

## **2023 SIGNEE ROSTER (As of Noon, December 21)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Ht.</b>	<b>Wt.</b>	<b>Hometown/High School</b>
Barnwell, Mega	TE	6-6	250	Fredericksburg, Va./Riverbend
Birchmeier, Alex	OL	6-5	285	Ashburn, Va./Broad Run
Blanding, Ty	DT	6-1	265	Bronx, N.Y./Christ The King
Donkoh, Anthony	OL	6-5	320	Aldie, Va./Lightridge
Keys, Kaveion	LB	6-2	195	Richmond, Va./Varina
Lyons, Jameial	DE	6-5	250	Philadelphia, Pa./Roman Catholic
Mack, King	DB	5-10	175	Miami, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas
Montgomery, London	RB	5-10	180	Scranton, Pa./Scranton Prep
Mupoyi, Joseph	DE	6-5	240	Upper Marlboro, Md./St. Thomas More (Conn.)
Nelson, DaKaari	DB	6-3	200	Livingston, Ala./Selma
Payne Jr., Lamont	DB	6-0	185	Carnegie, Pa./Chartiers Valley
Rappleyea, Andrew	TE	6-4	235	Millbrook, N.Y./Milton Academy (Mass.)
Robinson, Mason	DE	6-3	225	Randallstown, Md./McDonogh School
Robinson, Ta'Mere	LB	6-3	230	Pittsburgh, Pa./Brashear
Rojas, Tony	LB	6-2	195	Fairfax, Va./Fairfax
Schlaffer, Joey	TE	6-5	220	Reading, Pa./Exeter Township
Smolik, Jaxon	QB	6-1	205	Van Meter, Iowa/Dowling Catholic
Taylor, Carmelo	WR	5-11	160	Roanoke, Va./Patrick Henry
Tracy, Zion	DB	5-11	175	Hempstead, N.Y./St. Thomas More (Conn.)
Wallace, Cam	RB	5-9	175	Mount Vernon, Ga./Montgomery County
Washington II, Elliot	DB	5-11	190	Venice, Fla./Venice
Williams, J'ven	OL	6-5	290	Reading, Pa./Wyomissing

**Mega Barnwell**

6-6, 250

Tight End

Fredericksburg, Va./Riverbend

*Picked Penn State over Notre Dame, Ohio State, Oregon, Tennessee and USC*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Played three years at Riverbend High School for head coach Nathan Yates...Played one year at Spotsylvania High School...Served as a team captain in 2022...Helped Riverbend to a 9-3 mark as a senior...Led Riverbend to a 9-3 record and a district championship as a junior...Helped Riverbend to a 4-2 record in a COVID-shortened 2020 season...Led Spotsylvania to a 7-4 mark and district championship as a freshman...Named first-team all-state as a tight end and second-team all-state as a defensive lineman...Was a four-time all-city and all-district selection...Picked up four first-team all-region honors as a tight end and three as a defensive lineman...Earned Team MVP honors in 2020 and 2021...Hauled in 21 receptions for 349 yards and four touchdowns as a senior...Tallied 12 catches for over 350 yards and eight touchdowns as a junior...Collected nine catches for 200 yards and three touchdowns as a sophomore...Made eight grabs for 250 yards and three touchdowns as a freshman...Rated as a four-star prospect by ESPN and Rivals and a three-star prospect by 247Sports and On3...Ranked as the No. 10 tight end in the class and No. 6 prospect in Virginia by ESPN...Rated as the No. 20 tight end in the class and No. 5 player in Virginia by Rivals...Ranked as the No. 24 athlete prospect in the class and the No. 11 prospect in Virginia by 247Sports...Tabbed as the No. 24 athlete prospect in the class and No. 18 player in Virginia by On3...Also played basketball and competed in track in shotput and discus.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Mathias Mega Barnwell...Son of Shanna Barnwell...Has two sisters, Nyah and Mia...Enjoys fishing, listening to music and playing video games...Intends to major in broadcast journalism.

**Riverbend Head Coach Nathan Yates:** "For our team, Mega was always a big play waiting to happen. Our players fed off of that. His energy was very contagious."

**Alex Birchmeier**

6-5, 285

Offensive Line

Ashburn, Va./Broad Run

*Picked Penn State over Georgia, Notre Dame and Ohio State*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Was a four-year letterman at Broad Run High School for head coach Myron Curtis...Was a two-year team captain...As a junior, led Broad Run to a 13-2 record, district and regional championships and a state runner-up finish...Helped Broad Run to a 12-1 mark and a district championship as a freshman...Invited to the Adidas All-American Bowl...Invited to the Under Armour All-America Game...Was a first-team all-state and all-region selection in 2021...Earned All-Loudon County and first-team Washington Post All-Metro honors...Named Burg Sports Lineman of the Year and Multi-Sport Athlete of the Year...Recognized as a consensus four-star prospect...Rated as the top interior offensive lineman, No. 58 prospect in the class and No. 2 prospect in Virginia by 247Sports...Ranked as the No. 2 guard, No. 1 prospect in the state and No. 28 overall prospect by Rivals...Tabbed as the No. 4 interior offensive lineman, top prospect in Virginia and No. 63 overall prospect in the class by On3...Ranked as the No. 3 guard, top prospect in Virginia and No. 78 overall player in the class by ESPN...Also wrestled three years at Broad Run, earning two state championships, three district championships and two regional championships.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Alexander Birchmeier...Son of Matt and Jennifer Birchmeier...Has a brother, John...Father, Matt, played football at Ohio University...Uncle, Mark, played football at Michigan State (1989-94)...Cousin, Drew, played football at Vanderbilt (2016-20)...Brother, John, wrestled at the US Naval Academy (2019-21) and was an NCAA qualifier in 2021...Hobbies include wrestling and video games...Intends to major in business.

**Broad Run Head Coach Myron Curtis:** “Alex is a great person who cares about his teammates and cares about his community. He’s one of the best linemen to come through Broad Run and has set a legacy of how to play that position. He’s not a huge vocal leader, but he’s always been a leader through his actions. He makes everyone around him better.”

**Ty Blanding**

6-1, 265

Defensive Tackle

Bronx, N.Y./Christ The King

*Picked Penn State over Michigan, Oregon, Syracuse and Washington*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Played for head coach Jason Brown at Christ The King High School...Served two years as a team captain...Was a two-time Team MVP...Was the CHSFL AAA Conference Defensive Player of the Year...As a senior, recorded 46 tackles, six tackles for loss, five sacks, three forced fumbles and 17 quarterback hurries...Tallied 50 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, five sacks, a forced fumble and a blocked kick as a junior...Collected 21 tackles, one sack and two fumble recoveries as a freshman...Ranked a consensus three-star prospect...Recognized as the No. 34 defensive tackle in the class and top prospect in New York by ESPN...Rated as the No. 55 defensive lineman and No. 2 player in New York by On3...Ranked as the No. 63 defensive lineman and No. 2 prospect in New York by 247Sports...Rated as the No. 3 prospect in New York by Rivals.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Tyriq Elijah Blanding-Gilead...Son of Ellisha Blanding and Norman Gilead...Hobbies include playing games and traveling...Intends to major in computer engineering.

**Christ The King Head Coach Jason Brown:** “Ty was a four-year starter on varsity, playing at defensive tackle since he was a freshman. He’s a tenacious player with a fast get-off. He excelled everywhere on the field and is a great all-around player. He’s a very humble guy and a great human, who shows by example. He’s a product of the outstanding Harlem Jets youth program.”

**Anthony Donkoh**

6-5, 320

Offensive Line

Aldie, Va./Lightridge

*Picked Penn State over Duke, Virginia Tech and West Virginia*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Was a three-year letterman at Lightridge High School for head coach Bobby Eavenson...Served three years as a team captain...Named Team MVP three times...Allowed only one sack in three years of varsity football...As a senior, allowed no sacks...On defense, collected 63 tackles, 16 tackles for loss, 11 sacks, 15 QB hurries, two pass breakups and three blocked kicks...Rated as a four-star prospect by 247Sports and On3 and a three-star prospect by ESPN and Rivals...Rated as the No. 18 interior offensive lineman in the class and No. 10 prospect in Virginia by 247Sports...Ranked as the No. 20 interior offensive lineman in the class and No. 5 prospect in the state by On3...Rated as the No. 33 guard in the country and No. 13 prospect in Virginia by ESPN...Ranked as the No. 20 prospect in the state by Rivals...Earned one letter in wrestling at Lightridge.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Anthony K. Donkoh...Son of Ato and Ernestina Donkoh...Has two brothers, Andrew and Athan, and a sister, Antoinette...Hobbies include playing video games and weightlifting...Intends to major in mechanical engineering.

**Lightridge Head Coach Bobby Eavenson:** "Anthony is a great kid, who checks every box. On the field, he's remarkably versatile and athletic for someone his size. He takes to coaching very well and is a very intelligent player and communicator. He's a great presence in the locker room, through ups and downs. We're very happy he's in a good home at Penn State and there's no doubt he'll be successful there and beyond."

**Kaveion Keys**

6-2, 195

Linebacker

Richmond, Va./Varina

*Picked Penn State over Auburn, Florida, North Carolina, Virginia and Virginia Tech*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Played at Varina High School for head coach Marcus Lewis...Served two years as a team captain...Led Varina to an 11-2 record and a regional semifinals appearance in 2022...Guided the Devils to a 13-1 record and a Virginia Class 4A state championship as a junior...Earned first-team all-state honors as a linebacker as a junior...Claimed first-team all-region as a linebacker as a junior and senior...Named second-team all-region as a receiver in 2021...As a senior, collected 70 tackles, 11 sacks and nine tackles for loss...As a junior, recorded 65 tackles, 15 sacks, 11 tackles for loss, five pass breakups, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery...Rated a four-star prospect by 247Sports and On3 and a three-star prospect by ESPN and Rivals...Ranked as the No. 177 overall prospect in the class, the No. 15 linebacker and No. 3 prospect in Virginia by On3...Tabbed as the No. 15 linebacker and No. 5 prospect in the state by 247Sports...Rated as the No. 30 outside linebacker and No. 8 prospect in Virginia by Rivals...Ranked as the No. 30 outside linebacker and No. 9 player in Virginia by ESPN.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Kaveion Allen Keys...Son of Cavin Keys and Aisha T. Roberts...Has three brothers, Jacory, Amari and Lennox...Hobbies include playing video games, hanging out with friends and working out...Intends to major in communications to pursue a career in sports broadcasting.

**Jameial Lyons**

6-5, 250

Defensive End

Philadelphia, Pa./Roman Catholic

*Picked Penn State over Boston College, Cincinnati, Nebraska and West Virginia*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Played at Roman Catholic High School for head coach Rick Prete...Served as a team captain in 2022...Led Roman Catholic to a 9-3 record as a senior...Helped Bishop McDevitt to a 2A Catholic League Championship as a freshman...Was an All-Catholic League selection as a junior...Registered 64 tackles and six sacks as a senior...Tallied 51 tackles and five sacks as a junior...Collected 29 tackles and one sack as a sophomore...Had 27 tackles and two sacks as a freshman...Rated a consensus four-star prospect...Rated as the No. 125 overall prospect in the class as well as the No. 15 defensive lineman and No. 2 player in Pennsylvania by On3...Ranked as the No. 33 edge rusher and No. 4 prospect in Pennsylvania by 247Sports...Recognized as the No. 30 strongside defensive end and No. 7 player in Pennsylvania by Rivals...Tabbed as the No. 54 defensive end and No. 8 prospect in Pennsylvania by ESPN.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Jameial James Lyons...Son of Tiamika Lyons and Jameial Chappelle...Has two brothers, Hakim and Izeem Chappelle...Hobbies include playing sports...Undecided on a major.

**Roman Catholic Head Coach Rick Prete:** "Jameial is a tremendous person, first and foremost. He encompasses everything that Penn State is looking for. He's a team guy, a natural leader through the intensity and effort he brings on a daily basis. He plays the game with an edge and a toughness that will make him an elite player at the college level and beyond. He's a guy that our kids look up to and was the first captain named this year."

**King Mack**

5-10, 175

Defensive Back

Miami, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas

*Picked Penn State over Arkansas, Boston College, Florida, Miami, Michigan State and Notre Dame*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Played three years at St. Thomas Aquinas for head coach Roger Harriott...Played one year at Dillard High School...Was a two-year team captain...Led St. Thomas Aquinas to a 13-0 record and a state championship in 2022...Helped the Raiders to a 14-1 mark and a state championship in 2021...Led St. Thomas Aquinas to an 8-1 record and a state championship in 2020...Invited to the Dade vs. Broward All-Star Game...Competed in Under Armour Future 50 event...Earned two team MVP awards...Was named all-state twice...Named 3M Defensive Player of the Year twice...As a senior, tallied 58 tackles, five tackles for loss, two interceptions (one returned for a touchdown), seven pass breakups, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery and seven total touchdowns...As a junior, collected 69 tackles, 15 tackles for loss, seven sacks, seven interceptions, four forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries...As a sophomore, recorded 37 tackles, seven tackles for loss, three sacks, three forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries...As a freshman, registered 30 tackles, three tackles for loss, a sack, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery...Rated consensus four-star prospect...Ranked as the No. 89 prospect in the class as well as the No. 6 safety and No. 19 prospect in Florida by 247Sports...Tabbed as the No. 99 overall prospect, No. 8 safety and No. 22 player in Florida by On3...Recognized as the No. 103 prospect in the class, No. 8 safety and No. 26 prospect in Florida by ESPN...Rated as the No. 23 safety and No. 63 player in Florida by Rivals...Competed four years in track...Was state champion in 100m, 400m, 4x100 and 4x400 and set a national record in the 4x400...Was an honor roll student.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Kevin King Mack...Son of Clarence Mack and Williane Yacinthe...Has a sister, Khloe Butts...Uncle, Keith Ferguson, played football at Ohio State (1977-80) and in the NFL with the San Diego Chargers (1981-85) and Detroit Lions (1985-90)...Related to Tremain Mack, who played football at Miami Fla. (1993-96) and in the NFL with the Cincinnati Bengals (1997-00)...Hobbies include philanthropy, mentorship, fishing and coaching little league...Intending to major in sports medicine.



**London Montgomery**

5-10, 180

Running Back

Scranton, Pa./Scranton Prep

*Picked Penn State over Boston College, Rutgers, Syracuse and Virginia Tech*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Played for head coach Terry Gallagher at Scranton Prep...Served two years as a team captain...As a senior, helped Scranton Prep to a 9-4 record and a district championship...Led the Cavaliers to an 11-1 mark and a district title as a junior...Guided Scranton Prep to a 4-1 record as a sophomore and a 9-3 record as a freshman...As a junior, rushed for 2,356 yards and 36 touchdowns...Ran for 868 yards and 13 touchdowns as a sophomore...Tallied 762 rushing yards and 13 touchdowns as a freshman...Rated a four-star prospect by On3 and ESPN and a three-star prospect by 247Sports and Rivals...Tabbed as the No. 234 overall prospect in the class, No. 13 running back and No. 3 player in Pennsylvania by ESPN...Ranked as the No. 21 running back and No. 8 prospect in Pennsylvania by On3...Rated as the No. 39 running back in the class and the No. 8 player in Pennsylvania by 247Sports...Ranked as the No. 13 player in Pennsylvania by Rivals...Also lettered in basketball and track, earning district and state medals in track.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is London Michael Montgomery...Son of Herb Williams and Diamond Montgomery...Has two brothers, Isiah and Elisha, and two sisters, Kory and Destiny...Hobbies include drawing and watching movies...Undecided on a major.

**Scranton Prep Head Coach Terry Gallagher:** "London is an extraordinary talent on the football field. He's a dedicated athlete and a tireless worker. He's made our program and community better with his leadership and how he handles himself, how he treats people. He's a dynamic athlete who will continue to work to get better and bring that competitive mentality every day. Penn State is adding another hard-working kid to a great program."

**Joseph Mupoyi**

6-5, 240

Defensive End

Upper Marlboro, Md./St. Thomas More (Conn.)

*Picked Penn State over Auburn, Maryland, Miami and Michigan*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Played at St. Thomas More School for head coach Ernest Anderson...Played at Archbishop Carroll in 2021, leading Lions to a 13-1 record, a city championship and a DCSAA Class AA State Championship...Led St. Thomas More to city and state championships as a junior...In 2022, produced 54 tackles, 14 sacks and 12 tackles for loss...Rated a four-star prospect by ESPN and On3 and a three-star prospect by 247Sports and Rivals...Tabbed as the No. 38 edge prospect and No. 3 player in Connecticut by On3...Ranked as the No. 56 edge prospect in the class and No. 5 prospect in Connecticut by 247Sports...Recognized as the No. 29 weakside defensive end and No. 3 prospect in the state by Rivals...Rated as the No. 57 defensive end and No. 2 player in Connecticut by ESPN.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Joseph Mupoyi...Son of Joseph Mupoyi and Marty Zoussi...He is one of eight children with four older brothers, two younger brothers and an older sister...His US family includes parents David and Angel Johnson, brother David "Tee" Johnson, Manny Okitondo and Israel Bosenge...David "Tee" Johnson played basketball at Lyndon State College and is in the school's hall of fame...Hobbies include basketball, drawing and anime...Speaks four languages...Intends to major in graphic design.

**St. Thomas More head coach Ernest Anderson:** "Joseph is probably one of the most genuine, kind-hearted souls that I've ever met. He is one with a great foundation, great parents. Academics, he's very serious. He's a weight room warrior. He has everything that you would want in a defensive lineman. He's got length, he's got twitch, he's got bend. He's just scratching the surface of what he could be. Coach [John] Scott has done a great job developing defensive linemen and I think that Joseph is going to be the next one in a long line of guys before him. He has things that you just can't teach. And when you give somebody like Coach Scott, this big ball of clay and watch him develop this kid, it's going to be exciting for a lot of the fans at Penn State. Especially for his family, because he's in the perfect situation there."

**DaKaari Nelson**

6-3, 200

Defensive Back

Livingston, Ala./Selma

*Picked Penn State over Arkansas, Auburn, Clemson, Florida State and Tennessee*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Played at Selma High School for head coach Willie Gandy...Served four years as a team captain...Helped Selma to a 7-4 record in 2022...Earned team MVP honors twice...Named first-team All-State in Class 5A three times...Played in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game...As a senior, recorded 72 tackles, seven interceptions, seven pass breakups, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery...Returned two interceptions and a fumble for touchdowns...On offense, had 278 rushing yards and four touchdowns to go with 123 receiving yards and a score...Rated a four-star prospect by 247Sports, ESPN and Rivals and a three-star prospect by On3...Ranked as the No. 128 overall prospect, No. 8 safety in the country and No. 14 prospect in Alabama by Rivals...Rated as the No. 179 overall prospect, No. 13 safety in the class and No. 14 player in Alabama by 247Sports...Tabbed as the 58th safety in the class and No. 28 player in Alabama by On3...Considered the No. 23 safety and No. 19 player in Alabama by ESPN...Also played basketball and competed in track at Selma...Broke school records in the 400m and 4x400.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is DaKarri Trevion Nelson...Son of Stacie and Stoney Pritchett...Has three sisters, Stori, Sydni and Stoni Pritchett, and a brother, Dion Nelson...Father, Stoney, played football at West Alabama (2001-05)...Brother, Dion, plays football at UT Martin...Hobbies include fishing, riding four-wheelers and shopping...Undecided on a major.

**Selma Head Coach Willie Gandy:** "DaKaari's had a major impact to our Selma program since day one. He's been a leader, calling all the signals on defense since he was a freshman. He always made plays, no matter where we played him. He's done everything possible on the field. I've watched him grow up, work hard and get better. We're proud of the direction he's headed. He's humble with good grades and great character. Penn State is getting a great young man who will work."

**Lamont Payne Jr.**

6-0, 185

Defensive Back

Carnegie, Pa./Chartiers Valley

*Picked Penn State over Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Rutgers, Syracuse, Virginia Tech and West Virginia*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Played for head coach Aaron Fitzpatrick at Chartiers Valley High School...Was a three-year letterman and a team captain as a senior...Was named all-state in Class 4A...Earned two All-Parkway Conference honors as a defensive back...Tallied 19 receptions for 380 yards to go with 43 tackles and four interceptions as a senior...Collected 26 catches for 343 yards, 26 tackles and an interception as a junior...Registered 33 receptions for 431 yards, 22 tackles, two interceptions and two pass breakups as a sophomore...Rated a four-star prospect by Rivals and a three-star prospect by 247Sports, On3 and ESPN... Ranked as the No. 35 cornerback in the class and the No. 4 prospect in Pennsylvania by Rivals... Rated as the No. 72 cornerback in the class and the No. 14 prospect in Pennsylvania by 247Sports...Tabbed as the No. 77 cornerback in class and the No. 16 player in PA by On3...Ranked as the No. 20 player in the state by ESPN...Made the high honor roll at Chartiers Valley...Was a three-year letterman in track, competing in the 100, 200, 400, 4x100 and 4x400.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Lamont Alexander Payne Jr...Son of Lamont and Shatara Payne...Has four sisters, Lascionna, Naeima, Ahmena and Alilah...Grandfather, William Major Evans Jr., played football at West Virginia (1978-81), helping the Mountaineers to Rose Bowl and Peach Bowl wins before signing with the Pittsburgh Steelers...Hobbies include basketball, digital art, video games, paintball, spending time with family and fishing...Intends to major in special education.

**Chartiers Valley Head Coach Aaron Fitzpatrick:** "Lamont is a player who contributed to the team in many ways. He was respected as many teams did not throw his way. He's a great cover guy and a physical corner. He was great in building relationships. He provided valuable insight to our younger guys. Lamont has the potential to be a great leader. His competitive drive and craftsmanship are driving factors of one who leads by example. We wish him nothing but the best as he heads to his new home."

**Andrew Rappleyea**

6-4, 235

Tight End

Millbrook, N.Y./Milton Academy (Mass.)

*Picked Penn State over Boston College, Florida, Michigan, Ohio State, Rutgers and Tennessee***HIGH SCHOOL**

Lettered two years at Milton Academy for head coach Kevin MacDonald...Played two seasons at Our Lady of Lourdes High School in New York...Helped Milton Academy to a 5-3 record in 2022...Led Milton Academy to an 8-1 record and an Independent School League (ISL) Championship in Fall 2021...Guided Our Lady of Lourdes to a 5-4 record in 2020 and a 2-1 record in Spring 2021...Earned Team MVP honors in 2022...Was named All-NEPSAC and All-ISL in 2022...Selected Boston Herald All-Scholastic Team in 2021 and 2022...In Fall 2021, earned NEPSAC first team honors and was named to the ISL Super Team and Prep Schools All-Scholastic Team...In Spring 2021, collected Section One Most Valuable Receiver accolades and all-county first team honors...Was also named to the Poughkeepsie Journal All-Star Team...As a senior, caught 23 passes for 499 yards and six touchdowns...Added 45 tackles, six tackles for loss, three sacks and two interceptions...In Fall 2021, hauled in 21 receptions for 470 yards and four touchdowns...In Spring 2021, notched 15 catches for 280 yards and three touchdowns in three games...Rated a consensus four-star prospect...Ranked as the No. 80 overall prospect in the class as well as the No. 2 tight end and No. 3 prospect in Massachusetts by On3...Tabbed as the No. 206 overall prospect, No. 7 tight end and No. 3 player in Massachusetts by ESPN...Ranked as the No. 165 overall prospect, No. 7 tight end in the class and No. 3 player in the state by Rivals...Rated as the No. 11 tight end in the nation and No. 5 prospect in Massachusetts by 247Sports...Played three years of varsity basketball, earning all-league and all-county honors for Our Lady of Lourdes.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Andrew Kenneth Rappleyea...Son of Allan and Kirsten Rappleyea...Has a brother, Allan, and a sister, Grace...Father, Allan, played football at Union College (1985-89)...Mother, Kirsten, played basketball at Virginia (1984-88) and professionally in France with A.S. Villeurbanne (1988-89)...Brother, Allan Jr., played football at Wake Forest (2017-21)...Uncle, Eric Anderson, attended Penn State...Hobbies include fishing, golf and strength training...Undecided on a major.

**Milton Academy Head Coach Kevin MacDonald:** "In my 46th year of coaching high school football, I can say with confidence that Andrew Rappleyea is, without doubt, one of the top two or three players I have had the good fortune to coach. Drew has the size at 6-5, 237 pounds, the speed, 4.5, 40 and the athletic ability to play at the highest level. What separates Drew from many other talented athletes is his toughness and competitive spirit."

**Mason Robinson**

6-3, 225

Defensive End

Randallstown, Md./McDonogh School

*Picked Penn State over Boston College, Duke, Northwestern, South Carolina and Virginia Tech*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Played at McDonogh School for head coach Hakeem Sule...Served two years as a team captain...Helped McDonogh to its conference championship game in 2021...Earned two Team MVP awards...Named All-Metro first team as a senior...Was a two-time all-conference selection...Registered 110 tackles, 15 sacks and eight tackles for loss as a senior...Collected 81 tackles, eight sacks and 16 tackles for loss as a junior...Rated a consensus three-star prospect...Ranked as the No. 34 weakside defensive end and No. 9 prospect in Maryland by Rivals...Tabbed as the No. 66 defensive lineman and No. 10 prospect in Maryland by 247Sports...Recognized as the No. 11 prospect in Maryland by ESPN...Rated as the No. 20 player in Maryland by On3...Also competed in track and baseball.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Mason Makai Robinson...Son of Kareem and Jennifer Robinson...Has two sisters, Mackenzie and Madison...Father, Kareem, played football at UT-Chattanooga (1994-97) and in the NFL with the Baltimore Ravens (1998-99)...Uncle, Ronald Robinson, played football at Kentucky (1985-89) and in the NFL with the Indianapolis Colts (1990-91)...Hobbies include working out, listening to music, watching Netflix and home improvement projects...Intends to major in business or finance.

**McDonogh School Head Coach Hakeem Sule:** "Mason is a selfless leader. He is not one to boast about stats, offers or personal achievements. At the end of the day, he just wants to win. Ultimately, that is what makes him special. Mason's tough attitude and relentless work ethic have made him an all-time great at McDonogh and will make him a fan-favorite at Penn State. As a player, Mason is very quick off the ball. He loves football and will strive to be the best player he can be."

**Ta'Mere Robinson**

6-3, 230

Linebacker

Pittsburgh, Pa./Brashear

*Picked Penn State over Miami, Pitt and Virginia Tech*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Played four years for head coach Andrew Moore at Brashear High School...Served three years as a team captain...Helped Brashear to a 5-3 record as a junior...Did not play senior season due to injury...As a junior, tallied 44 tackles (23 solo), seven tackles for loss, three sacks and an interception while also scoring three touchdowns...As a sophomore, notched 40 tackles (26 solo), 12 tackles for loss, one interception and five touchdowns...Recorded 27 tackles and three interceptions as a freshman...Rated as a consensus four-star prospect...Ranked as the No. 169 overall prospect, No. 11 outside linebacker and No. 2 prospect in Pennsylvania by Rivals...Rated as the No. 28 edge prospect and No. 2 player in Pennsylvania by 247Sports...Tabbed as the No. 21 outside linebacker and No. 5 prospect in Pennsylvania by ESPN...Ranked as the No. 26 linebacker and No. 5 player in Pennsylvania by On3...Played three years of basketball and earned one letter in track at Brashear.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Ta'Mere William Javon Robinson...Son of Carla Robinson...Nephew of Michelle Robinson...Has a brother, Bruce Patterson, and two sisters, Brandy and Tanesha...Brother, Bruce, played football at Clarion University...Hobbies include playing video games...Intends to major in early childhood education...Has volunteered with toy drives, food drives and reading to children.

**Brashear Head Coach Andrew Moore:** "Ta'Mere has been a special player for our program and has placed an emphasis on attention to detail like no other player at this young of an age. He not only a gifted athlete but he's unbelievably smart as a football player. He's one of the hardest working athletes I've been around and is constantly striving for perfection which has been infectious. His leadership qualities have been unrivaled. He makes his teammates feel extremely comfortable and brings the best out of guys. His leadership allows for guys to feel as if they can achieve anything. He operates with integrity at all times and he holds himself accountable as well as everyone around him."

**Tony Rojas**

6-2, 195

Linebacker

Fairfax, Va./Fairfax

*Picked Penn State over Clemson, Georgia, Maryland and Virginia Tech***HIGH SCHOOL**

Played three years for head coach Trey Taylor at Fairfax High School...Served two seasons as a team captain...Led Fairfax to a 13-1 record, a district championship and a Class 6A state semifinals appearance in 2022...Helped the Lions to a 10-1 record and a district title as a junior...Invited to the Adidas All-American Bowl...Was named the All-Metro Offensive Player of the Year in 2022...Earned all-region honors as a running back and a defensive end as a junior...Was an All-Metro selection as a running back in 2021...Selected first-team All-Region and Region Offensive Player of the Year in 2021...Picked up all-district honors as a running back and defensive end as a junior and as a receiver as a sophomore...As a senior, rushed for 2,239 yards and 35 touchdowns to go with 281 receiving yards and two scores...On defense, recorded 72 tackles, 14 tackles for loss, 13 sacks, five forced fumbles and four pass breakups...As a junior, tallied 40 tackles, seven tackles for loss, four sacks, a forced fumble, two fumble recoveries and a pass breakup...On offense, rushed for 1,568 yards and 24 touchdowns, while adding 270 receiving yards...As a sophomore, collected 23 receptions for 408 yards and five touchdowns...Rated as a consensus four-star prospect...Ranked as the No. 111 overall prospect, No. 7 linebacker and No. 3 player in Virginia by 247Sports...Rated as the No. 108 overall prospect, No. 8 linebacker and No. 2 prospect in Virginia by On3...Tabbed as the No. 125 overall prospect, No. 8 outside linebacker and No. 2 prospect in Virginia by Rivals...Ranked as the No. 135 overall prospect, No. 13 outside linebacker and No. 3 player in VA by ESPN...Also played basketball at Fairfax, earning Defensive Player of the Year honors.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Anthony Daniel Rojas...Son of Daniela Rojas...Has two sisters, Briana and Lizzy...Sister, Briana, currently attends Penn State...Hobbies include fishing and video games...Intends to major in communications...Has volunteered with backpack giveaways at church.

**Fairfax Head Coach Trey Taylor:** “Tony has been a big part of turning our program around in the last four years. A tireless worker and ultimate competitor, Tony helped lead us to our first ever back-to-back District Championships and first region title since 1994. A role model in the weight room, he demonstrated to younger players what is possible through hard work. Tony has amazing athletic ability, but it was his ability to inspire other players to be their best which was most impactful. He has had a tremendous impact on, not only our program, but the younger players who have seen first-hand the work that goes into being great.”



**Joey Schlaffer**

6-5, 220

Tight End

Reading, Pa./Exeter Township

*Picked Penn State over Maryland, Michigan State, Nebraska and Tennessee***HIGH SCHOOL**

Played four years at Exeter Township Senior High School for head coach Matt Bauer...Was a four-year starter and served as a team captain as a senior...Led Exeter Township to a 12-1 record and a conference title as a senior...Helped the Eagles to a 10-4 record and district title as a junior...Guided Exeter Township to a 6-2 record as a sophomore and a 9-4 mark as a freshman...Earned all-state honors in 2020, 2021 and 2022...Collected Lancaster Lebanon all-conference selections all four years...Holds all-time county records in receiving yards (2,493) and receiving touchdowns (28)...As a senior, caught 38 passes for 879 yards and nine touchdowns while rushing for 246 yards and three touchdowns and completing two passes for 43 yards...Hauled in 48 receptions for 834 yards and nine touchdowns as a junior...Recorded 19 catches for 444 yards and five touchdowns as a sophomore...Registered 15 receptions for 336 yards and five touchdowns as a freshman...Rated a four-star prospect by On3 and Rivals and a three-star prospect by 247Sports and ESPN...Ranked as the No. 187 overall prospect, No. 10 tight end and No. 4 prospect in Pennsylvania by On3...Recognized as the No. 214 overall prospect, No. 10 tight end and No. 11 prospect in Pennsylvania by Rivals...Rated as the No. 48 tight end and No. 20 prospect in Pennsylvania by 247Sports...Tabbed as the No. 15 tight end and No. 11 player in Pennsylvania by ESPN...Was a three-year letterwinner in basketball, earning all-county honors in 2021.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Joey Aiden Schlaffer...Son of Joe and Sherry Schlaffer...Has two brothers, Michal and Christian Menet...Brother, Michal, played football at Penn State (2017-21) and in the NFL for the Arizona Cardinals and Green Bay Packers...Hobbies include playing basketball and golf and spending time outdoors...Undecided on a major.

**Exeter Township Head Coach Matt Bauer:** “Joey is a tremendous competitor and a difference maker. For the past four years in our program, he always played his best in the biggest games. No stage was too big, he always delivered.”

**Jaxon Smolik**

6-1, 205

Quarterback

Van Meter, Iowa/Dowling Catholic

*Picked Penn State over Cal, Missouri and Tulane*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Played for head coach Tom Wilson at Dowling Catholic High School...Served one year as a team captain...As a senior, led Dowling Catholic to a 10-2 record and an appearance in the state semifinals...Helped the Maroon to a 7-4 record and a quarterfinals appearance in 2021...Guided Dowling Catholic to an 8-2 mark and a semifinals appearance as a sophomore...Earned 5A all-state honors as a senior...Was selected all-conference as a senior...Collected Academic all-state honors...In 2022, completed 64 percent of his passes for 1,967 yards and 19 touchdowns...As a junior, completed 65 percent of his passes for 959 yards and nine touchdowns...Threw for 794 yards and six touchdowns, while completing 57-of-96 passes, as a sophomore...Rated a consensus three-star prospect...Ranked as the No. 24 quarterback in the class and No. 6 prospect in Iowa by Rivals...Ranked as the No. 29 quarterback and No. 8 prospect in Iowa by ESPN...Rated as the No. 33 quarterback and the No. 10 prospect in Iowa by 247Sports...Tabbed as the No. 36 quarterback and No. 9 player in Iowa by On3...Also played baseball, as a first baseman and pitcher, at Dowling Catholic.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Jaxon James Smolik...Son of Mark and Jaime Smolik...Has a brother, Cameron, and three sisters, Shae, Sidney and Alexandra...Father, Mark, played football at South Dakota...Brother, Cameron, played football at Dordt University...Hobbies include fishing and hunting...Undecided on a major.

**Dowling Catholic Head Coach Tom Wilson:** “Jaxon Smolik is a young man that loves football and works to improve at his craft. Jaxon has gone through adversity by losing his junior year due to injury. He was relentless in his pursuit to come back better than ever. Jaxon can make every throw and moves around better than some give him credit for. He has a great feel in the pocket and buys time with his feet. Jaxon will come to Penn State eager to learn from those around him and will do whatever he can to contribute to the success of the program.”

**Carmelo Taylor**

5-11, 160

Wide Receiver

Roanoke, Va./Patrick Henry

*Picked Penn State over Maryland, South Carolina, Virginia Tech and West Virginia*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Lettered two years at Patrick Henry High School for head coach Alan Fiddler...Played one year at Cave Spring High School...Served as a team captain at Patrick Henry...Led Patrick Henry to a 9-3 record as a senior...Helped the Patriots to an 8-4 record as a junior...Was named team MVP twice...Earned all-region and first-team all-conference honors as a receiver...As a senior, recorded 47 receptions for 943 yards and 17 touchdowns...As a junior, collected 44 catches for 858 yards and 15 touchdowns...As a sophomore, notched 30 receptions for 325 yards and nine touchdowns...As a freshman, tallied 30 rushing touchdowns and eight passing touchdowns...Rated as a four-star prospect by 247Sports and ESPN and a three-star prospect by On3 and Rivals...Rated as the No. 202 overall prospect in the class, No. 26 wide receiver and No. 7 player in Virginia by 247Sports...Ranked as the No. 289 overall prospect, No. 33 wide receiver and No. 5 prospect in Virginia by ESPN...Tabbed as the No. 62 wide receiver and No. 11 prospect in Virginia by On3...Rated as the No. 14 player in Virginia by Rivals...Competed in track...Was the 5A state champion in the 100m (10.56) and 200m (21.34).

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Carmelo D. Taylor...Son of Christopher Taylor and Alisha Hairston...Has three brothers, Cameron Hairston, Jalen Hairston, Jaquan Rivers, and three sisters, Londyn Hairston, Jayda Taylor and Nylah Taylor...Uncle, Shannon Taylor, played football at Virginia (1996-99)...Hobbies include playing video games...Undecided on a major.

**Patrick Henry Head Coach Alan Fiddler:** "Carmelo is a big-time talent that has next-level speed and outstanding athletic ability. He's had a big impact on his teammates by being a guy that goes out and shows it by working and practicing hard and always being ready to play."

**Zion Tracy**

5-11, 175

Defensive Back

Hempstead, N.Y./St. Thomas More (Conn.)

*Picked Penn State over Rutgers, Syracuse, Temple and UConn*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Played for head coach Ernest Anderson at St. Thomas More School...Also played at Long Island Lutheran High School...Helped Long Island Lutheran to a 7-1 record in 2021 and an 8-0 record in 2019...As a senior, recorded 500 receiving yards and 12 touchdowns, while picking off three passes...As a junior, scored four touchdowns in a shortened season due to COVID-19...Tallied 220 yards and four touchdowns as a sophomore and 300 yards and eight touchdowns as a freshman...Rated a four-star prospect by On3 and a three-star prospect by 247Sports, ESPN and Rivals...Ranked as the No. 200 overall prospect in the class, the No. 23 cornerback and No. 1 player in Connecticut by On3...Tabbed as the No. 5 player in Connecticut by Rivals...Rated as the No. 61 cornerback in the class and No. 4 prospect in Connecticut by 247Sports...Also played basketball at Long Island Lutheran, earning team MVP honors.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Zion K. Tracy...Son of Zaire and Katrina Tracy...Has a brother, BJ, and two sisters, Kamaria and Kailania...Hobbies include playing video games and working out...Intends to major in business management.

**St. Thomas More Head Coach Ernest Anderson:** “Zion Tracy is electric—the kid is lightning in a bottle. He is the first power five kid that I've ever seen that can literally be power five on both sides of the ball. He could play defensive back or he could play wide receiver and be really, really dominant at either one. His time with us was fantastic. He's a great young man. He comes from a great family and he has a great foundation. He came in here with a goal. He wanted to be the best student-athlete he could be. He wanted to grow academically, he wanted to grow athletically, he wanted to grow socially, and he accomplished all of his goals. He was a great teammate, he was great in the dorms. He was somebody who did things the right way. Never cut any corners. And his potential is through the roof. They got a really, really, special one with Zion.”

**Cam Wallace**

5-9, 175

Running Back

Mount Vernon, Ga./Montgomery County

*Picked Penn State over East Carolina, Georgia Tech, Indiana, Michigan State and West Virginia*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Played for head coach Don Vandygriff at Montgomery County High School...Served two years as a team captain...Helped Montgomery County to a 6-4 record as a senior...Guided the Eagles to a 9-2 mark as a junior...Led Montgomery County to a 5-3 record as a sophomore...Earned first-team all-state honors as a running back...Named Region Class A Player of the Year...Invited to the Football Hotbed Senior Bowl...Gained 1,300 rushing yards and tallied 15 touchdowns as a senior...Collected 800 rushing yards and seven touchdowns as a junior...Rushed for 400 yards and three touchdowns as a sophomore...Rated a consensus three-star prospect...Ranked as the No. 43 running back and No. 67 prospect in Georgia by On3...Tabbed as the No. 101 athlete and No. 99 player in Georgia by 247Sports...Competed in track, finishing as the state runner-up in 200m.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Cameron Malik Wallace...Son of Toya Wallace, and Taneka and Erwin Coglin Jr...Has two brothers, Azayvion Wallace and Lonnie Lanier, and a sister, Lyrice Lanier...Cousin, Jack Fields, played football at Boise State (2012-15)...Cousin, Josh Fields, played football at UTEP (2017-21)...Hobbies include playing video games, swimming and working out...Intends to major in business management.

**Montgomery County head coach Don Vandygriff:** "Cam has been a dynamic player for us on both sides. He's a team leader with great character on and off the field. He has great qualities, not only in football but off the field and academically. His teammates really follow his lead. We're proud to have him representing Montgomery County, his community and his family."

**Elliot Washington II**

5-11, 190

Defensive Back

Venice, Fla./Venice

*Picked Penn State over Alabama, Maryland, Michigan State and Ohio State*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Played for head coach John Peacock at Venice High School...Served one year as a team captain...In 2022, led Venice to a 9-4 record, a district title, a regional championship and an appearance in the Class 4S state finals...As a junior, led Venice to a 14-1 record and Class 8A district, regional and state championships...Helped Venice to a 10-4 record as a sophomore...Aided the Indians to a 9-5 record and a regional title...Invited to the Under Armour All-America Game...Earned first-team all-area honors in 2020 and 2021...As a senior, tallied 36 tackles, eight pass breakups and four interceptions to go with 86 rushing yards, 73 receiving yards, 602 kick return yards and 127 punt return yards...Totaled 58 tackles, eight pass breakups and four interceptions as a junior...Secured 51 tackles, five pass breakups and three interceptions as a sophomore...Posted 21 tackles, four pass breakups and an interception as a freshman...Rated a consensus four-star prospect...Recognized as the No. 52 overall prospect in the class, No. 5 safety and No. 13 prospect in Florida by ESPN...Rated as the No. 166 overall prospect, No. 12 safety and No. 40 prospect in Florida by 247Sports...Ranked as the No. 144 overall prospect, No. 16 cornerback and No. 30 player in Florida by On3...Tabbed as the No. 20 defensive back and No. 47 player in Florida by Rivals...Also competed in track, in the 100m and 4x100 relay...In 2021, finished third in the 100m (10.69), finished second in the 4x100 relay (41.35), breaking the school record at the state championship meet...Also holds the school record in the 4x200 relay (1:28.27).

**PERSONAL**

Full name is Elliot Washington II...Son of Elliot and Nikkie Washington...Has a sister, Brooke, and a brother, Brendan...Father, Elliot, played basketball at The University of Alabama (1991-93)...Hobbies include playing video games and spending time with friends...Intending to major in communications and pursue a future in real estate.

**J'ven Williams**

6-5, 290

Offensive Line

Reading, Pa./Wyomissing

*Picked Penn State over Michigan, Oklahoma, Rutgers, Tennessee and Virginia Tech*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Played for head coach Bob Wolfrum at Wyomissing High School...Led Wyomissing to a 13-1 record, a conference title and an appearance in the Class 3A state semifinals...Guided the Spartans to a 14-1 record, a district title and a conference title as a junior...Helped Wyomissing to a 12-1 mark and a district title as a sophomore...Invited to the Adidas All-American Bowl and Under Armour All-America Game...Was named all-state in Class 3A in 2021 and 2022...Was selected 2022 Lancaster Lebanon Conference Player of the Year...Earned All-Berks Lineman of the Year and small school Lineman of the Year awards...Collected two Lancaster Lebanon all-conference selections...Rated a five-star prospect by On3 and 247Sports and a four-star prospect by ESPN and Rivals...Recognized as the No. 6 overall prospect in the class, No. 1 interior offensive lineman and the top prospect in Pennsylvania by On3...Rated as the No. 5 guard and top prospect in PA by Rivals...Ranked as the No. 24 overall prospect, No. 4 offensive tackle and No. 1 prospect in Pennsylvania by 247Sports...Tabbed as the No. 56 overall prospect, No. 2 offensive guard and No. 1 prospect in Pennsylvania by ESPN...Also competed in track & field at Wyomissing...Holds school records in the discuss (189-9) and shotput (66-7), while winning two state championships and two district championships...Earned two all-state honors...Owns the PIAA 2A state record in shot put and the District 3 discus record.

**PERSONAL**

Full name is J'ven Alberto Williams...Son of Rushard Williams Sr. and Ivette Carrasquillo...Has two brothers, Rushard Williams Jr. and John Butler, and a sister, Janeesa Williams...Hobbies include playing video games...Intends to major in communications.

**Wyomissing Head Coach Bob Wolfrum:** "J'Ven's greatest strength is his footwork. He continually impresses people with how well he can move for his size."