS Mill Valley 6-3 229

Caleb Ricks Continues Family Legacy By Signing To Play Division I College Football at Idaho

The University of Idaho has secured a significant addition to its football program with the signing of Caleb Ricks, a stand-out defensive back from St. Amant High School in Gonzales, Louisiana. Ricks, recognized as a Gridiron Football All-American, brings a blend of athleticism and football intelligence that promises to bolster the Vandals' defensive lineup.

Standing at 6-foot-1 and weighing 195 pounds, Ricks earned first-team all-district MVP honors during his high school career, showcasing his prowess on the field. His commitment to Idaho was officially announced as part of head coach Thomas Ford Jr.'s inaugural recruiting class, which includes 33 signees, emphasizing a strong defensive strategy with the addition of six defensive backs.

"When I went on a visit, I really loved the coaching staff including Coach Ford and Coach Decloud, the cornerbacks coach. They treated me like family. It really felt like home when I got there. I know they are going to take me under their wing and do great things with me. I can't wait to get up there this summer and get to work," Ricks said.

Ricks's decision to join the Vandals underscores Idaho's expanding recruitment reach into talent-rich regions like Louisiana. His performance at St. Amant High School, coupled with his selection as a Gridiron Football All-American, highlights his potential to make an immediate impact at the collegiate level.

"I want to thank Gridiron Football for giving me the opportunity to play in it. It was a great game to play in and to get more recognition from coaches. I know there were some coaches watching. It was a blessing and a great privilege to showcase my talents," Ricks said.

Beyond his on-field achievements, Ricks plans to pursue a major in business with an emphasis in entrepreneurship, reflecting his dedication to excellence both academically and athletically. He hails from a family with a strong football background; his brother, Elias Ricks, currently plays for the Phil



adelphia Eagles. The former LSU /Alabama defensive back was in town to witness his younger brother's college signing before playing in the Super Bowl for the Eagles.

"It's a blessing. This was the only day that he can come so you know we are trying to fit it all in. It just means a lot to me to have all the family here to support me," Ricks said.

As the Vandals prepare for the upcoming season, Ricks's addition is anticipated to enhance the team's defensive capabilities. His combination of size, speed, and football acumen positions him as a promising asset in Idaho's pursuit of competitive success in the Big Sky Conference.

With the season on the horizon, all eyes will be on Ricks as he transitions to the collegiate stage, aiming to contribute significantly to the Vandals' defensive unit.





"Mr. Gridiron" James Lucas IV Overcomes Adversity, Commits to Sterling College

In a story that defines perseverance, faith, and the impact of opportunity, Peabody Magnet High School's James Lucas IV is set to continue his football journey at Sterling College in Kansas. Nicknamed "Mr. Gridiron," Lucas has been a staple of the Gridiron Football Elite Camp series since his early high school days. His commitment to the process, unwavering belief in himself, and strong family support have made this moment a reality.

From his sophomore year, Lucas and his father, James Lucas III, made it a mission to attend every Gridiron Football Elite Camp. Traveling across Louisiana to compete at camps in places like Woodlawn, St. Edmund, Jones-

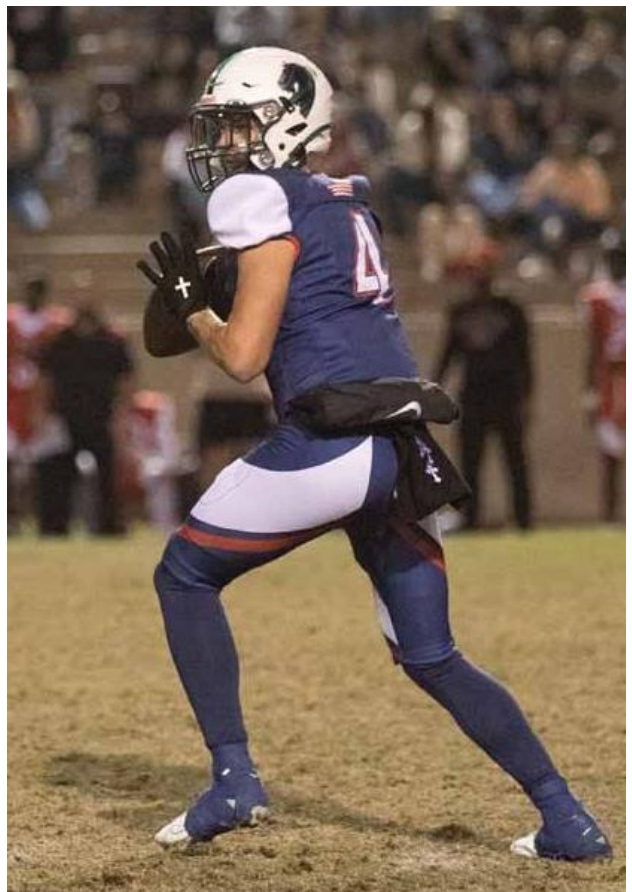
boro Hodge, Rayville, and Northshore, Lucas impressed coaches and scouts with his growth, athleticism, and quarterback development. By the end of the series, Lucas had earned the No. 6 overall ranking among hundreds of athletes and posted eye-popping numbers, including a 4.07 shuttle and a nearly 10-foot broad jump.

"It was just the competition for me," Lucas said. "You wake up and you can go up against a four-star quarterback or someone just as hungry as you. That's what makes these camps great."

Lucas' father echoed the value of Gridiron's platform. "Bring your kids early," James Lucas III said. "Get them comfortable. These camps expose your kid to colleges all over the United States."

Lucas' journey was anything but smooth. After a stellar freshman year at Pineville High with 1,200 passing yards and 18 touchdowns, he transferred to Bolton High where he sat out due to transfer rules. His junior year, he transferred again to Peabody after Bolton canceled its football program. Missing two years of varsity football, Lucas could've been forgotten—but he stayed the course, trained relentlessly, and returned as a senior to contribute in multiple roles, including quarterback, running back, H-back, and tight end.

His big opportunity came in the 2024 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Game, where Lucas was finally given



the keys to lead a full offensive drive.

In a game packed with elite quarterback talent, Lucas held his own, completing 4 of 8 passes for 51 yards, including a 24-yard strike on the run.

"You can't show that it's too big of a moment," Lucas said. "You just have to go out and do it. I feel like I did that and showed what I can do."

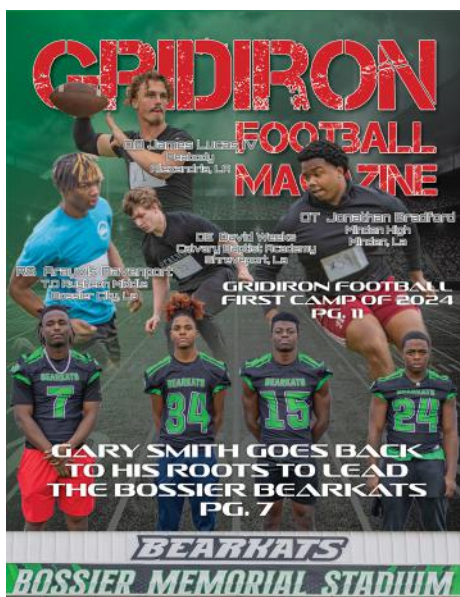
Sterling College took notice. Thanks to his performance and growing profile through Gridiron Football, Lucas was offered an academic and athletic scholarship totaling over \$100,000. After visiting the campus, Lucas felt at home and committed.

"I just love the atmosphere up there," he said. "Coach Porche and Coach Langford made me feel like I was already part of the team."

Lucas' story is a testament to belief, hard work, and never giving up on your dream. Despite limited film and limited varsity action, he used every opportunity Gridiron Football gave him to prove himself.

"Just give him the opportunity, and he will do it," said his father.

And now, he has.



Kentucky State Gets Absolute Steal in Productive Ascension Catholic Running Back Chad Elzy Jr.



Chad Elzy Jr., a dynamic running back from Ascension Catholic High School in Donaldsonville, Louisiana, has officially signed to play college football at Kentucky State University, marking a significant step in his athletic journey.

"I believe things happen for a reason. The environment at Kentucky State, the coaches on my visit, they were great. They showed me why Kentucky State is a special place, and I cannot wait to get there," Elzy said.

Standing at 5'10" and weighing 200 pounds, Elzy has been a formidable presence on the field, known for his explosive speed and agility. Known for having great running backs, Elzy ended up as the program's third all-time leading rusher behind Germaine and Jai Williams with 6,871 rushing yards and 101 touchdowns.

Elzy's outstanding performance earned him numerous accolades, including All-District, All-Parish, and 1st Team All-State honors. He was also named the All-State Offensive MVP and the Warrick Dunn Capitol Region MVP. His exceptional play caught the attention of several college programs, leading to offers from Nicholls State, South Alabama, Southeastern, Arkansas Monticello, and Millsaps, before ultimately choosing Kentucky State.

One of the highlights of Elzy's high school career was his participation in the 2024 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Game, where he showcased his talents on a national stage. His commitment to excellence and team-first mentality were evident as he expressed gratitude for the opportunity and focused on contributing to his team's success.

"I came out there a better man. I had coaches critique me on all aspects of my game. They taught me a lot of stuff and they got a lot of eyes on me so I thank them for that," Elzy said.

Elzy's decision to join the Kentucky State Thorobreds brings a versatile and explosive playmaker to their roster. His ability to break tackles, find open lanes, and accelerate downfield will be valuable assets to the team's offensive strategy. As he transitions to the collegiate level, Elzy's dedication and work ethic are expected to make a significant impact on the Thorobreds' future successes.

In addition to his on-field achievements, Elzy has been recognized for his leadership and commitment to his community. His journey from a standout high school athlete to a promising college football player serves as an inspiration to aspiring athletes in his hometown and beyond.

As Elzy embarks on this new chapter at Kentucky State University, the Thorobreds and their fans eagerly anticipate the contributions he will bring to the program. His combination of talent, determination, and character positions him for a bright future in college football.





The University of West Florida Argonauts enjoyed a strong 2024 football season, finishing with a 7-3 record. Under a balanced and disciplined approach, the Argos thrived on both sides of the ball and special teams, demonstrating why they continue to be a force in Division II football. Here's a breakdown of the 2024 campaign and what to expect heading into 2025.

Offense

The Argonauts' offense was consistent and multifaceted, averaging 33.1 points and 347.8 yards per game. Quarterback Marcus Stokes led the charge, passing for 1,540 yards and 14 touchdowns across eight games. He showed solid command of the offense with a 129.9 passer rating and had key support from backup Tony Bartalo, who added 382 yards and six scores through the air.

Corey Scott emerged as the go-to receiver, tallying 629 yards and five touchdowns on 34 catches. Complementing him were Da'Mani Brown and Javon Swinton, who added depth and reliability to the receiving corps.

The run game was led by TJ Lane and Jay Sharp, who combined for nearly 900 rushing yards and nine touchdowns. Keeshaun Glanton was also a standout, averaging 6.8 yards per carry in limited action.

Overall, the Argos offense excelled at sustaining drives and spreading the ball around—evidenced by 193 first downs on the season.

Defense

West Florida's defense was a stout unit, surrendering just 16.4 points and 222.3 total yards per game—truly elite numbers.

Linebacker Kam Canterbury led the team with 49 total tackles, while defensive lineman Traevon Mitchell was a disruptive force in the trenches, collecting 17.5 tackles for loss and 7.5 sacks. Collin Shaw and Ralph Ortiz added further pressure, helping the defense to 37 total sacks.

The secondary played with a ball-hawking mentality, picking off seven passes and returning two for touchdowns. Notable contributors included Kyrie Lewis, Ja'Kobe Clinton, and Jamari Dickens. The defense also returned two fumbles for scores, giving the Argos four defensive touchdowns on the year.



The unit's third-down defense was excellent, allowing conversions just 29.2% of the time.

Special Teams

Special teams were a weapon for West Florida. Virgil Lemons was electric in the return game, leading the team with two punt return touchdowns and a 25-yard average. Jay Sharp contributed heavily in the kick return game, averaging 33 yards per return with a long of 69.

Logan Gregory averaged 44.2 yards per punt, with 11 landing inside the 20. Tyler Patterson and Cade Lombardo combined for a nearly flawless 43-of-44 on extra points. However, field goals were an area of concern as the team went just 4-of-11 on the season.

Looking Ahead to 2025

With a potent mix of returning talent and developmental depth, expectations are high heading into 2025. Marcus Stokes is likely to return more seasoned and confident under center, and his chemistry with receivers like Scott and Swinton will be key. The offensive line will look to continue anchoring a run-first identity, while the defense is poised to remain among the best in the conference with returning stars in the front seven.

Special teams should continue to be a strength, although kicking accuracy will be a focal point for improvement.

If the Argonauts can clean up red zone execution (32-of-47 scoring rate in 2024) and boost their field goal consistency, they'll be well-positioned to compete for a conference title in 2025.



Photos provided by UWF Athletic Dept

SOUTH ALABAMA **JAGUARS**

Major Applewhite Brings Winning Pedigree to South Alabama

Baton Rouge native and Catholic High School alumnus Major Applewhite was named the fourth head coach in South Alabama football history on January 18, 2024. In his debut season, Applewhite led the Jaguars to a 7-6 record and a 30-23 win over Western Michigan in the IS4S Salute to Veterans Bowl, becoming the first South Alabama coach to win a bowl game in his inaugural season.

Known for his offensive acumen, Applewhite's 2024 Jaguars ranked second in the Sun Belt in total offense and led the league with 32 rushing touchdowns. His leadership produced 11 All-Conference selections, including standout wide receiver Jamaal Pritchett, who eclipsed 1,000 receiving yards and earned a Reese's Senior Bowl invite.

Applewhite, a former Texas quarterback and coach, previously led Houston to two bowl appearances and spent time under Nick Saban at Alabama. Before becoming head coach, he was South Alabama's offensive coordinator, guiding record-breaking quarterback Carter Bradley and leading the Jaguars to a school-best 430 points in 2023.

Returning to his Southern roots, Applewhite now seeks to elevate the Jaguars to Sun Belt championship contention, drawing from a career steeped in elite coaching, explosive offenses, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

South Alabama Jaguars Spring Football Outlook: the Road Ahead in 2025

As the South Alabama Jaguars gear up for the 2025 football season, excitement is building in Mobile. Led by second-year head coach Major Applewhite—a Baton Rouge native and former Catholic High School standout—the Jaguars are looking to build on a 7-6 season that concluded with a hard-fought IS4S Salute to Veterans Bowl Championship victory over Western Michigan.

Offense: Setting the Tempo

The Jaguars averaged 441.8 yards per game in 2024, ranking second in the Sun Belt, and will aim to push that even higher in 2025 under Applewhite's up-tempo philosophy. "There's plenty of scheme and that's important... but the style of play and how we play the game is more important," Applewhite emphasized after spring practice.

Quarterback Gio Lopez, despite nursing a toe injury all last season, threw for 2,559 yards and 18 touchdowns, while rushing for 465 yards and seven more scores. Now fully healthy and entering his second year as a starter, Lopez is poised to lead the offense with confidence. "It felt awesome... just fun being able to compete with your teammates and see the new players that we've got," he said.

Lopez will need to develop chemistry with new targets quickly—188 of South's 254 completions from 2024 went to players no longer on the roster. Fortunately, he retains seventh-year senior Devin Voisin, who returned from a 2023 ACL injury to post 34 catches for 407 yards last year. Voisin is determined to leave his mark: "I'm working to be elite this year... and set the standard for the room."

The rushing attack remains a strength with Fluff Bothwell and Kentrel Bullock both rushing for 832 yards apiece, combining for 20 touchdowns. The Jaguars' ground game averaged 198.5 yards per game and a stellar 5.8 yards per carry, leading to a Sun Belt-best 32 rushing touchdowns.

Defense: Ready to Dominate Again

South Alabama's defense held opponents to 25.15 points per game in 2024 while forcing 16 interceptions and recording 21 sacks. Redshirt junior cornerback Ricky Fletcher returns after missing 2024 due to a back injury. His presence adds depth to a secondary that already featured standout safety Jaden Voisin, who led the team with five interceptions.

"It feels terrific to be back," Fletcher said. "Just seeing the path we're going to be on for the season. It was great."

Linebacker Blayne Myrick led the team in tackles with 101 and added two sacks, while pass rushers like Courtney McBride (10.5 TFL, 5.0 sacks) and Wy'Kevious Thomas provided key pressure up front. The defense held teams to just 142.8 rushing yards per game and allowed only 19 rushing touchdowns all season.

Special Teams: Consistent and Underrated



Head Coach Major Applewhite

Kicker Laith Marjan was nearly automatic in 2024, going 16-of-17 on field goals and 42-of-44 on PATs. His longest make came from 49 yards. The Jaguars also blocked two kicks and scored on a 62-yard punt return from star wideout Jamaal Pritchett.

Punting duties were solidly handled by Aleksi Pulkkinen, who averaged 40.4 yards per punt with 16 landing inside the 20.

What to Watch for in 2025

The Jaguars open their 2025 season with high expectations. The focus this offseason has been about more than just playbooks—it's been about culture. "We're going to put in a lot of our scheme, but how we practice is important... Scheme is important, but style of play is more important," Applewhite reiterated.

With Lopez healthy, Voisin motivated, and Fletcher back in action, South Alabama appears primed to make a legitimate run at the Sun Belt title. Applewhite has set a clear vision for his team's identity: fast, physical, and relentless.

"Throughout the spring I enjoyed the way we practiced," Applewhite said. "I was excited about our tempo."

If that momentum carries into the fall, the 2025 Jaguars may just be the most dangerous team in the conference.





2024 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Signings

For the past seven years, the Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Game has done more than just showcase talent—it has changed lives. Held annually in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this prestigious event brings together some of the top high school football athletes from across the country and puts them under the spotlight they need—and deserve. With a remarkable 98% success rate of helping players receive college offers, the impact of this game on young athletes’ futures is undeniable.

The 2024 installment of the Gridiron Football All-American Bowl continued this proud tradition, offering a platform for under-recruited and overlooked athletes to display their abilities in front of coaches, scouts, and media. For many players, it’s the break they’ve been waiting for. In an era where exposure is everything, this game has become a bridge between potential and opportunity.

But the impact extends far beyond the football field. Every year, the game draws over 4,000 spectators and generates hundreds of thousands—if not

millions—of dollars in economic activity for local businesses in and around Baton Rouge. From hotels and restaurants to transportation and tourism, the game’s ripple effect benefits the entire region.

This is more than just a football game—it’s a critical investment in Louisiana’s youth, economy, and reputation. Louisiana has long been a hotbed for football talent, and this game helps ensure that those who may not come from major programs still get a shot at the next level. These players go on to represent their communities, their schools, and their state with pride.

However, to continue its mission and grow its reach, the Gridiron Football All-American Bowl needs financial support. With greater backing from local businesses, philanthropists, and community leaders, the event can expand its operations, improve its resources, and offer even more life-changing opportunities to deserving young athletes.

To support this mission is to invest in the future of Louisiana.

School (Hometown, State)	POS	Name	School Signed To
Ascension Catholic (Donaldsonville, LA)	RB	Chad Elzy Jr.	Kentucky State
Cecilia High School (Cecilia, LA)	WR	Ellis Stewart	Arkansas Pine Bluff
Riverdale High School (Jefferson, LA)	QB	Rida Ghazzali	West Alabama
ASH (Alexandria, LA)	WR	Darius Washington	Louisiana Christian
Peabody Magnet High (Alexandria, LA)	QB	James Lucas IV	Sterling College
Alexandria High School (Alexandria, LA)	WR	Jimmie Duncan	Northwestern State
St. Amant High School (St. Amant, LA)	CB	Caleb Ricks	Idaho
Pope John Paul II High School (Slidell, LA)	DE	DeReyon Jenkins Jr.	Rice
Carencro High School	DE	Jakayln Roy	Crown College
Jennings High School (Jennings, LA)	RB	Rejohn Zeno	Millikin University
East Jefferson High School (Metairie, LA)	TE/DE	Dorrior Hollins	Pearl River Community College
Pineville High School (Pineville, LA)	S	Jacob Miranda	Northwestern State
Episcopal High School (Baton Rouge, LA)	LB	Chase Cresson	Morehead State
Bunkie High School (Bunkie, LA)	QB	Dillon Compton	Southern
DeRidder High School (DeRidder, LA)	WR	Uriah Wade	Louisiana Christian
McDonogh 35 High (New Orleans, LA)	DE	Lyndon Vallery	Southern
Grant High School (Dry Prong, LA)	LB	Landon Fredieu	Louisiana Christian

2024 Gridiron
Football
All-American Bowl
Game Participants
and where they
signed to go to col-
lege to in 2025

Alexandria Senior High (Alexandria, LA)	S	Jaden Lewis	Evangel University
Woodlawn High School (Baton Rouge, LA)	DB	Caleb Cooper	Blinn College
East Iberville High School (St. Gabriel, LA)	ATH	Theo Dunn	Centenary College
Grant High School (Dry Prong, LA)	DB	Isaiah McKinney	Louisiana Christian
DeRidder High School (DeRidder, LA)	DB	Jatari Harris	East Texas Baptist University
Carencro High School (Carencro, LA)	LB	Brian Amune Jr.	Crown College
Grant High School (Dry Prong, LA)	LB	Gavin Borland	Louisiana Christian
Grant High School (Dry Prong, LA)	DL	Kourtland Elie	Louisiana Christian
Assumption High (Napoleonville, LA)	OL	Jace Williams	Arkansas Monticello
Notre Dame High School (Crowley, LA)	OL	Landon Mouton	Louisiana Christian
Woodlawn High (Baton Rouge, LA)	OL	Dwayne Beverly	Blinn College
Acadiana Christian (Lafayette, LA)	OL	LJ Hayles	Centenary College
Cecilia High School (Cecilia, LA)	OL	Ryker Airhart	UPIKE
Franklinton High School (Franklinton, LA)	OL	Beau Webb	Nicholls State
CHEF (Baton Rouge, LA)	WR	Chase McCall	Centenary College
St. Amant High School (St. Amant, LA)	WR	Timothy Johnson	Langston University
CHEF (Baton Rouge, LA)	WR	Kade Whitehead	Centenary College
Escambia High School (Pensacola, FL)	CB	Taiylor Bradsher	Peru State
Escambia High School (Pensacola, FL)	QB	Nino Freeman	Hutchinson Community College
Neville High School (Monroe, LA)	RB	Jaylon Nichols	North Carolina
Marshall High School (Marshall, TX)	WR	Raijon Sims	Emporia State
Escambia High School (Pensacola, FL)	CB	Chrissean Jones	West Alabama
Hawley High School (Hawley, TX)	QB	Keagan Ables	Hardin-Simmons University
Jack C Hays High School (Buda, TX)	DE	Lynford Noriega	Mary Hardin-Baylor
Pine High School (Franklinton, LA)	WR	Demil Garrett	Kilgore College
Warren Easton High (New Orleans, LA)	LB	Jamaal LaCaze Jr.	Ottawa University
Delhi High School (Delhi, LA)	DB	Jay Wright	Millsaps College
Jack C. Hays High School (Buda, TX)	CB	Hayden Jackson	Mary Hardin-Baylor
Belaire High School (Baton Rouge, LA)	RB	Caleb Joseph	Centenary College
Ouachita Christian High (Monroe, LA)	RB	Makin Lenard	Ouachita Baptist
Harrisburg High School (Harrisburg, AR)	DB	Andrew England	Rhodes College
Walker High School (Walker, LA)	RB	Cayden Jones	Southeastern Louisiana University
Teurlings Catholic High (Lafayette, LA)	DB	Kaleb Daniels	Arkansas Monticello
St. Paul's High School (Covington, LA)	WR	Stone Celestin	Trinity University
Istrouma High School (Baton Rouge, LA)	LB	Jeremiah Coleman	Southern University
Mangham High School (Mangham, LA)	DL	Isaiah McFarland	Arkansas Tech
U-High (Baton Rouge, LA)	OL	Preston Jones	Nicholls State
Valley View High School (Jonesboro, AR)	OL	Daniel Cole	Murray State
East Ascension High (Gonzales, LA)	WR	Justin Oubre	Louisiana Christian
White Castle High (White Castle, LA)	DL	DaMorion Burks	University of Virginia at Lynchburg
Barbe High School (Lake Charles, LA)	DT	Courtlyn Houston	Lamar University



Team Tigers Offensive MVP Ellis Stewart (middle) with Marcus Randall (left) and Andy Bryson (right)



Team Tigers Defensive MVP DJ Jenkins (middle) with Marcus Randall (left) and Andy Bryson (right)



Team Lions Offensive MVP Nino Freeman (middle) with Marcus Randall (left) and Andy Bryson (right)



Team Lions Defensive MVP Titus Harrell (middle) with Marcus Randall (left) and Andy Bryson (right)

Westwood Football

by: Alexander Allison

Out in northeast Texas, in the rural city of Palestine, sits a supernova. A star that is exploding before our very eyes, and we have the privilege of getting two more years to see him shine.

That star is , the starting QB for the Westwood Panthers, a top prospect for the class of 2027 both in football and basketball. He has already received a dual-sport offer from Texas A&M, and he has led Westwood to an unprecedented level of success. In 2024, with Kavian under center, Westwood averaged over 53 points per game on offense, and that helped propel the Panthers to their first ever undefeated regular season in the school's history. This led to Kavian being named Gridiron Football National Player of the Year.

Despite Kavian's unbelievable talent, Westwood's success has been a team effort, and that team is led by Head Coach Richard Bishop. Coach Bishop worked in the Dallas metro region for 10 years, most notably at Grapevine, where he coached recent Texas Tech and Oklahoma St Alan Bowman through his entire career. Coach Bishop arrived at Westwood in 2018 and slowly established an identity and culture in the football program.

"We had everything we needed here to be successful. I don't think the talent level was ever an issue, the program just needed a culture change. The installation of a total program has taken place, and it's worked out that we've gotten some really good players coming up through the program, and the team seems set up for long term success." (Westwood High School Head Coach Richard Bishop).

Much of the inspiration for the culture Coach Bishop has instilled comes from current Minnesota Head Coach PJ Fleck, and it's built around the image of the football program as a rowboat. In a rowboat, your paddling is only one factor to help decide where the boat goes, and a football player focusing on just controlling what they can control, while ignoring the outside noise, is important. Rowing a boat requires you to look backwards, not being able to see in front of you, just like in real life and in football. The only thing that you can do is see behind you, learn from your mistakes, and improve. These are just some of the core principles that Coach Bishop has built his program around at Westwood.

Building a program like this requires having leaders in the room other than the head coach, and Coach Bishop has assembled a staff of assistants to do just that. Jonathan Boone was a former safeties coach under Coach Bishop at Westwood, and now he has returned to be the defensive coordinator. Emilio Meza will be helping immensely as the defensive line coach. Anthony Weed

en is joining this year as the new offensive coordinator, and he brings experience-coaching at the college level, with Patrick Pickens contributing on the offensive side of the ball as the offensive line coach. Every hire on this staff has been made with the focus on building genuine relationships with the kids on the team, as that is one of Coach Bishop's guiding principles.

"The kids don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." (Head Coach Richard Bishop).

Perhaps the most interesting member of the staff, however, is Kadrian Bryant, the cornerbacks coach and father of Kavian Bryant. He adds an additional dynamic to the relationship between the coaching staff and the star quarterback. It would be easy and stereotypical for the power-4 talent and coach's son to be given special treatment and cruise without scrutiny, but reality at Westwood paints a much different picture. Kavian isn't slacking - he's putting in all of the work at all times, waking up well before the crack of dawn to perfect his craft.

"Kavian makes it really easy on us. He's the leader of the program, and his dad has coached him extremely hard. His dad is harder on him than anybody else in the facility. He's held to a higher standard. Leadership is a responsibility and an obligation, not a place of authority. When you take that approach, it alleviates any potential issue. He's a reserved kid by nature, he's not a big 'rah rah' guy. He just goes about his business and does his work. The next step for him is to not just be a leader by example, but to be a vocal leader too. A great program is player led, not coach led." (Westwood High School Head Coach Richard Bishop).

Kavian is a great player who deserves his flowers, but he's not the only player on the football team. When you go undefeated in the regular season, there are a lot of players that deserve recognition.

One of the biggest non-Kavian stars on the team is Kayson Dial, a class of 2026 WR. He can do just about anything for Westwood, whether that's catching passes, making tackles in the secondary, returning kickoffs,

punting (the few times they needed to), or filling in as Kavian's backup at quarterback. This will be Dial's 4th year starting for Westwood, and he's positioned to have yet another impressive campaign to complete his high school career.

Chris Carter is another one of Kavian's favorite weapons in this offense, a 2026 wide receiver with impressive route running and speed. He will also play both ways, primarily playing cornerback on defense. Cam Beavers and Landen Russell are a pair of 2027 DEs that got into the rotation last year as sophomores but have the chance to really break out going into this season. Sebastian Latham is a big-bodied 2026 WR/S that could break onto the scene in a big way this year, as he transferred to Westwood last year and was not eligible. Standing at an impressive 6'3", Latham has a catch radius that can help this explosive offense generate even more big plays this season. Finally, Camden Joslin started at OLB last year, and returns with big expectations for his senior season. These are just some of the many players that are helping build Westwood into a championship-level program.

"We try to build everything in a program around building champions before winning championships. Winning is a byproduct of doing those things the right way." (Westwood High School Head Coach Richard Bishop).

Ultimately, as impressive as Westwood's success has been these past three seasons, they are just the first steps towards what this coaching staff and program wants to accomplish. It will be exciting to see Kavian's career continue to unfold in Palestine, Texas, but if he and the coaches set things up right in these next two years, Westwood can enjoy success long after Kavian walks out the door.



Kavian Bryant
HIGH SCHOOL
QB 6-1.5 180

HIGH SCHOOL
Westwood

CITY
Palestine, TX

CLASS
2027

Timeline

Watch Highlights

Player Rating

247SPORTS
★★★★★ 90

NATL. 43 GB 3 TX 7

247SPORTS COMPOSITE
★★★★★ 0.9836

NATL. 20 GB 2 TX 6



***“When I am looking 4 OLES, I always
check with Gridiron Football.”***



Eric Pulley
Running Backs Coach
St. Olaf College

***Tomara
Cleans***

Professional
cleaning
service for
your
home or office

Call Today
(225) 287-4761

Quarterback Legacy Strong as Ever at Christian Academy

by Jace LeJeune

Throughout the 1990's and 2000's, there have not been many football programs as dominant as the Evangel Christian Academy Eagles winning 14 state championships, a national championship in 1999, and sending 14 guys to the NFL.

Despite their success, Evangel is probably most known for being tabbed as QBU because of the consistency at the position since the early 1990's. It makes all the sense in the world considering the program was founded by a former quarterback in Denny Duron.

Duron started his college career at Louisiana Tech leading the Bulldogs to two national championships. It was in Ruston where the gun slinging mentality started for him.

"Going to Louisiana Tech and having the opportunity to work with Mickey Slaughter was so inspiring to me as a college student. I felt his approach was exactly the approach that I wanted to have. That is #1, keep it simple, and #2, rip it until you perfect it. That was his coaching."
Evangel Christian Academy HC Denny Duron

After two years in the World Football League and a brief stint with the Washington Redskins in the NFL, Duron decided to leave his playing career in order to serve God as a pastor.

He then started up the football program at Evangel Christian. It was there where an original idea of helping out a weakness turned into a revolutionary scheme that elevated the nation's top passing offense.

"It was 1989 and we were just going to get the kids a football experience. Johnny Booty and I started to help working with a couple of kids, and we realized that we weren't going to be able to get a play off. I went to an offense that I had seen when I was the head coach at Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri. We played against Liberty and they had a 11 yard shotgun. Our linemen were all tired by halftime. We told our center to snap that football from that deep, and he weighed probably only 165 pounds, but he could whip that football back there in a hurry. Our quarterback would catch the ball, take three steps and throw it. We were able to get plays off that first year. Otherwise, without an offensive line, we couldn't get plays off and it gave the offensive line a good feeling about themselves. We were able to take this weakness and turn it into a strength." Evangel Christian Academy HC Denny Duron

While the scheme gave the Eagles a fighting chance to compete, it was a rocket-armed quarterback by the name of Josh Booty that took this offensive scheme to the next level.

"When Josh Booty came, we did the same offense with him because we still weren't great up front. By the time he was a sophomore, we had our first undefeated season in district. He was throwing for thousands of yards and by the time he got to be a junior and a senior, he was the highest recruited quarterback in America. He performed so well and led so well when he was here. It was Josh who really put us on the map."

Josh Booty would be the first in line of great quarterback play and was the one that kick-started the dynasty. Booty led the Eagles to their first state title in 1993 and along the way, threw for 11,700 yards and 126 touchdowns in four years. The USA National High School Player of the Year originally chose baseball over football playing in the Major Leagues with the Florida Marlins from 1996-1998 before giving football another chance later on by playing at LSU and later in the NFL.

It would be hard for most teams to replace a talent like that, but the Eagles found the perfect guy.

"We really wondered if we were going to replace Josh. Beginning of his senior year, Josh broke his hand and he was such a tough guy. He attempted to play with an injury against Haynesville, but he lasted only a half before we pulled him out. He went into a four week recovery period and during that time, we had our toughest stretch. Freshman Phillip Deas stepped in and through 3 and a half games, threw for 1,100 yards. We knew we had a great leader back there and he ended up breaking all of the national passing records that Josh had set."

After throwing for 11,324 yards and 138 touchdowns in three seasons plus winning two state championships in 1994 and 1996, Deas would play college football at North Carolina, Texas, and finally, Louisiana Tech.

As Deas graduated, it was time to ask the question again about who would have to replace another quarterback legend. Once again, the Eagles not only had an answer, but another player that would surpass his predecessor. His name is Brock Berlin.

"Brock was a 10th grader the year after Phillip graduated and he was going to play for the next three years. Phillip started it off with a 15-0 run his senior year and then Brock was undefeated his three years so we had a 60-0 run."



Like Josh Booty, Brock Berlin was also a highly recruited player being recognized as a Parade All-American, and Gatorade and USA Today National Offensive Player of the Year after leading the Eagles to three consecutive state titles including the national championship in 1999. Berlin finished as the all-time leading passer in high school football history with 13,902 yards and 145 touchdowns. He would then sign to play college football at Florida before transferring over to Miami and then finished his career in the NFL with the Miami Dolphins, the Dallas Cowboys, the St. Louis Rams, and the Detroit Lions. After Berlin came a fourth consecutive signal caller to sign Power Five.

"Brent Rawls was a Parade All-American that followed Brock. The streak was gone when we lost to Shaw in the Dome, but Brent played admirably. He then signed a football scholarship with the University of Oklahoma."

Following Rawls was a familiar name for Evangel fans as Josh Booty's brother John David Booty was next in line.

"What a quarterback John David Booty was. He was an unbelievably accurate passer. I do not understand how that kid was able to do a lot of the things that he did at the quarterback position. It was almost like he was one of the first guys to do the no look pass and would put it right on somebody's chin. He was a wonderful football player and a better human being."

John David Booty left his mark at Evangel with two state championships in 2001 and 2002 while throwing for 8,474 yards and 88 touchdowns. He reclassified and left a year early to play football at USC. For the Trojans, John David was a two year starter and would finish his NFL career with the Minnesota Vikings, Tennessee Titans, and the Houston Texans. Midway through the 2000's, this everlasting quarterback run had no signs of slowing down.

"When John David opted to leave early to go to USC and compete with Matt Leinart for that job, my oldest son Denny Duron stepped in and we made it all the way to the finals. He quarterbacked his senior year as well, but we came back with a championship win over West Monroe. After that was Jordan Powell and Dez Duron. They both played over those next couple of years, but Jordan

was the starter and set a Dome record for number of consecutive passes completed and won two championships.”

“Dez then played the next two years and became one of four 5,000 yard passers. He still holds the state’s single season touchdown record with 58. After him was David Dee Duron, who threw 51 touchdowns his senior year. We beat John Curtis twice in the Dome for two straight state championships there. Then, there was the little guy, who was 5’6 ½ of dynamite, came in and that was Dakota Duron. Curtis eliminated us twice, once coming in the semifinals and then in the Dome.”

“After Dakota, it was Connor Curry. He was a freshman that actually started four years and finished his career with our last state championship in 2016. Of course, Blake Shapen was next. He is currently at Mississippi State as the starting quarterback and was at Baylor. He’s had a great college career already and has another year.”

Denny Duron decided to come back as the team’s head coach in 2020 to help rejuvenate the program in the midst of an absolutely rare two year losing streak. The quarterback that would help lead the resurging program is Peyton Fulghum, whose father Josh Booty originally helped kickstart the Evangel dynasty in the first place.

“Peyton Fulghum was the quarterback of what we like to call the restart. We were down to 28 players the first year and then we dressed 35 the next year. We were literally starting over and Peyton Fulghum was responsible for being the glue to pull this program together in this rebuild from a player’s perspective. I cannot tell you what an incredible leader he was and could have played college football. He decided that he was going to play baseball instead, but I can’t say enough about this kid.”

Peyton Fulghum led the team back into the playoffs his senior season in 2023 and that leads to the current prodigy, Peyton Houston, who is one of the top 2027 quarterbacks in America. As a sophomore, he threw for 4,480 yards and 38 touchdowns while rushing for 690 yards and another seven scores headlined by a national single game record last season with 817 yards passing and 10 total touchdowns in a 77-76 loss to Captain Shreve.

“That was the greatest performance that I had ever seen. In 12 minute quarters, he threw for 817 yards. It was amazing. It is hard to do with nobody on the field. It’s crazy that he is even better than last year because watching him play last year, I didn’t think that you could possibly get any better. Yet, he has worked so hard that he has pushed himself beyond how he was performing last year.”

Along with quarterbacks, the run of successful football coaches is just as impressive with Dennis Dunn (9), Johnny Booty (1), John Bachman (1), Ronnie Alexander (1), Phillip Deas (1), and Byron Dawson (1) all winning state titles as head coaches. Still, no matter who was under center or who was calling plays, the message was the same.

“Every coach taught this principle and that is everything is about everything. In other words, it was never enough at Evangel to be a good football player. It was about so much more. It was about your character. It was about being caring and kind. It was about keeping your humility and understanding that the game, the team, the school, and the opportunities were so much bigger than you. We just had a lot of guys that responded to that.”

In this restart, Pastor Denny Duron is going to make sure that his constant message continues whether it is on the field or off.

“Evangel Christian Academy is my happy place. I love being with these young men and share Christ with them. There’s no greater life to live than a life to live for Jesus Christ and putting him first in all things. Some of them are really getting it and it is the most rewarding thing in my life to see them get that message one more time.”

When asked if Evangel Christian Academy should be QBU, the school’s founder says that he embraces the title. Whether it is throwing the pigskin or devoting time to God, Evangel Christian Academy is going to embrace what Denny Duron learned at Louisiana Tech, which is keeping it simple and ripping it until perfecting it.



Faith, Family, Football Still Remains a Constant Drive For Winningest Coach of All-Time J.T. Curtis

by Jace LeJeune

One name stands alone on the top of the record books for high school football history, and that man in J.T. Curtis.

For 55 seasons, J.T. Curtis has been the staple of the John Curtis Patriots' football program, which is one of the most accomplished high school football dynasties of all time. Throughout his tenure, which has lasted over half a century, Coach Curtis has won 630 games and 28 state championships.

The Hall of Fame coach has won numerous awards for his success on the field including being nominated in a couple of Hall of Fames such as Louisiana High School Sports Hall of Fame, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, and the National High School Hall of Fame, but before all of the championships, wins, and accolades, J.T. Curtis was an eager young man just wanting to get into coaching.

As a native of New Orleans, Curtis graduated from East Jefferson High School in 1966 where he was an All-State and All-American for the Warriors. He would then sign a football scholarship with Arkansas where he would play for three years before transferring to Louisiana College in 1968.

"I've been involved with athletics since I was in the fifth grade. I always had an interest in playing when I was in junior high school, high school, and I had the opportunity to play in college. I was always intrigued by how football worked. 11 people trying to do things in an organized manner and trying to put all that together in order to be successful. It was always intriguing to me."

"I was very fortunate that I had some excellent coaches when I was in high school at East Jefferson. At the University of Arkansas, I was under Frank Broyles and some outstanding assistant coaches. I had a great feel for what it took and the way the teaching process would apply to football because that is what a coach is. He is a teacher that tries to make sure the student and the athlete understands the process, the drills, and how it all fits together. That was always very exciting for me." John Curtis HC J.T. Curtis

Even though J.T. Curtis made winning look pretty much routine and effortless for five decades, the beginning certainly had its challenges when the then 22 year old first took over as a head coach at a new school that was founded by his father John T. Curtis Sr.

"I got in right after college and I worked my first year in 1969 and we were 0-10. We didn't win a game, but I still enjoyed the process. Although it was very exacerbated at times, I still thought we had a chance to win every game we played. Because I was around a lot of people as a player that exhibited a positive attitude, it had a positive effect on me."

"I never was in a position personally that I was down. A part of that was being naive. I always thought I was going to win the next one, but the bottom line was that we didn't have the physical talent to do that and we didn't have the time to develop that because I took the job in June and we opened up in August. I had a lot of confidence that we can get into the weight room, get into offseason training and take the athletes that we had in order to help them be better players." John Curtis HC J.T. Curtis



Having that persistent positive attitude helped Curtis and the Patriots breakthrough the following year as the program made the playoffs for the first time ever.

"It was an ongoing process every year. You continue to learn and you continue to stub your toes at times, but you have to learn how to adjust and continue to move forward day by day and year by year." John Curtis HC J.T. Curtis

Under Curtis' leadership, the Patriots continued to make that progress year by year until John Curtis finally broke through for their first state championship in 1975.

"There's an old saying that nothing succeeds like success. We had some success and we wanted to continue to build on that. We certainly ran into bumps in the road along the way. 1973 was a



down year for us and we were going through things in society at that time. How we adjusted to that and how we created some of those worldly things and communicated that to our athletes helped us win that first state championship in 1975. What I learned was that commitment and relationships come a long way. It is certainly good to have talented players, but if you have guys that were not committed to the program and were unselfish, it becomes much more difficult. That '75 team personified that. They were unselfish and we didn't have a guy on that team that signed a scholarship, but they were a bunch of good high school players that believed, worked really hard to achieve, and as a result, set the precedent for the future. John Curtis HC J.T. Curtis

It certainly set a precedent that will never be touched again by any single high school coach or program. For 50+ years, Coach Curtis has won 28 state championships, which is 11 more than the next closest high school in Louisiana. He also became the winningest coach in the history of the game surpassing legendary coach John McCisick in 2023 when John Curtis defeated fellow high school powerhouse Edna Karr in a nationally recognized game. To this day, Coach Curtis is shocked with all of the success that he and his program have accomplished.

"That was never even a thought process. I wasn't even thinking through those terms. What I learned and what I still believe today is that you only get better day by day. You can only take care of today and tomorrow will take care of itself if you do what you are supposed to do today. The focus has got to be what you do today and how we do it today. I would tell you day by day, week by week, month by month, year by year, we were able to continue that process." John Curtis HC J.T. Curtis

The record books may have J.T. Curtis' name on top of the list when it comes to wins and championships, but he will be the first to tell you that all of those accomplishments could not have happened without the people that he surrounded himself with.

"I had guys that were good coaches. They knew what they were doing and they were fundamentally sound. They were committed to the players and the program. When you put those things together, it is a formula for success." John Curtis HC J.T. Curtis

It also helps to have great talent around you, and John Curtis has produced 14 players that have gone on to play in the NFL including the likes of Reggie Dupard, Joe McKnight, Malachi Dupre, Duke Riley, Kenny Young, Mike Stonebreaker, Melvin Hayes, Chris Howard, Clarence LeBlanc, Tony Bua, Jonathan Wells, Jerico Nelson, Dillon Gordon, and Garret Wallow. Along with the NFL players that the storied program has produced, there have been numerous players that were either high school All-Americans or played at the collegiate level. Just as impressive, the school holds the record for most consecutive years putting at least one player on the 1st Team All-State list, which is 41 years.

"We have been fortunate to have those kind of guys. Reggie Dupard was a first round pick of the New England Patriots. We had a lot of guys that were on those teams from the 70's to the 90's that were really good players, but really good players can't beat teams by themselves. Every player, you have to try and help him reach their fullest potential. Without those guys doing their job and doing it at the best of their ability, you are not going to get the performance from the top players because it's too much. 11 players have to work together and that's the challenge of football. It's not easy getting all 11 on the same page doing the same thing on a consistent basis, but when you are talking about a physical sport like football, that is what coaching is about." John Curtis HC J.T. Curtis

Every year, the Patriots were at least in the thick of a championship, and expectations began to grow. With success comes expectations, but the red, white, and blue team in River Ridge, Louisiana consistently defied the odds by winning state championships in the 70's, 80's, 90's, 00's, 10's, and the 20's including a national championship in 2012.

The Patriots have also titles at classifications from 2A all the way up to 5A and are the only team in the state of Louisiana to win five consecutive titles from 2004-2008 while at the same time, winning four consecutive titles once (1996-1999) and three consecutive titles twice (1979-1981, 1983-1985). Not to mention, they also finished as state runners-up 10 more times and have won 37 district titles.

"Complacency is what you have to fight. Just because we did it one time, it doesn't mean we will do it a second time. Complacency will stop you from accomplishing the goals that you are capable of achieving. That's the challenge of every year. You have to help players understand that if you don't get better today, you will get a lot further behind tomorrow. It's a process where you have to fight complacency and make sure that you are doing everything as a coach and as a player to get better everyday." John Curtis HC J.T. Curtis

Having that many great championship teams, many people question which John Curtis team was the best, but Coach Curtis believes that each team is different and has its own unique story on what made each one of those teams so great.

"Every team is uniquely different. That '75 team was a team of overachievers. You had guys that you really want in athletics and that is to work and unite together for a common cause and to play above what you should be capable of playing. Through the years, we had teams that were better, teams that were talented, exciting teams, and we had teams that just played above their level and still were able to be successful. The 2012 team was good. The early 90's teams were good. The '84 and '86 teams were really good, but that doesn't mean that the teams that didn't win were not just as good and as exciting to coach." John Curtis HC J.T. Curtis

What makes these accomplishments even more impressive is that the John Curtis Patriots achieved this level of dominance for five decades in a football rich state in Louisiana that has consistently been near the top of the list in NFL players produced per capita.

"Louisiana is as good as anybody in the country. Our teams can compete with anybody in the country. I feel that way across the board, but our top teams can compete with their top teams. That's a tribute to certainly the athletes that are in our state, but the key for an athlete to achieve at that level is who coaches them. We have an exciting group of coaches that work really hard and there's another thing that we have going for us in Louisiana that a lot of people overlook is that we have excellent rules. We have rules in which we can work with players during the summertime. We have great offseason rules that other states don't allow or maybe don't want to do. When you put it all together, we have good rules, good coaches that work really hard at it, and good players, it allows you to be in a state that can stand by themselves and hang in there with anybody." John Curtis HC J.T. Curtis

In terms of the school itself, Coach Curtis continues the legacy that was left by his father when John T. Curtis Sr. built the school. To this day, the Curtis name lives on as Coach Curtis' sons Johnny and Jeff are also now coaches at the school themselves helping their dad. Along with coaching his sons, he has also recently coached his two grandsons Jason and Jeffrey Curtis, who were part of this past season's semifinal team. Being close to his family and sharing his love of football with them means everything for the patriarch of this family.

"It's really rewarding to be able to see family that has been able to go on and achieve at a high level and to come in the program as teachers, administrators, and as coaches to continue to carry on the mission my father and mother started in 1962. It's always going to be faith first and we want to implement those moral, spiritual, and ethical values that are going to make a difference in somebody's life for the rest of their lives. That's the primary goal of what we are trying to do. We want to establish those values that are going to make a difference in people's lives. Then, the educational process and the athletic process all unite in that attitude of family. That's one of those things that people tell me all the time. They feel a sense of family and self worth and that they feel like they belong. We hope the Lord will be able to continue to bless us and that we will continue to have that for ages to come." John Curtis HC J.T. Curtis

When asked if he had to go back in time and give his 22 year old self advice after everything he has learned, he would tell himself the same thing he would tell other coaches that are just getting started on their journey.

"The biggest thing is to not allow yourself to be stagnant or do the way that you have always done it because that's the way we have always done it. Just do the little things that help you become a better person, a better coach, a better father, a better relative to your family, and whatever else it may be. You have to work to be better each and every day spiritually, morally, ethically, athletically, and as an educator. You have to be able to change with the time and you have to adjust to what the world puts before you, and you have to progress through it. Education has changed so much within the last 10 years and it will continue to change. It is important to be able to adapt to those changes, but it is just as important to recognize that the fundamentals never change." John Curtis HC J.T. Curtis

A lot of coaches would be satisfied with all that Coach Curtis has done, but going into another season, J.T. Curtis is still not satisfied. Entering his 56th season as a head

coach, he is still motivated to not only educate others and mold young men, but to also grow in all of those areas himself as a person.

"It's about working with those players. It's about seeing a guy start where he is and watch him to continue to work through the learning process. Coaching is nothing more than teaching. Good teachers are good coaches. Good coaches get fulfilled when they see students continue to progress and learn to improve themselves. It is the same thing with coaches. When you see coaches improve and get better by your mentorship, it makes all the difference in the world. It is something you can't buy. It's not for sale. When you are finished with practice that day or when you get finished with the season, you want to know that you helped people get better. That is very rewarding and very fulfilling."
John Curtis HC J.T. Curtis

If there is anything that J.T. Curtis wants his players to take away from him, it is way more than what translates on the gridiron every Friday night.

"I made this comment to our senior class the other day. When I was a freshman in college, we were getting ready to play Texas in a big game in Fayetteville, Arkansas. On the marquee of the First Baptist Church, the pastor wrote these words: 'Spiritual things are eternal. Physical things will pass away, but nevertheless, Beat Texas!' That sums it up. You have to live in this world. You have to compete in this world and understand the difficulties and the obstacles that you are going to have as a man or as a woman in a world that is not easy to live in. If we keep focused on the spiritual values, you recognize that these values are not only good for us today, but they are important for eternity. It's not about the short run. It's about the long run and nothing is longer than eternity." John Curtis HC J.T. Curtis

Inspired and motivated as he was when he first took the job in 1969, J.T. Curtis still has plenty left to give in 2025 and what continues to drive him is what continues to drive a lot of people to be great, and that is his faith, his family, and that is being able to teach life values through the game of football.



DITR: Dylan Shelmire

Zachary High School 2026 linebacker Dylan Shelmire is a standout prospect on one of Louisiana's most storied high school programs. At 5'11", 215 pounds with a 3.2 GPA, Shelmire combines strength, athleticism, and a high football IQ to anchor the Broncos' defense. The 2nd Team All-District linebacker recorded 72 tackles, 11 tackles for loss, two forced fumbles, a sack, five quarterback hurries, and a pass breakup last season. Still, he believes there's another level to reach.

"Last year was a good year on a personal level, but it wasn't good enough," Shelmire said. "This year, I'm going for 90 tackles at least."

What separates Shelmire is his mental approach. He studies NFL greats like Ray Lewis, Luke Kuechly, and Micah Parsons to sharpen his instincts and decision-making.

"I'm trying to have the best IQ on the field," he said. "By watching film, I want to be able to recognize formations and anticipate plays. That's where I'm growing the most."

Shelmire impressed at Gridiron Football's Elite Camp with a 4.7 40-yard dash, 4.44 shuttle, and

a 10'2 broad jump. He earned an offer to play in the 2025 Gridiron Football All-American Bowl.

He also recently received his first offer from Lamar University.

"I froze when I got the offer," he said. "They were impressed with my IQ. I had the best football IQ in my position group during the film session."

Playing for a powerhouse like Zachary under Coach David Brewerton, Shelmire embraces the pressure of championship expectations and fierce district competition.

"Iron sharpens iron," he said. "I want to play against the best of the best."

Following in the footsteps of his father Dedrick, a former national champion at Southern, Shelmire is determined to make his mark.

"You're going to make it. You're going to make it regardless of what everybody else is telling you. Forget what they're saying. Do you and you know you're going to be great," he tells himself.



DITR: Greyson Dupre'

Greyson Dupre out of Archbishop Hannan High School is the kind of player every coach wants—a relentless competitor, a team-first leader, and a student of the game. As a linebacker and punter, Dupre's versatility was a bright spot in a tough 2-win season for the Hawks. Earning 2nd Team All-District honors, he finished 2024 with 112 tackles, six tackles for loss, and three forced fumbles.

"My biggest strengths as a player are definitely my determination, physicality, and leadership," Dupre said. "All these things are important for a successful linebacker."

Inspired by NFL legend Luke Kuechly, Dupre prides himself on his football IQ and high motor. His efforts as a punter also turn heads, averaging 37.5 yards per punt with a long of 55. "Feeling pressure and getting the ball off quick are big parts of my game," he added.

Off the field, Dupre boasts a 3.8 GPA and a 21 on the ACT. He's a student ambassador, a member of student council, plays varsity soccer as a goalkeeper, and even enjoys pickleball.

"I want to break the school tackle record this year," he said. "But most of all, I want our team to improve in all three phases."

Dupre impressed at the Gridiron Football Elite Camp and knows his recruiting journey is just beginning.

"Good things come with time," he said. "And I'm giving 100% in everything I do."



DITR: Jaimylon Joseph

Lutcher High School has long been known for producing dominant running backs, and the next name to watch is rising junior Jaimylon Joseph. With star rusher Trenton Chaney now at UL Lafayette after compiling over 3,000 yards and 26 touchdowns, the Bulldogs are turning to Joseph to carry the torch in 2025.

Joseph, a 2027 prospect, showed flashes of brilliance during his sophomore campaign. Though he played behind Chaney, he made the most of his limited opportunities, rushing for 495 yards and three touchdowns on just 52 carries—an impressive 9.5 yards per carry.

“My strength to my game is that I just play hard, run hard, and do whatever it takes to win,” Joseph said.

Now stepping into a lead role, Joseph has big goals for this upcoming season.

“I want to win the state championship and get 1,000 yards rushing this year,” he added.

To boost his speed and stamina, Joseph also runs track, competing in the 4x1 and 4x2 relays.

“Track really helps me stay in shape and get faster,” he said.

Joseph comes from a rich football bloodline. His uncle Reggie Dunn set multiple NCAA kickoff return records at Utah, while another uncle, Kyron King, played at South Alabama and Nicholls State. But it’s his father, Juan Joseph, who inspired his football journey.

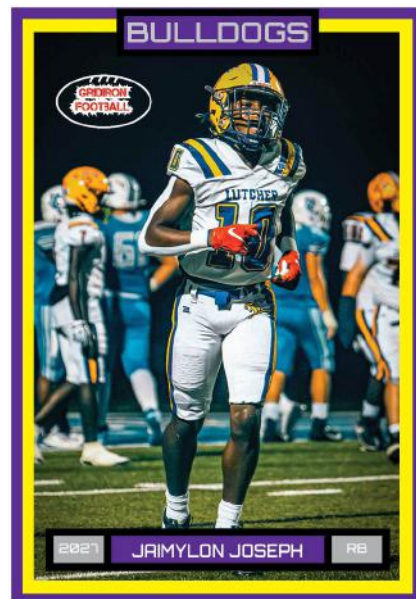
“I would like to thank my dad because he taught me how to play football when I was four years old,” Joseph shared.

The Bulldogs’ back compares his game to NFL star Saquon Barkley.

“He’s explosive, hard to tackle, and very fast but strong—just like I want to be.”

With a 2.8 GPA and a growing résumé, Joseph is ready to lead Lutcher back to championship glory.

“On the field, I’m a hard strong runner. Off the field, I’m smart and always willing to put the work in.”



DITR: Jerry Bottley

Southern Lab quarterback Jerry Bottley IV is quickly emerging as one of Louisiana’s most promising prospects in the Class of 2026. Standing at 6’2” and weighing 175 pounds, Bottley combines athleticism, leadership, and a deep passion for the game that makes him a force to watch.

Not only is Bottley a state champion on the football field—having helped lead Southern Lab to the 2024 Division IV State Championship—but he also captured gold on the track as part of the school’s 4x400 relay team. His dual-threat ability and athletic background make him a nightmare for opposing defenses.

“When I’m under pressure and no receivers are open, I rely on my speed and agility to make plays with my legs,” Bottley said. “I compare my game to Cam Newton—our size, strength, and dual-threat skills are very similar.”

His leadership extends beyond physical talent. Bottley’s biggest challenge was figuring out his perfect fit on the field, which he

found at quarterback.

“I love playing QB the most because it’s the position I’ve worked the hardest at and have put so much into—mind, body, and soul,” he said.

With a dream to play at the University of Tennessee, Bottley continues to chase excellence. Off the field, he’s mastered Leap 2025 testing and has plans to become a coach and mentor after his playing days.

“My coaches have played a huge role in who I am,” Bottley added. “They’ve helped me grow not just as a player, but as a leader and student too.”

As the 2025 season approaches, Bottley and the Kittens are focused on defending their state title.

“Our goal is to treat every game like it’s our last and trust one another,” he said. “Football has shaped who I am since I was seven years old—it’s more than a game, it’s a lifestyle.”



DITR: Brice Duhon

Brice Duhon is the kind of football player every coach wants. At 5'8", 165 pounds, the Notre Dame High School wide receiver may not tower over opponents, but his speed, toughness, and work ethic make him stand out on any field. Under legendary head coach Lewis Cook, who's recorded over 300 wins and four state championships, Duhon is developing into a versatile and dependable weapon.

"Playing for Coach Cook is an honor. The biggest lesson he's taught me is to focus on doing my job and giving maximum effort every play," Duhon said.

That effort began with special teams, where Duhon got early reps as a young player and quickly learned the full scope of the game. "Special teams helped me get involved in games early and develop my football instincts. It's made me a more well-rounded player."

Though Notre Dame doesn't pass frequently, Duhon has made the most of his chances, hauling in 17 catches for nearly 300 yards and two touchdowns last season. He also returned a kickoff for a touchdown

and earned All-District recognition as both a receiver and return specialist. His speed was on full display at the Gridiron Football Elite Camp, where he clocked the fastest 40-yard dash at 4.5 seconds.

"It was a great experience," he said. "The camp helped me refine my skills and compete against top talent."

Heading into his senior year, Duhon's aiming for a bigger role in the passing game. "My goal is to do whatever my team needs to win—making big plays, blocking, or contributing on special teams."

He's been working on his agility through basketball and maintaining his speed through track, and models his game after Ja'Marr Chase. Off the field, Duhon works in crawfish fields and farming—another sign of his commitment and grit.

"I bring energy, hard work, and 100% effort every day. I love the brotherhood of football and always putting my team first," said Duhon. With that attitude, he's more than ready to help lead the Pios back to the Superdome.



DITR: Bryce Restovich

Bryce Restovich is quickly becoming one of the most promising young quarterbacks in North Louisiana. As just a sophomore at Loyola College Prep, Bryce has already made waves with his precision passing, poise under pressure, and ability to extend plays. A true dual-sport athlete, Bryce also made the varsity basketball team as a freshman and earned All-District Honorable Mention recognition, proving his athleticism goes far beyond the gridiron.

Last week, Bryce delivered a performance that turned heads across the state. In a dominant win over Sophie B. Wright, he accounted for five total touchdowns, passing for 287 yards on 22 attempts and rushing for 19 yards on five carries. His ability to keep his eyes downfield while escaping pressure is reminiscent of his NFL comparison: Josh Allen.

"Josh Allen does a lot of running while keeping his eyes down the field," Restovich said. "He is also very calm in the pocket, and I try to model that."

Bryce's football journey began early, developing a passion for the sport thanks to his father.

"When I was around 3 years old, my dad and I would have a competition to see how many times I could catch the football in a row. He coached me through 5th grade and taught me the fundamentals. Watching Tom Brady as a kid had a huge impact on me too."

That early foundation has paid off. Bryce credits recent improvements in pocket awareness and arm strength to his work ethic and coaching.

"My coaches have helped me become a better player by helping with progressions, reading defenses, and increasing my football IQ."

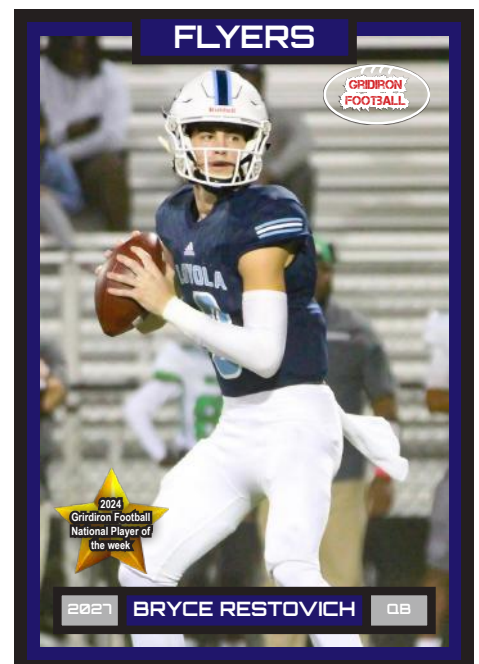
While the recruiting process has been slow to start, Bryce remains grounded.

"I am patient and letting God take the wheel. There's only so much I can control."

With big-time performances already on his resume and plenty of football ahead, Bryce has lofty yet achievable goals.

"I want to break all the quarterback records at my school, get a D1 scholarship, and become the best quarterback I can be."

As he heads into his junior season, Restovich



is a name to watch, and it won't be long before college coaches take notice of this rising talent.



DITR: Cayden Randall

For Woodlawn High School's Cayden Randall, football is more than a game—it's a family legacy. As the son of former LSU quarterback and current Woodlawn head coach Marcus Randall, Cayden is stepping into his own spotlight. The class of 2026 defensive back is preparing for his first varsity season with the Panthers, eager to carve out his own path and make a name for himself.

"I was six years old when I started to play football," Cayden said. "The reason I continued to play was because it was fun, and then I learned there was more to it than just football—I was getting life lessons as well."

While he plays a different position than his father, Cayden is just as competitive. He lines up at safety, where he thrives on reading the field and delivering big hits.

"My favorite position on the field is safety because I can see everything that is going on, and also I like to hit," he said. "The strongest part of my game is my speed because I'm always one of the fastest on the field."

Off the field, Cayden is committed to his growth. He also runs track to improve his speed and conditioning, and he's putting in the work to fine-tune his defensive skills. "Something I could improve on this season is opening up my hips and breaking on routes faster."

Playing at Woodlawn, a program known for producing college talent, has fueled Cayden's drive. "It inspires me to work harder so I can also play at that next level," he said.

Balancing academics and athletics is a priority for the young standout. "Football is a privilege and you have to work as hard in the classroom as you do on the field," Cayden added.

Modeling his game after Tyrann "Honey Badger" Mathieu, Cayden's goals are clear: make an impact, earn All-District honors, and help lead Woodlawn to a state title. With the knowledge passed down from his father and his growing confidence, Cayden Randall is poised to become a name Louisiana fans will soon be very familiar with.



DITR: Ty'Kimion Ford

In the heart of Louisiana high school football, a rising star is quietly making a name for himself—Ty'Kimion Ford of Slaughter Community Charter School. Ford, a standout quarterback and cornerback, has quickly become one of the most dynamic and versatile players in the region, commanding attention with his athleticism, football IQ, and leadership both on and off the field.

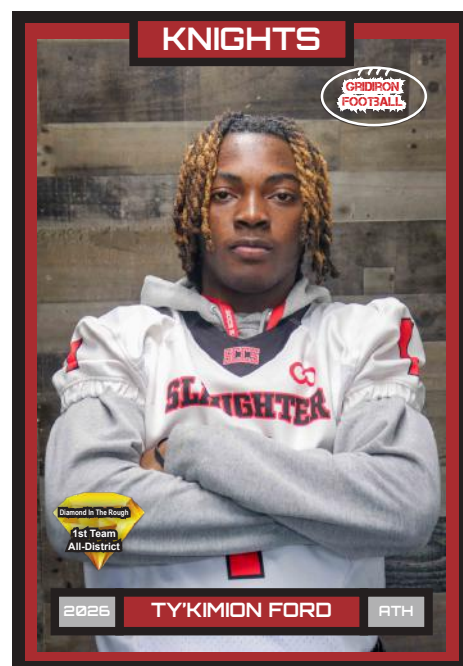
What makes Ty'Kimion Ford special is not just his ability to play multiple positions, but how he excels in both roles. As a quarterback, Ford demonstrates poise in the pocket, quick decision-making, and the ability to extend plays with his legs. He commands the offense with confidence and has shown flashes of high-level vision that coaches at the next level are bound to take notice of. Whether it's executing a read-option or threading a pass downfield, Ford brings energy and precision to every snap.

On the defensive side of the ball, Ford flips the switch and transforms into a lockdown-cornerback, capable of reading routes, breaking up passes, and staying glued to the

opposition's top receiver. His speed, agility, and awareness allow him to play tight man coverage and make big plays in crucial moments. Few athletes can transition so seamlessly between offensive and defensive roles, and Ford does it with a level of maturity and focus that belies his age.

Beyond the field, Ty'Kimion is known for his work ethic, discipline, and humility. He's the kind of player that stays after practice to improve and always puts in the extra reps. Coaches rave about his attitude, leadership, and willingness to do whatever it takes to help the team win. These qualities make him not only a standout athlete but also a role model for younger players in the program.

As Ford continues to develop his skills and gain experience, there's little doubt that he will attract increasing attention from college programs. His ability to contribute at multiple positions, combined with his character and determination, make him one of Louisiana's most exciting prospects.



Keep an eye on Ty'Kimion Ford—his journey is just beginning, and the best is yet to come for this diamond in the rough.



Carencro's Carson Gurzi: Louisiana's Next Star QB

When it comes to the next great quarterback out of Louisiana, look no further than Carencro High School's Carson Gurzi. At just 6'0", 190 pounds, this rising sophomore already holds the title of the No. 1 quarterback in the state for the Class of 2028 and is rated the No. 4 overall prospect.

After tearing up middle school competition and earning MVP honors in the 2024 Gridiron Football Junior High All-American Bowl Game, Gurzi stepped into a varsity role as a freshman—and delivered. Despite being thrown into the fire, Gurzi helped lead the Golden Bears to a playoff berth in Division I (Select), showing incredible poise and maturity beyond his years. His performance throughout the year earned him two early college offers, with more likely to come.

Carencro Head Coach Gavin Peters, now entering his second year at the helm, recognizes both the challenges and potential of his young squad. "We had a pretty good spring. We've got to do a better job of resetting the line of

scrimmage and cleaning up snap exchanges," Peters said. "But if we correct those mistakes, I believe we have a chance to be a pretty good football team."

One bright spot was the spring scrimmage against Plaquemine, where Gurzi threw four touchdown passes against a talented secondary. That performance showcased just how far he's come since last season.

"It's a different offseason because I'm getting more reps," Gurzi said. "The goal is still the same—win district, win state, and grow closer as a team. This offseason is going to be big for us."

A big part of Gurzi's confidence comes from his growing chemistry with star wideout and former Carencro QB Chantz Babineaux. The two connected on a deep touchdown during the spring game, and their connection is turning heads across the Lafayette area.

"We're close on and off the field," Babineaux said. "Our relationship is where it needs to be in order for us to win a district championship."



Already showing elite traits with a strong arm, mobile legs, and a fearless mindset, Gurzi is quickly becoming one of Louisiana's most exciting young players. And with the foundation he's building in Carencro, the future looks bright for the Golden Bears.



DITR: Cain Milligan

Bunkie High School's Cain Milligan may be overlooked because of his size, but his performance on the field commands attention. The senior wide receiver has quietly become one of the most dependable and dangerous playmakers in Louisiana, and he officially put the state on notice during Week 12 of the 2024 season.

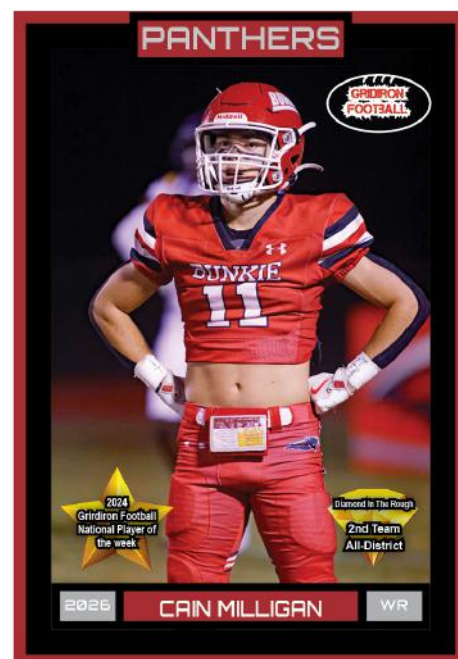
That week, Milligan was named Gridiron Football's National Player of the Week after an incredible performance in Bunkie's second-round playoff matchup against Amite High School. In a game that carried heavy stakes, Milligan channeled his inner Randy Moss, finishing the night with three catches for 99 yards and three touchdowns—a touchdown on every reception. His big-play ability helped the Panthers cruise to a dominant 39-14 victory. The win sent Bunkie to the Quarterfinals, where they edged past Jewel Sumner 14-12.

"Speaking of taking over games, that's exactly what Cain did," said one coach. "He was the X factor on a team full of weapons."

Milligan's value doesn't stop at the stat sheet. In addition to being a reliable target, he's known for his ability to get open and his physicality as a run blocker. "I would say my best abilities on the field are my run blocking and ability to get open," said Milligan. He compares his playing style to former NFL great Wes Welker—another undersized, often overlooked receiver who just made plays.

Cain's biggest personal growth has come in the form of confidence. "My size doesn't catch the eye of most, but my heart and love for the game is unmatched," he said. He credits his coaches for their support since freshman year, and he remains focused on being a better teammate and staying humble.

Despite a slow recruiting start, Cain remains optimistic. With his talent, work ethic, and now national recognition, expect Milligan to continue rising into his senior season—and land on a college roster soon.



Ratings and Rankings Class of 2026

Every spring, Gridiron Football hosts elite evaluation camps that provide a platform for high school football players across the country to showcase their skills in front of experienced coaches and evaluators. These camps are not only about performance; they are about opportunity. Each athlete who participates is carefully assessed by a team of seasoned coaches: Coach Andy, a former college and high school coach; Coach Marcus Randall, a former NFL quarterback and current high school head coach; and Coach Eric Holden, an active high school coach with a sharp eye for emerging talent.

Every prospect who competes in these camps is rated based on ten detailed categories that reflect both athletic ability and football potential: height, weight, 40-yard dash time, shuttle time, long jump, hands, footwork, technique, aggression, and vision. These categories provide a comprehensive look at each athlete's physical tools and on-field instincts—vital elements in determining how they might translate to the next level.

Height and weight measurements are verified at check-in to ensure accuracy. The 40-yard dash and shuttle times test straight-line speed and agility, while the long jump reveals lower-body explosiveness. Hands, footwork, and technique are scrutinized during position drills and one-on-one competitions, allowing coaches to assess ball skills, coordination, and discipline. Aggression is evaluated during contact drills, and vision is observed in real-time play recognition and decision-making.

"The camp evaluations are more than numbers," said Coach Marcus Randall. "We're looking at how these players move, how they respond to coaching, and how they compete when it's time to go one-on-one. That tells us a lot more than just a 40 time."

This approach ensures that prospects are being looked at through the same lens that college recruiters use—athleticism, coachability, and game-ready instincts.

Athletes who shine at these events not only receive exposure through Gridiron Football's extensive scouting network and media

platform but are also given the opportunity to be selected for the prestigious Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Game. It's a pipeline that has proven success, helping hundreds of athletes earn scholarships or interest from college programs.

Ultimately, these camps serve as a launching pad—where effort meets evaluation, and dreams begin to turn into offers.



DL Tyrone Morgan

Woodlawn | Baton Rouge | La
6'4" 230lbs

Grades| 4.6/5 First Step | Explosive | Handwork



RB Sage Ingram

U-High | Baton Rouge | La
6' 200lbs

Grades: 4.2/5 Power | Speed | Agility



ATH Cayden Randall

Woodlawn | Baton Rouge | LA
6'2" 190lbs

Grades: 4.5/5 Explosion|Technique|Aggressiveness



LB/P Greyson Dupre

Arch. Hannan | Covington | LA
6'0" 190lbs

Grade 4.2/5 Strength | Vision | Agility



QB Jerry Bottley IV

Southern Lab | Baton Rouge | LA
6'2" 172lbs

Grades: 4.5/5 Arm Strength|Accuracy|Mobility



CB MJ Dunn

St. Amant | St. Amant | LA
5'11" 165lbs

Grade 4.2 of 5



LB David Weeks

Calvary Baptist | Bossier City | LA
6'1" 230

Grades: 4.4/5 Strength|Size|Speed



RB Jason Blackburn

East Ascension | Gonzales | LA
5'8" 160lbs

Grades: 4.1/5 Speed|Explosiveness|Awareness



QB Jacob Crain

Franklinton | Franklinton | LA
6'1" 180lbs

Grades:, 4.3/5 Arm Strength|Accuracy|Pocket Awareness



OL Grayson Gorum

Minden High | Minden | LA
6'1 280

Grades: 4.1/5 Strength|Technique



OL Christian Speight

Evangel Christian | Shreveport | LA

Grade: 4.2/5 Size|footwork|Strength



LB/DE Keith Joseph

Liberty | Baton Rouge | LA
5'10" 190lbs

Grade 4.1/5 Speed | Agility | Strength



LB Taj Callahan

Episcopal High | Baton Rouge | LA

6'0" 180lbs

Grade 4.1/5

Speed | Strength | Explosivness

**RB/ATH Terrell Pegues**

Mansfield High | Mansfield | LA

6'1" 170lbs

Grade 3.8/5

Speed | Power | Agility

**ATH Ty'Kimion Ford**

Slaughter | Slaughter | LA

6'1" 165lbs

Grades: 4/5

Speed|Athletic|Good Hands

**RB/DE Isaac Garba**

Silliman

6'0" 240lbs

Grade 3.8/5

Size | Strength | Speed

**DB Joshua Lazard**

Dunham | Baton Rouge | LA

5'10" 175lbs

Grade 4.0/5

Speed | Vision | Hands

**RB Ivan Sanders**

Prairieville | Prairieville | LA

5'3" 162lbs

Grade 3.7 of 5

Speed | Agility

**CB Erin Moore**

University Lab | Baton Rouge | LA

5' 11" 170lbs

Grade 4.0/5

Speed | Size | Vision

**WR/SS Rontrell Woods**

Carencro High | Lafayette | LA

5'8" 150lbs

Grades: 3.7/5

Vision | Hands

**WR Johnny McCarty**

St. Michael | Baton Rouge | LA

6'0" 190lbs

Grade 4.0/5

Speed | Size | Hands

**DL Joshua Covington**

Woodlawn | Baton Rouge | LA

6'2" 223lbs

Grades: 3.6/5

Size | Arm Length

**RB Zane Hollinquest**

Zachary High | Zachary | LA

5'10" 175lbs

Grade 4.0 of 5

**LB Kohen Henry**

Tioga High School | Ball | LA

5'9" 190lbs

Grade 3.6/5

Speed | Agression

**DE Timothy Taylor**

Chalmette High | Chalmette | LA

6'3" 220lbs

Grade 4.0 of 5

**WR Dana Antoine Jr**

Chalmette High | Chalmette | LA

6'1" 165lbs

Grade 3.6/5

**OT Semaj Tapp**

Chalmette High | Chalmette | LA

6'3" 285lbs

Grades: 3.9/5

Size | Strength | Hands

**LB Gabriel Johnson**

East Iberville | St. Gabriel | LA

6'0" 205lbs

Grade 3.6 of 5

**ATH Gavin Brown**

McAdams | Sallis | MS

6'2" 200lbs

Grade 3.9/5

Size | Hands | Technique

**WR Cai Williams**

Destrehan | Destrehan | LA

5'11" 155lbs

Grade 3.6/5

Speed | Agility

**RB Zaiden Foster**

Liberty magnet | Baton Rouge | LA

5'9" 195lbs

Grade 3.9/5

Speed | Agility | Hands

**TE Jaylin Thomas**

Elton | Elton | LA

6'2" 225lbs

Grade 3.5 of 5

**LB Cannon Walker**

Madison Prep | Baton Rouge | La

6'2" 210lbs

Grade 3.9 of 5

**LB/ RB Eric Williams, II**

Prairieville High | Prairieville | LA

5'8" 195lbs

Grade 3.5/5

Vision | Speed

**WR Jaiden Robinson**

Woodlawn High | Baton Rouge | La

5'6" 150lbs

Grade 3.8 of 5

**DB Thomas Carter Jr.**

Slaughter Charter | Slaughter | LA

6'1" 175lbs

Grade 3.5/5

Strength | Speed | Vision



CB Ashton Lafleur

Liberty | Baton Rouge | La



Grades: 3.4/5 Agression | Field Vision

WR Khaliel Davis

East Iberville | St. Gabriel | LA



5'8" 140lbs

Grade 3.0 of 5

No Film

WR Aprilleo Sterling

Woodlawn | Baton Rouge | La



5'8" 150lbs

Grade 3.4 of 5

DE Malik Pierre

Scotlandville Magnet | Baton Rouge | LA



6'5" 185lbs

Grade 3.0/5

Size | Speed | No Film

LB Eric Williams

Prairieville | Prairieville | LA



5'8" 195lbs

Grade 3.4 of 5

RB NaDorian Johnson

Slaughter | Slaughter | LA



5'7" 145lbs

Grade 3.0 of 5

LB Ryan Variste

Madison Prep | Baton Rouge | LA



6'1" 221lbs

Grade 3.3/5

Explosion | Strength | Agression

DE Brennan Fleming

Walker | Walker | La



6'2" 215lbs

Grade 2.9 of 5

RB Jakari Milton

West St. John High | Edgard | LA



5'8" 165lbs

Grade 3.3/5

Speed | Hands

LB / RB Clinton Junior Wallace

Live Oak High | Watson | LA



5'10" 175lbs

Grade 2.9/5

Not Enough Film

OL Sawyer Wells

South Lafourche | Galliano | LA



6'3" 295lbs

Grade 3.3/5

Size | Lower Body Strength

WR/S Dallas Mattingly

Live Oak | Watson | LA



5'7" 165lbs

Grade 2.8 of 5

LB Kohen Henry

Tioga High | Ball | LA



5'9" 190

Grade 3.3/5

Vision | Strength | Agility

DE Alex Curvin Jr

Northeast High School | Pride | LA



5'11" 190lbs

Grade 2.8/5

Not Enough Film

LB Ty Curtis

Buckeye High | Pineville | LA



5'11" 190lbs

Grade 3.2/5

Size | Vision

LB Turbo Baxter

Slaughter Community Charter | Slaughter | LA



6'0" 160lbs

Grade 2.8 of 5

WR Trinton Bennett

Woodlawn | Baton Rouge | La



6'2" 170lbs

Grade 3.2 of 5

OL/DL Simon Moses Johnson 3

Jefferson Davis County | Bassfield | Mississippi



6'3" 235lbs

Grade 2.8/5

No Film

DL Cedric Jones

Woodlawn | Baton Rouge | La



6'1" 190lbs

Grade 3.2 of 5

OL Jason Kilpatrick

Calvary Baptist Academy | Shreveport | LA



6'1" 230lbs

Grade 2.7 of 5

RB Gio Green

Chalmette High | Chalmette | LA



5'11" 210lbs

Grade 3.1 of 5

DE Winfred Iobias Avant

Southwood | Shreveport | LA



6'0" 224lbs

Grade 2.4/5

CB Aidan Rowley

Liberty | Baton Rouge | La



5' 11" 160lbs

Grade 3.1 of 5

DB Carson Wallace

Archbishop Hannan | Covington | LA



5'10" 160lbs

Grade 2.4/5

No Film

ATH Marquale Williams

Leesville High | Leesville | LA

5'10" 145lbs

Grade 2.4/5 No Film

**CB Rekiyan Jackson**

Live Oak High | Watson | LA

5'11" 160lbs

Grade 2.1/5 No Film

**WR Kaleb Faulk**

Lafayette High School

6'1" 120lbs

Grade 2.3/5 No Film

**Class of 2027****NG Breon Williams**

Marshall | Marshall | TX

6'2" 325"

Grade 4.7 of 5

**WR Robert Taylor**

Ferriday High | Ferriday | La

6'4" 180lbs

Grade 4.4 of 5

**CB/WR Cedrick Jones Jr.**

St. Amant High | St. Amant | LA

6'3" 175lbs

Grade 4.4 of 5

**CB/WR Bra'jon Melancon**

North Iberville | Maringouin | LA

6'2" 160lbs

Grade 4.4 of 5

**QB Bryce Restovich**

Loyola Prep | Shreveport | LA

6'2" 175lbs

Grade 4.3 of 5

**RB/WR Chad "C.J." Aguiard**

Livonia | Livonia | LA

5'8" 160lbs

Grade 4.3 of 5

**DL Ja'Myris Allen**

Madison Prep | Baton Rouge | La

6'3" 295

Grade 4.2 of 5

**RB Jeremy Favorite**

North Iberville | Maringouin | LA

5'8" 180lbs

Grade 4.2 of 5

**DT Calvin Duncan**

Zachary High | Zachary | La

6'2" 331lbs

Grade 4.1 of 5

**DB Jaylon Easley**

Meridian High | Meridian | Ms

5'11" 165lbs

Grade 4 of 5

**LB James McCray IV**

Istrouma High | Baton Rouge | LA

Grade 4 of 5

**OL Reggie Trusclair**

Plaquemine High | Plaquemine | LA

6'2" 266lbs

Grade 4 of 5

**CB Braylon Christmas**

North Iberville | Maringouin | LA

5'11" 155lbs

Grade 3.9 of 5



LB Ty'Reece Edwards

South Lafourche High | Galliano | LA
5'10" 180lbs
Grade 3.8 of 5

**QB Cooper Odle**

University High
5'11" 160lbs
Grade 3.7 of 5

**QB Jaylon Abney**

Calvary Baptist | Shreveport | LA
6'0" 165lbs
Grade 3.7 of 5

**RB JaiMylon Joseph**

Lutcher | Lutcher | LA
5'9" 160lbs
Grade 3.7 of 5

**S/WR Timothy (TJ) Dorsey**

St.Helena | Greensburg | LA
6'3" 180lbs
Grade 3.7 of 5

**LB Jordan Kemp**

North DeSoto | Shreveport | LA
5'7" 200lbs
Grade 3.7 of 5

**RB Josiah Gipson**

Mesquite John Horn | Mesquite | TX
5'7" 160lbs
Grade 3.7 of 5

**RB Mikah Tanksley**

Palestine High | Palestine | TX
6' 175lbs
Grade 3.7 of 5

**WR Jayden Oliver**

Palestine | Palestine | TX
6'2" 160lbs
Grade 3.7 of 5

**RB Tristan Rose**

Central High | Baton Rouge | LA
5'8" 170lbs
Grade 3.6 of 5

**WR Ahmad Wilson**

St. John | Plaquemine | LA
5'10" 170lbs
Grade 3.6 of 5

**RB/WR BJ Walker**

Palestine High | Palestine | TX
6'0" 190lbs
Grade 3.6 of 5

**OT Patrick Yoes III**

Covington High | Covington | La
5'11" 240lbs
Grade 3.6 of 5

**S Rishon Taylor**

East Ascension | Gonzales | LA
6'2" 142 lbs
Grade 3.5 of 5

**DE/TE Nadrien Johnson**

Slaughter Community | Slaughter | LA
6'1" 180lbs
Grade 3.5 of 5

**RB/LB Wesley Bushnell**

Sulphur | Sulphur | LA
5'11" 195lbs
Grade 3.5 of 5

**OL/DL Michael Malone**

Jonesboro-Hodge | Jonesboro | La
6'4" 305lbs
Grade 3.5 of 5

**RB/DB Brentyn Meeks**

Rosepine High | Rosepine | La
Grade 3.4 of 5

**CB James Tyson**

St. Charles Catholic | LaPlace | LA
5'11" 175lbs
Grade 3.4 of 5

**OL Trenton Gray**

Rusk | Rusk | TX
6'4" 268lbs
Grade 3.4 of 5

**LB Carson Landry**

East Ascension High | Gonzales | LA
5'8" 165lbs
Grade 3.4 of 5

**WR Jake Jacketti**

Mandeville High | Mandeville | La
5'8" 165lbs
Grade 3.4 of 5

**CB Braylon Williams**

Prairieville | Prairieville | La
6'1" 155lbs
Grade 3.4 of 5

**WR/DB Terry Vanden**

Sabine High | Liberty City | Texas
5'8" 135lbs
Grade 3.3 of 5



LB/DE Ke'Marrion Sheppard

Warren Central | Vicksburg | MS

5'8" 190lbs

Grade 3.3 of 5



LB Patrick Bueche

St. John | Plaquemine | LA

5'11" 165lbs

Grade 3.3 of 5



OL Chevy Delaney

Minden High | Minden | LA

6'2" 291lbs

Grade 3.3 of 5



LB Brenden Young

Natchitoches Central | Natchitoches | LA

6'0" 210lbs

Grade 3.2 of 5



LB Peyton Varnado

Central Private | Baker | LA

Grade 3.2 of 5



WR/LB Ja'Myrion Billups

Westwood | Palestine | TX

5'10" 145lbs

Grade 3.2 of 5



WR Gabriel Decuir

Acadiana High | Lafayette | LA

6' 150lbs

Grade 3.2 of 5



RB/LB Wesley Bushnell
Sulphur | Sulphur | LA



DT Calvin Duncan
Zachary High | Zachary | La

WR/DB Demarcus Terry

Meridian High | Meridian | Ms

6'1" 181lbs

Grade 3.1 of 5



QB, TE, S Jack Gilkison

Slaughter Community

6'4" 145lbs

Grade 3.1 of 5



QB Charles Green

Prairieville | Prairieville | LA

5'10" 155lbs

Grade 3.1 of 5



RB/WR Jonathan Hargrove Jr

Peabody magnet | Alexandria | LA

5'7" 153lbs

Grade 3.1 of 5



SS/OLB Cade Hebert

Prairieville | Prairieville | La

6'0" 155lbs

Grade 3.0 of 5



CB Tyrique Willis

Jasper High | Jasper | Tx

5'9" 146lbs

Grade 2.9 of 5



TE/LS Rhyder Cornett

St. Amant High | St. Amant | LA

6' 185lbs

Grade 2.9 of 5



OLB Stantyn Delapasse

Prairieville | Prairieville | La

5'9" 175lbs

Grade 2.9 of 5



S Collin Rios

CHEF | Baton Rouge | LA

5'10" 170lbs

Grade 2.8 of 5



WR Cameron McDaniel

Captain Shreve | Shreveport | LA

5'6" 120lbs

Grade 2.8 of 5



TE/DE Nathan Ray Walker | Walker | LA

CB Jamarcus Dozier

Jonesboro Hodge | Jonesboro | LA

5'7" 135lbs

Grade 2.7 of 5



DT Markeith Armstrong

North Caddo | Vivian | LA

5'7" 222lbs

Grade 2.7 of 5



TE/DE Nathan Ray

Walker | Walker | LA

6'4" 170lbs

Grade 2.7/5 Size | First Step | Hands



WR/S Paul Hoyt

Archbishop Hannan | Covington | LA

5'10" 155lbs

Grade 2.7 of 5



DB Anthony McMillian

Heidelberg High | Heidelberg | MS

5'9" 125lbs

Grade 2.6 of 5

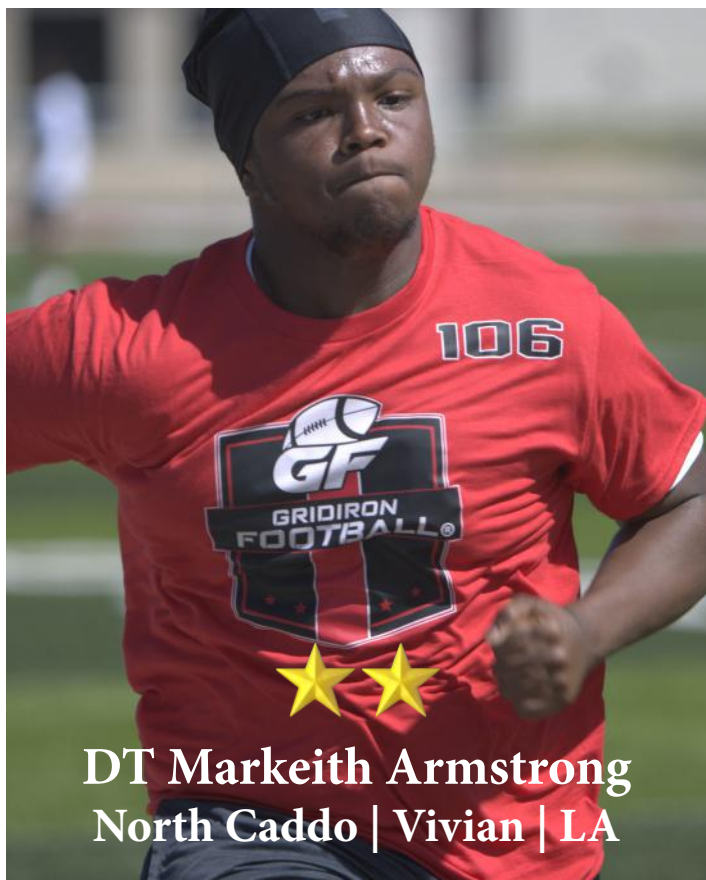


RB Z'Ryan Miles

Calvary Baptist | Shreveport | LA

5'5" 196lbs

Grade 2.5 of 5



DT Markeith Armstrong North Caddo | Vivian | LA

Class of 2028

DL Jordyn Grant
C/DE Joseph Childress
TE/DL Kayden Myers

College Park
Westwood
Cypress Creek

TX 6'2 311
TX 5'9 216
6'0 195

OL	Jaxon Cook	Westwood	TX	6'0	300	
WR/S	Santana Rogers	Westwood	TX	5'7	134	
QB/SS	John Velasquez	Westwood	TX	5'7	150	
QB	London Brown	Palestine High	TX	6'1	170	
WR	Deaundre Turner	Buffalo		5'11	148	
DE	Elijah Turner	Captain Shreve	Shreveport	LA	6'3	219
DL	Jonathan Perry Jr	North DeSoto	Mansfield	LA	5'12	237
WR	Christian Williams	EL Dorado High	EL Dorado	AR	5'10	161
RB	Jaydan Hamilton	Mansfield High	Mansfield	LA	5'8	155
QB	Gage Hossieni	Grant Highl	Pineville	LA	5'10	150
QB	Kollin Magee	Logansport High	Logansport	LA	150	5'8
TE	Hayden Deville	Jena High	Jena	LA	5'9"	180
WR	Rickeynan holden	Captain Shreve	Shreveport	LA	N/A	N/A
DL	Jeremiah Evans	Haynesville	Haynesville	LA	6'0	300
LB	Jordan Hamilton	Mansfield High				
TE/DE	Darrin Fleming	McAdams	MS			
LB	Marcus Hall	Mansfield High	LA			
DB	Greyson Cotton	Woodlawn High	LA			
WR	Troy Ramos	Woodlawn High	LA	5'6	129	
LB	Kain Smart	Pineville High	Pineville	LA	6'2"	165
TE/LB	Brady Dubois	Pineville High	Pineville	LA	6'1	195
Athlete	Marlon Burns Junior	Alexandria Senior	Alexandria	LA	5'8	150
RB/DB	Zy'Lon Alexander	Ferriday high	Ferriday	LA	5'11	155
DT	Jordan Olson	Covington high	Covington	La	6 "1	245
DB/WR	Elijah Porter	Pineville High School			5'9	195
CB	Kaleb Hines	St. Amant High	LA	6'2"	165	
OL - DT	Grayson Tosspon	Cathedral High School		6'2	290	
DT	Dixon Hopkind	Slaughter	LA	5,11	266	
RB/LB	Marquise Franklin	Parkview Baptist High	LA	5'8	185	
WR	Jeremiah Washington	Oak Grove High School	LA	6'0	153	
QB	Tristan Zierre	Liberty Magnet	LA	5'7	130	
QB	Cade Laborde	Hahnville High School	LA	5'10"	165	
DB, RB	Evan Williams	Prairieville High School	LA	5'9"	175	
RB	Dennis Wade Jr	Liberty magnet high	Baton Rouge	LA	5'2	135
WR	DaMyreon Jones	Scotlandville Magnet High	LA	5,6	145	
OG	Andrew Shofstahl	St Paul's	LA	6'3	315	
WR	Brayden Traylor	Catholic				
WR	Kinley Etienne	Cecilia	LA	5'6	170	
QB/RB	Kameron Etienne	Cecilia	LA	5'6	165	
CB	Evan Williams	Prairieville	Prairieville	LA	5'9	175
OL	Maxwell Hand	Archbishop Hannan	Covington	LA	6'3	260
LB	Chase Williams	Lutcher	LA	5'8	160	
RB/LB	Marquise Franklin	Parkview Baptist	Baton Rouge	LA	5'8	185
OL	Rowdy Armstrong	Walker	Walker	LA	6'5	287
OL	Eric Campbell III	John Curtis	LA	6'1	255	
LB	Schuyler Sanders	Galvez Middle	LA	5'3	140	
TE/DE	Seven Williams	De La Salle				

Class of 2029

OLB	Trevor Ardry	Westwood			5'7	140
Ath	Sincere McMorris	Palestine JH			5'1	125
RB	Zaiyre Brown	Westwood			5'10	190
WR/CB	Tristan Lipscomb	Westwood			5'11	140
QB	Brody Ingram	Mabank			5'3	125
WR	Jayden Terry	Edgewood			5'9	140
LB/TE	Bryant Stanley	Montgomery High School	Montgomery	LA	5'10"	180
ATH	Bryan Robles	Mt.Pleasant Jr High	Mt.Pleasant Tx	Texas	5.8	172
WR	Maximo Lopez	Cope middle	Bossier city	LA	5'9	155
OL/DL	Darius Sweat	Rusheon middle school	Shreveport	LA	5/9	217
WR	Landon Williams	Youree Drive Middle	Shreveport	LA	5'8	135
RB/LB	Bryston Collins	Rusheon middle school				
RB	Trevor Daniels	Westdale Middle				
WR	Christopher Moore	Westdale Middle				
WR	Jayden Allen	University Lab High			5'5"	120
LB	Dontavious Lewis	Ferriday jr high school			5/8	155
OL/DL	Phillip McKnight	Slaughter				
WR/DB	Mi'kael Alexander	Ferriday high school			5'09	130
RB/DB	Malcolm Alexander	Ferriday jr high school			5'8	135
RB/LB	Kemari Thompson	Amite County Middle School			5'7	165

QB	Denham Ellsworth	CAMMON MIDDLE SCHOOL	5'6	145
WR	Tyler Johnson	Stem Magnet Academy	5'6	105
TE	Tristin Ridgel	Walker	6'2	171

Class of 2030

LB	Kayson Neil	Montegut Middle			5,3	115
S	RoKyron Wright	Parkview Baptist			5'3"	120
WR/CB	Malachi Royal	Glasglow Middle			5'11	132
DB/WR	Charles Anderson	St Joan of arc			5'4	110
S	Eric Rattler	McKinley Middle Magnet			5'6	110
QB	Brayden August	Parkview Baptist			5'2"	90
OL/DL	Zy'aire Townsend	Louisiana Key Academy			6ft	200
DB	Randy green Jr.	Caddo middle magnet		LA	5'5"	130
RB/LB	Edward Mosby	Hamburg	Montrose	Ar	5'4	164
OL/DL	Wiley Lenhart	East Beauregard Junior High	Dry Creek	LA	5'11"	201
WR/LB	Christopher Davidson	Cope middle	Bossier City	LA	4'8	86
DL	Trenas Hill	Westwood			5'9	240
WR/LB	Marcelo Gonzalez	Westwood			5'8	120
WR	Landon Terry	Edgewood			5'8	130
WR/DB	Bryson Houser	Phillis Wheatley				

Class of 2031

DB/WR	Jacob Alford	McComb	McComb	MS		
WR/S	Messiah Royal	Glassglow Middle	Baton Rouge	LA		
CB	Kysin Irvin	Sixth ward elementary	Pearl River	LA		
QB	Cason Curtis	Buckeye Junior High		LA		
WR/CB, RB/LB	Jordin Harper	Prairie View Academy	Bastrop	LA		
WR	Kingsten Williams	Benton Intermediate	Benton	LA		
QB/WR/DB	Paxton Bailey	Westwood	Palestine	TX	4'8	95
LB	Ayden Rodriguez	Palestine High	Palestine	TX	5'4	148
DE/DT	Emoni Cooper	Westwood Jr	Palestine	TX	5'0	130
WR/DB	Ju'madre Murchison	Palestine High	Palestine	TX	5'5	95
DL	Milo Jiminez	Westwood	Palestine	TX		140
WR/CB	Ephram Cooper	Westwood Jr	Palestine	TX	5'2	100

Class of 2032

RB/KR	Dereon Sweat	Rusheon Middle School	Shreveport	La		
QB,RB,WR,DB	Karsten Hardaway	Lincoln Preparatory	Homer	LA		
RB/WR/S	Quinnon Mangum Jr.	Van Vleck Elementary		TX	4'8	93
WR/TE	Tristan Bank Butler	Brusly				

Kyle Olson



The experience we had at the gridiron camp, was outstanding, my eighth grade son, who has high aspirations to pursue his football dreams and life enjoyed his experience tremendously. The coaches and instructors. We're also top-notch from explaining how the kids can reach their aspirations and what they needed to do to reach them to also taking the time to talk to the kids about what they can improve on to continue to pursue their dreams. I want to also add the competition at the camps was also top-notch. I cannot say enough good things about the organization that put on the camp.

Comprehensive
RESIDENTIAL,
COMMERCIAL &
post-construction
cleanup services



Stop Cleaning
and Start Living!

225-452-5866

Rising Stars To Watch Out For (2028-2032 Class):

by: Jace LeJeune

In our Gridiron Football Elite Camp Series, we are all about giving players exposure and getting their names out there. The series is not just about the 2026 class as Gridiron Football has invited nearly 30 players to the All-American Bowl Game through the first four camps, but it is also about helping get the future of the sport promoted. Previously, you saw the Class of 2026 and 2027 classes get ranked by our staff. Now, you will get to read about some new faces that you will see a lot soon. These players are underclassmen standouts from our first four camps of the Elite Camp Offseason Series. To be mentioned in the next magazine as an underclassmen standout, make sure to be at our last Elite Camp at Louisiana Christian. The next crop of young talent from the last three camps of the offseason will be mentioned in the next magazine edition.

What has been very impressive about the 2028 class so far has been the talent in the trenches on the offensive and defensive line. Perhaps, the highest rated player regardless of position from 2028-2032 is St. Paul's (Covington, LA) OG Andrew Shofstahl. At 6'3, 315 pounds, Shofstahl made 1st Team All-District as a freshman at the varsity level and has already received an offer from Tulane. At the Lamar Dixon Elite Camp earlier this offseason, Shofstahl was one of our Top Elite Camp Performers as he not only showed his size and strength, but he showed his quickness as well running an impressive 5.28/40 for his size. In 1v1s, Shofstahl went toe to toe and showed that he can handle going up against 4 star prospects like Tyrone Morgan out of Woodlawn High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Another 2028 prospect that certainly looked the part of a future DI prospect is College Park (Woodlands, TX) DT Jordyn Grant, who was dominant at our Westwood High School (Palestine, TX) Elite Camp earlier this year. He and Marshall High School (Marshall, TX) 2027 DT Breon Williams had some battles going up against each other during 1v1s. Like Shofstahl, Grant's recruiting is starting to pick up with offers from Sacramento State and UTSA. Already with a bench press of 395 pounds and a squat max of 515 pounds to go with 5.3/40 speed, boy, watch out!

Other linemen to keep an eye on for the 2028 class are Covington High School (Covington, LA) DT Jordan Olson, who has been to multiple camps and is playing a lot of varsity snaps for the Lions, Walker High School (Walker, LA) center Rowdy Armstrong, who showed great technique and strength at our camps and was another Elite Camp Top Performer at 6'4, 290 pounds, Archbishop Hannan High School (Covington, LA) 2028 OG Maxwell Hand, who can squat 500 pounds at 6'3, 270 pounds, and Haynesville High School (Haynesville, LA)

DT Jeremiah Evans, who is already one of the top in-state prospects for his class at 6'0, 315 pounds and is coming off a freshman season in which he had 40 tackles, 14 TFLs, and 1.5 sacks.

The 2028 class certainly does not lack skill players either. Palestine (TX) QB London Brown was a Top Camp performer at the Westwood High School (Palestine, TX) Elite Camp as the southpaw threw multiple touchdowns during 1v1 and 7v7. His athleticism and unique throwing motion puts a lot of pressure on defensive backs. Grant High School (Dry Prong, LA) QB Gage Hossieni has been a staple at our camps and shows great touch and accuracy on his passes. Logansport High School (Logansport, LA) QB Kollin Magee is a coach's son and has a quick release plus a high football IQ.

Pineville High School (Pineville, LA) TE Brady Dubois has incredible upside with 4.6/40 speed and at a 6'1, 195 pound frame. Jena High School (Jena, LA) TE Hayden Deville is a versatile playmaker that can be lined up at multiple positions and is quick at the position. Speaking of quick, Captain Shreve High School (Shreveport, LA) WR Rickeynan Holden, Buffalo High School (Buffalo, TX) WR DeAundrea Turner, Alexandria High School (Alexandria, LA) ATH Marlon Burns, and El Dorado High School (El Dorado, AR) WR Christian Williams all ran in the 4.5's or lower for their shuttle time. Mansfield High School (Mansfield, LA) RB Jaydan Hamilton wowed all the coaches with a 4.65/40 time and a camp leading 10' broad jump at Evangel Christian Academy in Shreveport, LA.

Ferriday High School (Ferriday, LA) WR Zylon Alexander is a former Gridiron Football Junior High All-American that had an interception and also scored on an 80 yard touchdown reception in the game. He carried on that momentum from the game to the camp series where he had an impressive 9'8 broad jump.

Parkview Baptist High School (Baton Rouge, LA) RB/LB Marquise Franklin is a standout two way player for the Eagles that has 4.7/40 speed and is only going to improve. Woodlawn High School (Baton Rouge, LA) WR/DB Troy Ramos is a former Gridiron Football Junior High All-American that can also play both ways and has shown his versatility since he was in middle school.

Finally, for the 2028 class, St. Amant High School (St. Amant, LA) DB Kaleb Hines can run a 4.7/40 at a long frame of 6'2, 165 pounds, and McAdams High School (McAdams, MS) TE/DL Darrin Fleming has a raw set of tools with 4.7/40 speed.

In the 2029 class, Rusheon Middle School

RB/LB Bryston Collins was a Elite Camp Top Performer at the Evangel Christian Academy (Shreveport, LA) camp with an interception during 7v7 action and a 4.68/40 time. Edgewood High School (Edgewood, TX) WR Jayden Terry flashed his freakish athletic ability with a 4.56/40 time.

For the Gridiron Football Junior High All-American Bowl Game, there have been a couple of junior high players that have punched their ticket to the showcase including East Beauregard Junior High (DeRidder, LA) 2030 OL Wiley Lenhart, Palestine Junior High (Palestine, TX) 2030 QB/DB Sincere McMorris, Palestine Junior High (Palestine, TX) 2031 WR/DB Ju'Madre Murchison, Westwood Junior High (Palestine, TX) 2030 DL Trenas Hill, and Phillis Wheatley (New Orleans, LA) 2030 WR Bryson Houser.



March 1st Top Performers. Players from left to right: DETimothy Taylor (Chalmette High School), LB / P Greyson Dupre (Archbishop Hannan High), LB Ryan Variste (Madison Prep), DB Thomas Carter Jr. (Slaughter Community Charter), CB / WR Cedrick Jones Jr. (St. Amant High), CB Ashton Lafleur (Liberty High), DL Joshua Covington (Woodlawn High), OG Andrew Shofstahl (St Paul's), DL Cedric Jones (Woodlawn).



OL Rowdy Armstrong (Walker High, La)

Win A Cruise for 2

Winner will be
announced on
July 25th



Winner will be able to select which cruise, departure, and date they want. Cruise provided by Anywhere Adventures. Package is a \$1500 value.

Gridiron Football is raising money to support its mission as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to helping student-athletes earn college opportunities. Every ticket sold funds exposure camps, recruiting assistance, and the Gridiron Football All-American Bowl Game. By entering the raffle, supporters not only get a chance to win a dream vacation but also invest in changing lives through football. "To change one life is to change a community."

www.GridironFootballUSA.com



\$25 per ticket
or
5 for \$100

Thank you for your support
over the past 11 years.



Small business runs better on Thryv.

All-in-one Software | 24/7 Support

Business owners struggle with the daily demand of running their business.

At Thryv, we've created a robust and easy to use platform to help owners better manage their time.

We'll assist you with impactful marketing campaigns to help nurture current & prospective clients.

Imagine having all your business, communication, and marketing tools in one user friendly format.

Allow me to empower you, the business owner to succeed and grow. As your advisor, I'll guide you throughout your CRM journey.



**Let's meet to discuss your
business needs.**

Tricia Bernard

(225) 381-1176

tricia.bernard@thryv.com