



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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 IUHoosiers.com/NSD26

TWENTY-TWO PREP STANDOUTS SIGN WITH INDIANA FOOTBALL PROGRAM

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. - The Indiana football program and head coach **Curt Cignetti** added 22 high school student-athletes for the 2026 season during Wednesday's (Dec. 3) early signing period. Of those, 19 will enroll for the spring semester and participate in spring practice.

In all, IU signed 10 players on offense and 12 on defense. The Hoosier offense on boarded four offensive linemen, three tight ends, two wide receivers and one running back, while the defense added six defensive linemen, three defensive backs and three linebackers.

The high school signees will arrive in Bloomington from nine different states. Seven are from Indiana and three come from Ohio. Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland and Wisconsin each see two signees. Kentucky and Missouri each produce one new Hoosier.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Hometown/High School (Previous School)</u>
Jayreon Campbell	RB	6-0	190	Fr.	Powder Springs, Ga./McEachern
Parker Elmore	TE	6-5	230	Fr.	Scipio, Ind./Columbus North
Trevor Gibbs	TE	6-2	220	Fr.	Crown Point, Ind./Crown Point
Kasmir Hicks	DB	5-11	160	Fr.	Camby, Ind./Decatur Central
Gabriel Hill	DL	6-0	290	Fr.	Naperville, Ill./Naperville North
Kevontay Hugan	DL	6-1	215	Fr.	Sarasota, Fla./Booker
Ronelle Johnson	DL	6-4	245	Fr.	Blue Springs, Mo./Blue Springs
Lavar Keys	WR	5-9	165	Fr.	Hyattsville, Md./DeMatha
PJ MacFarlane	TE	6-5	205	Fr.	Liberty Township, Ohio/Lakota East
Cameron McHaney	DL	6-0	315	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind./IMG Academy
Kenton Mondeau	OL	6-7	315	Fr.	Eau Claire, Wis./Eau Claire North
Ben Novak	OL	6-7	300	Fr.	Crown Point, Ind./Andean
Henry Ohlinger	LB	6-1	210	Fr.	Columbus, Ohio/Grandview
Jamar Owens	DB	6-0	150	Fr.	Jonesboro, Ga./Douglas County
Kortez Rupert	WR	6-1	160	Fr.	East Saint Louis, Ill./East Saint Louis
Jacob Savage	LB	6-1	219	Fr.	Union, Ky./Ryle
CJ Scifres	OL	6-6	325	Fr.	Bargersville, Ind./Center Grove
Samuel Simpson	OL	6-4	275	Fr.	River Falls, Wis./River Falls
Blake Smythe	DL	6-4	300	Fr.	Trafalgar, Ind./Franklin Community
D'Montae Tims	DB	6-1	195	Fr.	Ruskin, Fla./Armwood
Rodney White	DL	6-1	295	Fr.	Baltimore, Md./Concordia
Ja'Dyn Williams	LB	6-2	205	Fr.	Massillon, Ohio/Massillon-Washington

-bios continued on next page-

*Mid-year enrollees in **BOLD**

Jayreon Campbell**RB - 6-0 - 190****Powder Springs, Ga./McEachern****Prep/Personal**

Running back for head coach Kareem Reid at McEachern High School ... Consensus three-star prospect per ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Rated as a top-70 running back nationally by ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Helped MHS to a 10-1 overall record in 2025 and a Region 3-6A playoff appearance in 2025 ... Earned Class 6A honorable mention all-state per Recruit Georgia as a junior ... Garnered first-team all-region 3-7A and 7A South Region All-State as a sophomore ... Rushed for 930 yards on 168 carries with 18 touchdowns as a junior ... Added 16 receptions for 100 yards and one score.

Parker Elmore**TE - 6-5 - 230****Scipio, Ind./Columbus North****Prep/Personal**

Tight end and linebacker for head coach Logan Haston at Columbus North High School ... Consensus three-star prospect per ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Consensus top-5 prospect in Indiana by ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Rated as the No. 16 tight end nationally per ESPN ... Top-30 tight end by 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Tabbed all-conference as a senior ... Led Columbus North in receptions (58), yards receiving (927) and receiving touchdowns (13) as a senior ... Had to sit out junior season due to Indiana High School Athletic Association transfer rules ... Missed sophomore season due to injury (knee).

Trevor Gibbs**TE - 6-2 - 220****Crown Point, Ind./Crown Point****Prep/Personal**

Tight end and linebacker for head coach Craig Buzea at Crown Point High School ... Consensus three-star prospect per ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Consensus top-15 prospect in Indiana by ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Rated as the No. 19 tight end nationally per ESPN ... Helped the Bulldogs to a 35-3 overall record in three prep seasons ... Guided CPHS to a Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 6A state runner-up finish as a sophomore ... Two-time Duneland Athletic Conference Defensive MVP as a junior and senior ... Named first-team All-Duneland Athletic Conference as a junior and senior ... Logged 600 yards receiving on 35 catches as a junior ... Added 60 tackles on defense.

Kasmir Hicks**DB - 5-11 - 160****Camby, Ind./Decatur Central****Prep/Personal**

Contributed on offense, defense and special teams for head coach Kyle Enright at Decatur Central High School ... Rated a four-star prospect by Rivals/On3 ... Tabbed a top-300 national recruit by Rivals/On3 (No. 291) ... Consensus top-10 recruit in Indiana per ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Rated the No. 31 defensive back nationally by Rivals/On3 ... Helped the Hawks to the Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 5A state title as a junior ... Two-time Mid-State Conference Defensive Player of the Year as a junior and senior ... Tabbed academic all-conference as a senior ... Totaled 103 career tackles, seven interceptions and 30 pass breakups at DCHS ... Returned three interceptions for a touchdown in his career ... Accounted for 32 offensive touchdowns in three seasons ... Added three kickoff return scores as a prep ... Career totals include 1,213 yards rushing with 16 touchdowns and 1,377 yards receiving and 16 scores ... Averaged 36.9 yards per kickoff return on 22 returns with three scores ... Also had eight punt returns for 19.9 yards per return.

Gabriel Hill**DL - 6-0 - 290****Naperville, Ill./Naperville North****Prep/Personal**

Defensive lineman for head coach Sean Drendel at Naperville North High School ... Four-star recruit per ESPN and Rivals/On3 ... Tabbed a top-200 recruit nationally by ESPN (No. 191) and Rivals/On3 (No. 167) ... Consensus top-15 prospect in Illinois per ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Ranked top-5 in Illinois per ESPN (No. 5) and Rivals/On3 (No. 4) ... Naperville Sun Player of the Year as a senior ... Southwest Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Year his final prep season ... Made 141 career tackles with 52.0 tackles for loss and 17.0 sacks ... Logged 61 tackles with one interception and two recovered fumbles as a senior ... Made 22.0 tackles for loss with 6.0 sacks ... Made 55 stops with 18.0 tackles for loss and 6.0 sacks.

Kevontay Hugan**DL - 6-1 - 215****Sarasota, Fla./Booker****Prep/Personal**

Defensive lineman for head coach Carlos Woods at Booker High School ... Tabbed a four-star prospect per ESPN and 247Sports ... Tabbed a top-200 recruit nationally by 247Sports (No. 180) ... Tabbed a top-25 prospect in Florida by 247Sports (No. 24) and a consensus top-80 prospect in the state ... A top-50 defensive line prospect by all three recruiting services: ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Guided BHS to back-to-back Florida High School Athletic Association Class 3A State Final Four appearances as a junior and senior ... Scored five rushing touchdowns, one touchdown on an interception return and one via fumble return in career ... Senior season includes 51 tackles with 32.0 tackles for loss and 13.0 sacks entering FHSAA State Final Four on Dec. 5 ... Recorded 118 tackles with 36.0 tackles for a loss and 18.0 sacks as a junior ... Made 46 stops with 16.5 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks as a sophomore ... Logged 22 stops with 10.5 tackles for loss and 2.5 sacks as a freshman ... Five of his nine career rushing attempts ending in touchdowns ... Also lettered in track and field ... State qualifier in the shot put.

Ronelle Johnson**DL - 6-4 - 245****Blue Springs, Mo./Blue Springs****Prep/Personal**

Defensive lineman for head coach Jed Paulsen at Blue Springs High School ... Tabbed a four-star recruit by Rivals/On3 ... Top-200 prospect per Rivals/On3 (No. 179) ... Consensus top-10 recruit in Missouri by ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Rated as the No. 21 defensive line prospect nationally by Rivals/On3 ... Named Missouri Football Coaches Association first-team All-State as a junior ... Selected first-team All-Greater Kansas City Suburban Conference as a senior ... Logged 60 tackles with 14.0 tackles for loss and 4.5 sacks as a junior ... Added three forced fumbles and a safety.

Lavar Keys**WR - 5-9 - 165****Hyattsville, Md./DeMatha Catholic****Prep/Personal**

Wide receiver for head coach Bill McGregor at DeMatha Catholic High School ... Consensus three-star prospect per ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Rated as a top-20 recruit in Maryland per ESPN (No. 16) and Rivals/On3 (No. 11) ... Tabbed the No. 21 wide receiver nationally by Rivals/On3 ... Helped the Stags to back-to-back Washington Catholic Athletic Conference titles as a junior and senior ... Tabbed first-team All-WCAC as a junior and senior.

PJ MacFarlane**TE - 6-5 - 205****Liberty Township, Ohio/Lakota East****Prep/Personal**

Tight end for head coach Jon Kitna at Lakota East High School ... Consensus three-star prospect per ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Rated as a top-50 prospect in Ohio by all three major recruiting services: ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Tabbed the No. 27 tight end prospect nationally by ESPN ... Earned first-team All-Greater Miami Conference as a junior and senior ... Pulled in 45 receptions for 596 yards and seven touchdowns as a senior ... Caught 40 passes for 568 yards and seven touchdowns as a junior.

Cameron McHaney**DL - 6-0 - 315****Indianapolis, Ind./IMG Academy (Fla.)****Prep/Personal**

Defensive lineman for head coach Greg Studrawa at IMG Academy ... Spent first two prep seasons at Indianapolis Lutheran High School ... Rated as a four-star prospect by ESPN and Rivals/On3 ... Tabbed a top-300 recruit nationally by ESPN (No. 267) ... Top-45 prospect in the state of Florida per ESPN (No. 40), 247Sports (No. 45) and Rivals/On3 (No. 41) ... Ranked as the No. 20 defensive lineman nationally per ESPN ... Guided IMG Academy to back-to-back Sunshine State Independent Association state titles as a junior and senior ... Helped Indianapolis Lutheran to back-to-back Indiana High School Athletic Association Class A state titles as a freshman and sophomore ... Earned Indiana Football Coaches Association All-State as a sophomore ... Totaled 32 tackles with 11.0 tackles for loss and 4.0 sacks as a senior ... Also forced two fumbles ... Logged 39 tackles with 7.0 tackles for loss and 2.0 sacks during junior season ... Also lettered in track and field at ILHS ... Ranked No. 1 among sophomores in Indiana for the discus (172-3).

Kenton Mondeau**OL • 6-7 • 315****Eau Claire, Wis./Eau Claire North****Prep/Personal**

Offensive lineman for head coach Matt McGinnis at Eau Claire North High School ... Consensus three-star prospect per ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/One 3 ... Rated as a top-10 prospect in Wisconsin by all three major recruiting services: ESPN, 247Sports and On3 ... Rated as a top-100 offensive tackles by ESPN (No. 97) ... Wisconsin Football Coaches Association first-team All-State as a senior ... Paved the way for six 100-yard rushing games and 1,812 yards rushing (201.3 ypg) by the Huskies as a senior ... ECNHS rushers scored 20 rushing touchdowns.

Ben Novak**OL • 6-7 • 300 lbs.****Crown Point, Ind./Andrean****Prep/Personal**

Offensive lineman for head coach Chris Skinner at Andrean High School ... Consensus three-star prospect per ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Consensus top-15 recruit in Indiana by ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Tabbed a top-80 offensive lineman nationally by all three major recruiting services: ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Helped AHS to the Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 2A state title as a senior ... Earned Indiana Prep Underclassmen All-State as a junior ... Selected first-team All-Northwest Crossroads Conference as a junior and senior ... Helped the Fighting 59ers average 169.6 yards rushing and as a senior.

Henry Ohlinger**LB • 6-1 • 210 lbs.****Columbus, Ohio/Grandview****Prep/Personal**

Linebacker and running back for head coach Jason Peters at Grandview Heights High School ... Four-star prospect per ESPN and Rivals/On3 ... Rated as the No. 119 prospect nationally by 247Sports ... Tabbed a top-20 prospect in Ohio by ESPN (No. 20) and Rivals/On3 (No. 5) ... Consensus top-20 ranked athlete by all three major recruiting services: ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Two-time Ohio High School Athletic Association Division VI All-Ohio selection ... Logged 17 tackles, 5.0 tackles for loss and two interceptions as a junior ... Added 1,582 yards rushing with 27 touchdowns ... Posted seven 100-yard rushing games as a junior ... Charted 1,322 yards rushing with 16 touchdowns and eight 100-yard rushing games as a sophomore.

Jamar Owens**DB • 6-0 • 150 lbs.****Jonesboro, Ga./Douglas County****Prep/Personal**

Defensive back for head coach Johnny White at Douglas County High School ... Spent first three prep seasons at Jonesboro High School ... Consensus three-star prospect by ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Tabbed a top-100 prospect in Georgia by ESPN (No. 72) and 247Sports (No. 100) ... Rated a top-100 defensive back per ESPN (No. 49) and 247Sports (No. 83) ... Helped JHS to the Georgia High School Association Class 6A state semifinals as a junior ... Earned All-Region 3-6A as a sophomore ... Posted 70 tackles, three interceptions and two forced fumbles as a junior ... Had 69 tackles with 1.0 tackle for loss as a sophomore ... Added one interception, six pass breakups and three forced fumbles.

Kortez Rupert**WR • 6-1 • 160 lbs.****East Saint Louis, Ill./East Saint Louis****Prep/Personal**

Wide receiver for head coach Darren Sunkett at East Saint Louis High School ... Consensus three-star prospect by ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Tabbed a top-30 prospect in Illinois by ESPN (No. 16) and Rivals/On3 (No. 30) ... Considered the No. 96 wide receiver nationally by ESPN ... Helped the Flyers to an Illinois High School Association Class 6A state title as a freshman ... Finished IHSA Class 6A state runner-up as a senior ... Tabbed Illinois High School Football Coaches Association first-team All-State in Class 6A as a senior ... Pulled in 30 receptions for 679 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior ... Charted 24 receptions for 660 yards receiving and eight touchdowns as a junior.

Jacob Savage**LB • 6-1 • 219 lbs.****Union, Ky./Ryle****Prep/Personal**

Linebacker for head coach Michael Engler at Ryle High School ... Consensus three-star prospect by ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Consensus No. 5 ranked prospect in Kentucky on all four major recruiting services ... Considered a top-80 ranked linebacker by all services ... Helped the Raiders to back-to-back Kentucky High School Athletic Association state final four appearances and a Class 6A runner-up finish as a junior ... Named Paul Hornung Award winner as the top high school football player in Kentucky as a senior ... Named KHSAA Class 6A District 6 Player of the Year his final prep season ... Finished career with a program-record 511 tackles ... Logged 39.0 career tackles for loss ... Totaled 3,584 career all-purpose yards and 65 total touchdowns ... Rushed for 2,835 yards and logged 749 yards receiving as a prep ... Ranked No. 2 in Kentucky with 24 rushing touchdowns and 29 total touchdowns in his final prep season ... Added 112 tackles with 15.0 tackles for loss to rank top-5 in the state in both categories ... Totaled 141 tackles with 8.0 tackles for loss as a junior ... Led the state in tackles as a sophomore with 163 ... Chipped in 93 stops as a freshman.

CJ Scifres**OL • 6-6 • 325 lbs.****Bargersville, Ind./Center Grove****Prep/Personal**

Offensive lineman for head coach Eric Moore at Center Grove High School ... Consensus three-star prospect by ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Rated the No. 18 prospect in Indiana by ESPN ... Tabbed the No. 82 offensive guard nationally by ESPN ... Helped CGHS to the Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 6A state championship as a freshman ... Selected to Indianapolis Star Central Indiana Super Team as a senior ... Named 2024 Indiana Football Coaches Association All-State as a junior ... Helped pave the way 232.1 yards rushing per game his final prep season ... Helped the offense average 34.4 points per game that season.

Samuel Simpson**OL • 6-4 • 275 lbs.****River Falls, Wis./River Falls****Prep/Personal**

Offensive lineman for head coach Ryan Scherz at River Falls High School ... Consensus three-star prospect by ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Rated as the No. 4 recruit in Wisconsin per 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Tabbed a top-70 offensive lineman nationally by all three major recruiting services: ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Named to Wisconsin Football Coaches Association first-team All-State as a junior and senior ... Three-time first-team Big Rivers Conference performer ... Helped pave the way for 187.8 yards rushing per game with 44 rushing scores ... Offense averaged 40.3 points per game and 397.5 yards of total offense ... Offense averaged 353.7 yards of total offense and 24.2 points per game his junior season.

Blake Smythe**DL • 6-4 • 300 lbs.****Trafalgar, Ind./Franklin Community****Prep/Personal**

Defensive lineman for head coach Chris Coll at Franklin Community High School ... Consensus three-star prospect by ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Consensus a top-20 prospect in Indiana on all three major recruiting services: ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Tabbed the No. 80-ranked defensive lineman nationally by ESPN ... Named to Indiana Football Coaches Association Class 5A All-State as a sophomore and junior ... Selected to Indianapolis Star Central Indiana Super Team as a senior ... All-Mid State Conference as a sophomore and junior ... Totaled 261 tackles, 52.0 tackles for loss, 20.0 sacks, three forced fumbles, four fumble recoveries and two interceptions in his prep career ... Charted 59 total tackles, 22.0 tackles for loss and 4.0 sacks his final prep season ... Added one forced fumble, one fumble recovery and one interception ... Grandfather, Mark Smythe, lettered in football for Indiana from 1979-83 and is a member of the Monroe County (Ind.) Sports Hall of Fame.

D'Montae Tims**DB - 6-1 - 195 lbs.****Ruskin, Fla./Armwood****Prep/Personal**

Defensive back for head coach for Evan Davis at Armwood High School ... Consensus three-star prospect by ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Rated as the No. 84 prospect in Florida per Rivals/On3 ... Tabbed a top-50 safety nationally by ESPN (No. 56) and Rivals/On3 (No. 50) ... Named second-team All-Western Conference as a junior ... Logged 50 tackles, 12.0 tackles for loss and 2.0 sacks as a senior ... Added three forced fumbles, one fumble recovery and two interceptions ... Charted 31 tackles, 4.0 tackles for loss and 2.0 sacks his junior year ... Logged one fumble recovery and three interceptions.

Rodney White**DL - 6-1 - 295 lbs.****Baltimore, Md./Concordia Prep****Prep/Personal**

Defensive lineman for head coach Joe Battaglia at Concordia Preparatory School ... Consensus three-star prospect by ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals/On3 ... Ranked as a top-35 prospect in Maryland by ESPN (No. 16) and 247Sports (No. 30) ... Rated the No. 96 defensive lineman nationally per ESPN ... Helped the Saints to the Maryland Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association B Conference title as a sophomore ... Earned first-team All-MIAA as a junior and senior ... Named to Baltimore Touchdown Club's Super 22 as a junior ... Logged 24 tackles, 7.0 tackles for loss and 5.0 sacks as a senior ... Charted 70 tackles, 15.5 tackles for loss, 9.0 sacks and one forced fumble in his career.

Ja'Dyn Williams**LB - 6-2 - 205 lbs.****Massillon, Ohio/Washington****Prep/Personal**

Linebacker for head coach for Emeli Angel at Washington High School ... Ranked as a four-star prospect by 247Sports and as a three-star prospect by ESPN and Rivals/On3 ... Tabbed as the No. 11 prospect in Ohio by 247Sports ... Considered a consensus top-35 linebacker by all four major recruiting services and is the No. 16 linebacker per 247Sports ... Helped the Tigers to the Ohio High School Athletic Association Division I state championship as a sophomore ... Tabbed first-team All-Northeast Inland District as a senior ... Earned second-team All-Northeast Inland District as a junior ... Logged 115 tackles, 12.5 tackles for loss, 7.0 sacks, three fumble recoveries, one interception and two touchdowns as a senior ... Posted 81 tackles with 12.5 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks as a junior.