

Tulane Football Announces December Newcomers

Dec 21, 2022

NEW ORLEANS – Tulane head coach Willie Fritz announced the Green Wave's 24 December newcomers in the Class of 2023 on Wednesday afternoon.

The group consists of 12 players from the state of Louisiana.

The Green Wave (11-2 overall), who is ranked no lower than 17th in all three major polls, will face USC, who ranks in the top 10, Monday, January 2 in the 87th Cotton Bowl Classic.

The nine-game win total improvement this year over last year is tied for the best-ever in a single season in FBS history along with Stanford (1940), Hawaii (1999) and Miami of Ohio (2010).

A complete list of today's newcomers is below.

Kevin Adams III, DB

5-11 180

Destrehan HS (LA)

Destrehan, LA

Prior to Tulane: Helped lead Destrehan to an undefeated state title in 2022, along with fellow Green Wave newcomers Landry Cannon and Jai Eugene, Jr. ... Named the Most Valuable Player of the state title game ... Played free safety and cornerback, where he picked off six passes in 2022 en route to first team all-district honors ... Also returned a kickoff for a TD as a junior and has blocked multiple punts throughout his career ... Ran the 100 meters in 10.7 seconds as a junior.

Dickson Agu, LB

6-2, 220

Dutchtown HS (LA)

Geismar, LA

Prior to Tulane: Two-time all-district selection, who posted 97 tackles, 15 tackles for loss, three sacks, three pass breakups and one interception as a senior ... Played middle linebacker at Dutchtown, where he was a team captain ... Caught the game winning TD to defeat East Ascension 30-27 ... Named New Orleans Saints Scholar Athlete of the Week on November 7 during his senior campaign ... Currently has a 4.4 GPA at Dutchtown.

Arnold Barnes III, RB

5-10, 210

Booker T. Washington HS (LA)

New Orleans, LA

Prior to Tulane: Nickname is "Duda" ... Ran for 1,722 yards and 22 touchdowns as a senior ... Posted 381 yards rushing and six total touchdowns in a 48-42 win over Ehret High School in September ... Ran for 202 yards and 2 TD on only 12 carries vs. St. Amant ... Also ran the 100 meters on the track and field team (11.2 seconds) and was a member of the 4 x 100 and 4 x 200-meter relay teams ... Plans to enroll in the spring.

Landry Cannon, OL

6-4, 330

Destrehan HS (LA)

Destrehan, LA

Prior to Tulane: Collected first team all-district honors and helped lead Destrehan to the 2022 state championship with fellow Green Wave newcomers Kevin Adams III and Jai Eugene, Jr. ... Played guard and tackle along the offensive line ... Also played defensive tackle for the Wildcats throughout their state playoff run ... Earned WGNO's Offensive Lineman of the Week award in October of 2022.

Trey Cornist, RB

6-0, 210

Winton Woods HS (OH)

Cincinnati, OH

Prior to Tulane: Three-time conference offensive player of the year ... Racked up all-state, all-district and all-conference honors twice ... Ran for 1,650 yards as a senior with 27 touchdowns on 180 carries (9.0 yards per rush) ... Helped lead Winton Woods to a 12-1 mark and a perfect 9-0 conference mark during his senior season.

Jai Eugene, Jr., DB

6-1, 185

Destrehan HS (LA)

Destrehan, LA

Prior to Tulane: Played cornerback and quarterback at Destrehan, helping lead the program to an undefeated state title in 2022, along with fellow Green Wave newcomers Kevin Adams III and Landry Cannon ... Scored the go-ahead touchdown, scrambling from his quarterback position during the state title victory ... District 7-5A Offensive MVP as a senior ... Named WGNO's Player of the Week on November 26, 2022 ... Also plays basketball.

Dontae Fleming, WR

6-1, 165

University of Louisiana (Transfer)

LaPlace, LA

Prior to Tulane: Caught 58 passes for 680 yards and six touchdowns in three seasons at

Louisiana ... Also averaged 24.5 yards on six kick returns and 25.5 yards on four punt returns ... Attended East St. John High School where he earned all-district honors twice, posting 34 catches for 645 yards and 11 TDs as a senior ... Also an all-district high school honoree in baseball.

Matthew Fobbs-White, Joker

6-3, 235

Neville HS (LA)

Monroe, LA

Prior to Tulane: Secured District 2-4A Defensive MVP honors as a senior after collecting 40 tackles, 19 sacks, three pass breakups, two forced fumbles and 25 hurries ... Helped lead Neville to eight wins and a District 2-4A district championship ... First team all-district selection, as well ... Earned the Northeast Delta Human Services Authority Impact Award for Week 12 after a 31-9 win over East Ascension, where he posted eight tackles, including three for loss with one sack and one hurry.

Noah Gardner, OL

6-6, 280

Lovejoy HS (TX)

Lucas, TX

Prior to Tulane: Received all-district honors during both his junior and senior seasons ... Played tackle and tight end at Lovejoy, where he currently has a 3.7 GPA ... Lovejoy posted eight wins in 2022 and scored over 35 points in eleven of its contests this season.

Jah'rie Garner, Joker

6-3, 230

St. Augustine HS (LA)

New Orleans, LA

Prior to Tulane: Posted six sacks and 10 tackles for loss as a senior ... Currently has a 3.2 GPA at St. Augustine, where he played both defensive end and outside linebacker ... Helped lead the Purple Knights to seven wins during the 2022 season ... Runs the 40-yard dash in 4.7 seconds ... Posted a 10-foot standing broad jump at Tulane's camp last summer.

Josh Goines, TE

6-4, 220

Reedy HS (TX)

Frisco, TX

Prior to Tulane: Helped lead Reedy to a 12-1 season and an 8-0 Region II District 6 mark ... Collected first-team all-district honors ... Had 18 catches for 194 yards and two touchdowns as a junior ... Also played defensive end and ran track (200 meters) at Reedy ... Received Dave

Campbell's Texas Football Impactful Leadership Award during Week 6 of the 2022 season...Ran a 4.56 40-yard dash at Tulane's camp last summer.

Tyler Grubbs, LB
6-1, 223
Louisiana Tech (Transfer)
New Orleans, LA

Prior to Tulane: Three-time All-Conference USA and two-time All-Louisiana linebacker for the Bulldogs ... Also earned Freshman All-America honors from the Football Writers Association of America, ESPN and 247Sports.com ... Posted 244 career tackles (113 solo) at Louisiana Tech, including 24 tackles for loss, four sacks, seven passed defended, three forced fumbles and one fumble recovery ... Attended Holy Cross High School, where he was a three-time Catholic League all-district selection... HS Teammate of current Tulane OL Josh Remetich.

AJ Hampton, DB
6-0, 180
Northwestern University (Transfer)
Warren, AR

Prior to Tulane: Honorable Mention All-Big 10 in 2021... Played in 44 career games (19 starts) for the Wildcats and has 105 tackles (82 solo) with three tackles for loss, two interceptions, 21 passes defended, three fumble recoveries and one forced fumble ... Posted 113 career tackles (two-time team captain) as an All-American at Paul R. Wharton High School with 18 pass breakups and seven interceptions on defense with nine touchdowns on the offensive side of the ball ... Also ran track for three seasons and played one year of baseball in high school... Ran a 47.53 400m dash as a senior in high school.

Jahiem Johnson, DB
6-0, 180
Hammond HS (LA)
Hammond, LA

Prior to Tulane: Played wide receiver, quarterback and cornerback at Hammond ... Recorded a 99-yard interception return for touchdown against Northshore as a senior ... As a junior, he had a game against Mandeville where he posted four different types of touchdowns (rushing, receiving, kick return, interception return) ... Also is a standout player on the basketball court ... Ran a 4.5 40-yard dash and posted a standing broad jump of 10'3" this summer at Tulane's prospect camp.

Jean Claude Joseph III, LB
6-0, 215
Eastside HS (GA)
Covington, GA

Prior to Tulane: Middle linebacker who was a 5A Region 8 first team honoree as a senior ... Second team all-region acclaim as a junior, when he posted 87 tackles and four sacks ... Tallied

72 stops as a sophomore ... Named Newton County Player of the Week for the fifth week of the 2022 season ... Also competes in track and field at Eastside, where he currently holds a 3.7 GPA ... Plans to enroll this spring.

Darian Mensah, QB
6-3, 215
Saint Joseph HS (CA)
San Luis Obispo, CA

Prior to Tulane: Named Mountain League Player of the Year after posting a completion percentage of 69 percent with 2,256 yards though the air and 25 total touchdowns on the season ... Helped lead the team to a 10-2 record in 2022 and a 7-0 mark in the Mountain League ... Also played basketball at Saint Joseph ... Currently boasts at 3.5 GPA at Saint Joseph ... His twin sister Grace has signed to play soccer at Oregon.

Joshua Moore, DB
6-2, 190
Clear Falls HS (TX)
League City, TX

Prior to Tulane: Played both wide receiver and cornerback at Clear Falls ... Team's Defensive Co-MVP and unanimous first team all-district pick this season ... Recorded two interceptions and two pass breakups the team's first playoff game this season ... During his junior campaign, he posted 13 catches for 190 yards and a touchdown ... Has a 6'7" wingspan ... Also plays basketball, averaging 10.7 points, 5.2 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.9 steals as a junior.

Lajuan Owens, OL
6-4, 335
Fossil Ridge HS (TX)
Keller, TX

Prior to Tulane: Also played defensive tackle at Fossil Ridge ... First team all-district honors as a senior and second team recognition during his junior campaign ... Also competed in track and field for Fossil Ridge, where he threw the shot put and discus.

Darion Reed, OL
6-7, 315
Chisholm Trail HS (TX)
Fort Worth, TX

Prior to Tulane: Was named a first team all-district offensive tackle honoree following the 2022 season ... Boasted honorable mention all-district recognition as a junior ... Currently has a 3.4 GPA at Chisholm Trail, where he captured academic all-district honors ... The 2022 season was only his second year of playing organized football.

Darius Swanson, Safety

6-3, 200

University of Nebraska – Kearney (Transfer)

Aurora, CO

Prior to Tulane: Two-time Division II All-American ... Amassed 190 tackles (121 solo) during his career, including 7.5 tackles for loss, one sack, seven interceptions, 16 pass breakups and one forced fumble at Nebraska-Kearney over the course of his career ... Led a unit that held seven opponents to less than 19 points in 2022 ... Posted 66 tackles (39 solo) with eight pass breakups, three interceptions and two forced fumbles as a senior ... Team captain for the Lopes ... Two-time all-conference honoree at Cherokee Trail High School.

Hunter Summers, ATH

6-3, 175

Prosper HS (TX)

Prosper, TX

Prior to Tulane: Played both wide receiver and cornerback at Prosper ... Recorded 56 receptions for 1,001 yards and 17 touchdowns during his senior season ... Defensively, he had one interception and a forced fumble ... Earned District 5 – 6A first team honors at wide receiver in 2022, helping to lead Prosper to a berth in the 6A semifinal round.

AJ Thomas, Joker

6-3, 230

Zachary HS (LA)

Zachary, LA

Prior to Tulane: Played defensive end at Zachary, where he was a first team all-state selection and claimed second team all-district honors ... Helped lead Zachary to 10 wins this season ... Recorded 53 tackles, including 18 for loss, five sacks, 12 quarterback hurries and two pass breakups to earn first team all-district and all-state recognition as a junior ... Named Special Forces Player of the Week on October 23 of his senior campaign.

Makai Williams, LB

6-1, 220

Cibolo Steele HS (TX)

Cibolo, TX

Prior to Tulane: School's all-time leading tackler ... Named to All-American National Combine Team ... First team all-state honoree... Played middle linebacker and outside linebacker at Cibolo Steele ... Collected 148 tackles as a junior with seven tackles for loss and three forced

fumbles ... During his sophomore season, he had 96 stops with 10 TFLs, three forced fumbles and one fumble recovery ... Threw the shot put and discus as a member of the track team, where he was a 6A area qualifier... Ran a 4.52 40-yard dash and broad jumped 10'1" last summer.

Cameron Wire, OL

6-6, 295

Louisiana State University (Transfer)

Gonzales, LA

Prior to Tulane: Played in 28 games with the Tigers at both the guard and tackle positions, with 11 starts ... Attended East Ascension High School ... Played in the 2017 Offense-Defense All-American Bowl in New Orleans ... Also played defensive end on the gridiron and was a member of the basketball team in high school... Played little league basketball with current Green Wave OL Prince Pines.