

2023 NATIONAL SIGNING DAY - February Edition

WELCOME TO CHARLOTTE 49ERS 2023 SIGNING DAY CENTRAL - FEBRUARY EDITION

Head coach Biff Poggi and his staff have had tremendous success during the 2022-23 recruiting cycle. Following a successful December signing period, the 49ers announced the latest signees on 2023 National Signing Day.

"We've totally reshaped the roster. We're a lot bigger. We're much more experienced. I'm really looking forward to people coming out and taking a look themselves at the Spring Game," Poggi said. "It's got to be a complete meritocracy. They've got to get out there and compete. I will just tell you this -- we didn't bring anybody in that we thought didn't have a really good chance to change the trajectory of our program."



2023 CHARLOTTE 49ERS RECRUITING CLASS

Player	Height	Weight	Position	Hometown	Previous School(s)
February 2023					
Brian Bates Jr.	6-0	225	LB	Centreville, Md.	DeMatha Catholic
Tymere Burton	6-3	225	LB	Stone Mountain, Ga.	South Gwinnett
Greg Hudgins III	6-4	285	DL	Columbia, Md.	St. John's / Purdue
Jake Larson	5-11	174	K	Baltimore, Md.	Saint Frances / Richmond
Duane Thomas Jr.	5-8	170	WR	Hollywood, Fla.	Chaminade-Madonna
December 2022					
Andrew Adair	6-3	320	OL	Warrenton, Va.	Kettle Run / Liberty / James Madison
Al-Ma'hi Ali	5-11	175	DB	Philadelphia, Pa.	Saint Frances / St. Francis Univ.
Emmanuel Balogun	6-7	267	DL	Oshogba, Nigeria	Fork Union / Marshall
Johnathan Bass	6-4	290	OL	Acworth, Ga.	Kell / Georgia State
Carson Black	6-2	186	QB	Fort Mill, S.C.	Nation Ford
Jaden Bradley	6-4	190	WR	Fayetteville, N.C.	DeMatha Catholic (Md.) / Pittsburgh
TJ Butler	6-3	215	Edge	Baltimore, Md.	Saint Frances / Maryland

Demon Clowney	6-3	231	Edge	Baltimore, Md.	Saint Frances / Ole Miss
Colin Coates	6-2	300	DL	Baltimore, Md.	Saint Frances
Ephraim Deese	6-3	221	DE	Marshville, N.C.	Forest Hills
Keoni Denny	6-0	205	LB	Riverview, Fla.	Sumner
Lacota Dippre	6-4	244	TE	Jermyn, Pa.	Lakeland
Osita Ekwonu	6-1	235	DL	Charlotte, N.C.	Providence Day / Notre Dame
Katron Evans	6-3	327	DL	Norfolk, Va.	Saint Frances / Jackson State
Dontez Fagan	5-11	175	DB	Oklahoma City, Okla.	Millwood / Central Oklahoma / Independence C.C.
Austin Fontaine	6-3	283	OL	Waldorf, Md.	DeMatha Catholic / Maryland
Grant Gonya	6-1	203	P	Hudson, Ohio	Hudson / Youngstown State / John Carroll
Ja'khi Green	6-5	310	OL	Palmer Park, Md.	Saint Frances / Maryland
Jai'Lun Hampton	6-9	325	OL	Detroit, Mich.	North Farmington / Iowa Western C.C.
Jack Hestera	6-0	180	WR	Cedar Park, Texas	Cedar Park / Colorado
Kameron Howard	6-0	190	DB	Fort Washington, Md.	Saint Frances
Terron Kellman	5-10	187	RB	Clinton, Md.	Saint Frances / Northern Illinois
Dominick Kelley	6-3	285	OL	Waxhaw, N.C.	Cuthbertson
Tequan Latimore	6-2	190	DB	Milledgeville, Ga.	Cairo / Georgia Military
Breon Noel	5-11	190	DB	Baltimore, Md.	Saint Frances / St. Francis Univ.
Malik Puryear	6-6	250	DL	Greensboro, N.C.	High Point Christian / Wake Forest / Coahoma C.C.
Durell Robinson	6-1	190	RB	Baltimore, Md.	Saint Frances
Zion Shockley	6-3	250	DT	Berlin, Md.	Saint Frances / Maryland
Micah Sumpter	6-2	292	OL	Knightdale, N.C.	Knightdale
Tyler Thomas	6-3	310	OL	Baltimore, Md.	Saint Frances / Kent State / Grambling
Jonathan Wallace	6-9	325	OL	Claymont, Dela.	Saint Frances / Holmes C.C.
P.J. Wilkins	6-4	360	OL	Baltimore, Md.	Saint Frances

2023 CHARLOTTE 49ERS RECRUITING CLASS BIO INFORMATION

FEBRUARY 2023 SIGNEES:

Brian Bates Jr.

6-0; 225; LB

Centreville, Va. / DeMatha Catholic



at DeMatha Catholic: Helped DeMatha to a 10-2 record and an unbeaten 4-0 mark in the Washington Catholic - Capital Region ... All-WCAC linebacker ... DeMatha was ranked as the no. 3 team in Maryland ... reached the WCAC-Capital Championship game, played at the Naval Academy ... attended Centreville H.S. in Clifton, Va. as a junior before transferring back to DeMatha to complete his high school career.

Tymere Burton

6-3; 225; LB

Stone Mountain, Ga. / South Gwinnett



At South Gwinnett: First team All-Region 4-A-A-A-A-A-A-A ... named honorable mention all-county ... helped South Gwinnett to the first round of the 2021 GHSA A-A-A-A-A-A-A state playoffs ... collected 37 tackles and 2.0 sacks as a senior ... added an interception and two fumble recoveries.

Greg Hudgins III

6-4; 285; DL

Columbia, Md. / St. John's / Purdue



At Purdue: Spent three seasons with the Boilermakers, including the 2020 season impacted by the pandemic ... played in six games ... played in two games in 2020, 2021 and 2022 ... had one tackle, this past year.

At St. John's: Four-star recruit by Rivals ... rated him the No. 15 strong side defensive end in the 2020 recruiting class ... three-star by ESPN.com and 247sports ... 247Sports ranked him as the No. 19 weak-side defensive end ... ESPN.com had him 68th, nationally, among defensive ends ... St. John's went 7-5 and with a perfect 4-0 mark in the Washington Catholic Capital Region ... advanced to championship of Maryland's WCAC - Capital playoffs.

Jake Larson

5-11; 174; K

Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances / Richmond



At Richmond: Played four seasons at Richmond, including the pandemic-impacted Spring 2021 campaign ... 36 games played in his career, there ... connected on 41-of-57 FGA (.719 pct.) with a long of 50 in his first season (2019) ... hit 87-of-90 PAT's, including a perfect 19-of-19 in 2022.

At Saint Frances: Five-star recruit by Kohl's Kicking Camp ... ranked as the no. 1 kicker in Maryland ... First team all-Metro as a kicker in 2018, hitting 6-of-6 FGA and 60-of-61 PATs ... also all-Metro as a kicker in 2017 ... earned Second Team All-Metro as a punter in his junior year ... helped nationally-ranked Saint Frances to a 13-0 record and a MIAA State Championship.

Duane Thomas Jr.

5-8; 170; WR

Hollywood, Fla. / Chaminade-Madonna



At Chaminade-Madonna: Accomplished receiver for one of the best programs in Florida ... Lions were ranked fourth in the state in 2022; fifth in 2021 ... 2022 FHSAA 1M State Champions ... went 13-1 with an unbeaten record in the regular season and state playoffs ... posted a 48-14 win over Clearwater Central Catholic in state title game ... lone loss came in post-season national game to Bishop Gorman of Las Vegas ... 2021 FHSAA 3A State Champions ... went 21-1 and topped Berkeley Prep, 21-0, in state title game ... had 606 receiving yards with six touchdowns as a senior... added 287 rushing yards and four TDs ... totaled 10 TDs ... averaged 46.6 receiving yards/game and 17.3 yards per catch as a senior ... over 1,300 yards from scrimmage as a junior: 771 receiving yards with 575 rushing yards ... had seven TDs (4 rec.; 3 rush) ... averaged 59.3 receiving yards per game and 14.4 yards per catch in 2021 ... two-star recruit by Rivals.

DECEMBER 2022 SIGNEES:

"A really exciting day for us," Poggi said of the Dec. 21 signing day. "Lots of long days getting to today. I'm really pleased with how the staff has recruited. The response we've received has been amazing. We want to build our football team around stopping the run on defense, running the football on offense and great special teams. I'm really very, very proud of the staff and and I'm very proud of the kids that have decided to come be with us."

Andrew Adair

6-3; 320; OL

Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances; Kettle Run / Liberty / James Madison



At James Madison: Played in two games during the 2022 season.

At Liberty: True freshman played in nine games with the Flames in 2021 ... saw action in the Lending Tree Bowl win ... Dean's List.

In high school: Three-star recruit (247Sports Composite) ... transferred to Saint Frances but DNP due to canceled season ... he led Kettle Run to VHSL 4A State Playoffs ... also lettered in wrestling and baseball ... honor roll student ... athletic family includes his mother, Cherie, who swam at Miami (Ohio) and father Brian, who played football at North Carolina.

Al-Ma'Hi Ali

5-11; 175; DB

Philadelphia, Pa. / Saint Frances / Old Dominion / St. Francis Univ.



At St. Francis Univ.: Played in 10 games in 2022 with 38 tackles, 2.5 TFL and 0.5 sacks ... was second on the team with two interceptions and five pass break-ups ... add two blocked kicks.

At Saint Frances: Three-star recruit by 247Sports Composite; ESPN.com ... also attended Martin Luther King H.S. in Philadelphia.

Emmanuel Balogun

6-7; 267; DL

Oshogba, Nigeria / Fork Union / Marshall



At Marshall: Played 16 games over two seasons at Marshall... had 11 tackles with 0.5 sacks in eight games in 2022 ... had nine tackles in eight games in 2021.

In High School: Three-star recruit according to 247Sports ... attended Fork Union and Saint Frances Academy (Baltimore, Md.) ... also played basketball.

Johnathan Bass

6-4; 290; OL

Acworth, Ga. / Kell / Georgia State



At Georgia State: Spent five seasons with the Panthers ... enjoyed string of 22 consecutive starts ... started every game in 2021 for the FBS' eighth-ranked rushing offense (226.4 rushing yards/game) ... started all but one game in 2020 as Panthers averaged a school-record 33.3 points per game 424.3 yards of total offense ... played in five games with two starts in 2022.

at Kell H.S.: Honorable mention all-state in Class AAAAA by Recruit Georgia ... All-Metro/Cobb County by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution ... offensive line unit earned the "Line of Distinction" Award from Georgia High School Football Daily after paving the way for 365 yards rushing vs. Lassiter and again after a 516-yard offensive effort – 326 rushing, 190 passing – in a 58-46 victory over Paulding County ... Chosen to play in the Cobb Senior Bowl ... Two-time all-county and three-time all-region selection in his career ... Helped team win three region titles.

Carson Black

6-2; 186; QB

Fort Mill, S.C. / Nation Ford



At Nation Ford H.S.: Three-star recruit according to On3 Consensus, 247 Sports Composite, ESPN.com and Rivals ... ranked as the 14th-best QB in the nation and No. 2 in North Carolina in 2020 following freshman year at Sun Valley ... pro-style QB threw for over 4500 yards in his three-year career at Nation Ford ... averaged 286.1 passing yards/game ... threw for 49 touchdowns ... had 2771 passing yards as a junior with 27 TD ... 1704 yards and 21 TDs as a sophomore ... spent freshman season at Sun Valley High ... ranked third in Union County in passing yards in 2019 ... named to UnionCounty Dream Team.

Jaden Bradley

6-4; 190; WR

Fayetteville, N.C. / DeMatha Catholic (Md.) / Pittsburgh



At Pittsburgh: Played 18 games in two seasons with the Panthers ... 10 catches for 130 yards in six games as a sophomore ... had two TD catches, both came vs. Georgia Tech ... nine catches for 129 yards as a freshman in 2021 ... had a season-high 45 receiving yards vs. UMass.

At DeMatha Catholic (Md.): Three-star prospect according to 247 Sports Composite and On3 ... ranked the No. 21 overall prospect in Maryland by Rivals ... selected to play in the Big 33 Football Classic (Pennsylvania vs. Maryland) ... played QB before making switch to wide receiver as a junior.

Terrance TJ Butler

6-3; 220; Edge

Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances / Maryland



At Maryland: Played in three games for the Terrapins in 2021 ... registered one tackles in New Era Pinstripe bowl vs. Virginia Tech ... did not see action in 2022.

At Saint Frances: Three-star prospect by 247Sports Composite, Rivals and ESPN.com ... 25th-ranked player in Maryland ... 52nd-ranked defensive end in the nation ... Two-time National Champion Two-time MIAA Champion.

Demon Clowney

6-3; 231; Edge

Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances / Ole Miss



At Ole Miss: Played in 11 games over three seasons at Ole Miss ... had four tackles, 2.0 TFL and 1.0 sacks in three games in 2022 two TFL and sack came at Georgia Tech ... six games played in 2021 with six tackles and 1.0 sack ... had two tackles, two QBh and his first career sack vs. Austin Peay ...played two games as a true freshman in 2020 with two tackles

At Saint Frances: Consensus four-star recruit ... ranked No. 201 in ESPN 300 and 206 by Rivals ... No. 9 weakside defensive end by Rivals, No. 10 by 247Sports ... Second-team all-Metro as a senior ... SFA enjoyed undefeated seasons and MIAA A Conference Championships as a sophomore and junior ... cousin on NFL star Jadeveon Clowney.

Colin Coates

6-2; 300; DT

Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances



At Saint Frances: Three-star prospect according to ESPN.com/Scout ... Defensive /Line MVP at the 1 Percent Showaces in Dec., 2021 ... led SFA to a 9-1 record against a national schedule in 2022 and an 8-1 mark in 2021.

Ephraim Deese

6-3; 221; DE

Marshville, N.C. / Forest Hills



At Forest Hills: A three-year varsity player ... collected 103 tackles, 19.0 TFL and 8.5 sacks in his career ... had 40 tackles with 8.0 TFL and 6.0 sacks as a senior ... led Forest Hills to a 9-2 mark and a berth in the NCHSAA 2A state playoffs ... had 43 tackles and 11.0 TFL as a junior to help the Yellow Jackets to a 7-5 mark.

Keoni Denny
6-0; 225; LB
Riverview, Fla. / Sumner



At Sumner H.S.: Three-star recruit by On3 Consensus ... A three-year varsity player ... recorded 147 tackles, 26.0 TFL and 9.0 sacks in his career ... added 4 interceptions, 11 fumble recoveries and nine forced fumbles ... had 65 tackles as a senior as Sumner went 8-3 ... added 7.0 TFL and 2.0 sacks ... 48 tackles as a junior with a high of 10.0 TFL with 2.0 sacks ... had 34 tackles, 9.0 TFL and 5.0 sacks as a sophomore.

Lacota Dippre
6-4; 244; TE
Jermyn, Pa. / Lakeland



At Lakeland H.S.: All-State standout as a tight end and defensive end ... two-time All-District 2 ... was named two-time District 2 Defensive Player of the Year ... a three-year starter who led Lakeland to 12-1 record, an unbeaten regular-season and a District 2 Class 3A Championship ... led Lackawanna Football Conference with 62 receptions, 920 receiving yards and 12 touchdowns in 2022 ... had 113 career receptions for 1494 yards, which is the all-time record for LFC Tight Ends ... put up 149 tackles, 49 TFL and 20.5 sacks in his career ... 2022 Time-Tribune Defensive Player of the Year after collecting 62 tackles with 22 TFL and 11 sacks ... added six QBh and three INTs.

Osita Ekwonu

6-1; 235; DL

Charlotte, N.C. / Providence Day / Notre Dame



At Notre Dame: Spent four seasons with the Fighting Irish, playing in 15 games ... Played three games with two tackles in 2022 ... did not appear in a game in 2021 ... nine games played in 2020 with three tackles and a blocked punt ... blocked punt was returned for a TD ... three games played, primarily on special teams in 2019.

At Providence Day: Four-star recruit by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN.com ... 2018 North Carolina Independent School Athletic Association Second Team All-State and First Team All-Conference ... ESPN.com ranked him 173 overall, nationally, and No. 5 in North Carolina ... 247Sports ranked him No. 215 overall in the nation, No. 13 at ILB and No. 7 in North Carolina.

Katron Evans

6-4; 320; DT

Norfolk, Va. / Saint Frances / Jackson State



At Jackson State: Played in eight games over his two-year career ...had 14 tackles (three solo) with 2.5 TFL and 1.5 sacks as a true freshman ... played in one game as a sophomore ... had a high of five tackles with 1.0 TFL and 0.5 sacks vs.Tennessee State in 2021.

At Saint Frances: Consensus four-star defensive line prospect by 247Sports.com, Rivals.com, and ESPN.com ... ranked as the No. 4 player in Maryland and No. 10 defensive tackle in the country by Rivals.com and the No. 7 player in Maryland and No. 13 defensive tackle in the country by 247Sports Composite ... An ESPN 300 recruit ... did not play in 2020 after Maryland high school season was canceled due to the pandemic ... Panthers went 11-1 in 2019 and were ranked No. 4 in the nation by MaxPreps ... allowed just 4.8 points per game ... Played at Norfolk Granby prior to SFA ... originally signed with Tennessee.

Dontez Fagan

5-11; 175; DB

Oklahoma City, Okla. / Millwood / Central Oklahoma / Independence C.C.



At Charlotte: Officially announced his signing on his birthday, Dec. 23.

At Independence C.C.: Played in seven games with 14.0 tackles and 2.0 TFL in 2022 ... pulled in one INT and had a PBU... two-star junior college recruit by 247Sports ... first team all-conference in KJCCC.

At Central Oklahoma: Spent three years at UCO ... Played in 11 games in 2021 with 14 tackles (10 solo) ... had two interceptions and two PBU ... Redshirt season in 2019 ... Broncos did not compete in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Austin Fontaine

6-3; 283; OL

Waldorf, Md. / DeMatha Catholic / Maryland



At Maryland: Spent five seasons with the Terrapins ... played on the offensive line and at tight end at Maryland before moving back to defensive line in 2022 ... played in all 12 games with nine tackles and a fumble recovery ... made six starts in 12 games played as a red-shirt freshman in 2019 ... appeared in nine games as a tight end in 2021 ... played in two game in 2018 to preserve redshirt season.

In High School: Consensus four-star recruit ... a 2017 Under Armour All-American ... ranked 147th overall in the ESPN300 ... member of the Rivals250 ... ranked as the No. 7 defensive tackle in the country (247Sports Composite) ... rated the fourth overall player in the state of Maryland by ESPN ... Second Team All-Metro as a senior.

Grant Gonya

6-2; 195; P

Hudson, Ohio / Hudson / Youngstown State / John Carroll



At John Carroll: Played two seasons ... named 2022 Second Team All-America ... Second Team All-Region by D3Football.com ... two-time first team All-Ohio Athletic Conference ... named OAC Special Teams Player of the Week,twice ... and D3 Football Special Teams Player of the Week three times ... longest punt of 82 yards vs. Mount Union ... led OAC with 10 field goals made in 2021 with a long of 47 yards (longest in OAC, 2021) ...

At Youngstown State: Spent three seasons at YSU ... played in two games to preserve redshirt status as a freshman in 2018 ... served as placekicker ... appeared in two games in 2019 as a kicker.

At Hudson H.S.: First-team Division II All-Ohio selection as a placekicker ... set the Ohio record for career field goals made with 44 breaking the old mark of 40 held by Danny Milligan of Cincinnati St. Xavier ... also owns a state mark by making 17 consecutive field goals ... finished career ranking second in state history in points by a kicker with 286 (just 19 shy of record) ... was a first-team Division II All-Northeast Inland District pick ... made 44-of-55

career FG attempts and 154-of-160 PAT kicks ... a first-team all-state selection as a sophomore in 2015 ... Hudson was 11-3 in 2015 advancing to the Division II semifinals ... as a junior was an honorable-mention Division II All-Northeast Inland District selection.

Ja'khi Green

6-5; 310; OL

Palmer Park, Md. / Saint Frances / Maryland



At Maryland: Three seasons at Maryland from 2020-22 ... played in two games in each of his three seasons.

At Saint Frances Academy: Three-star recruit by 247Sports, ESPN.com, Rivals and On3 Consensus ... Ranked No. 41 overall in Maryland by 247 Sports ... Went 44-3 in high school at St. Frances Academy.

Jai'Lun Hampton

6-9; 325; OL

Detroit, Mich. / North Farmington / Iowa Western C.C.



At Charlotte: Officially announced his signing on Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

At Iowa Western: 2022: Rated as a three-star and one of the top-100 juco players in the country according to 247Sports ... played in 11 games at Offensive Tackle Iowa Western Community College... helped Reivers to a 10-2 record and a National Championship ... blocked for an offense the averaged 354.8 yards per game, with 153.9 passing yards per game and 200.8 rushing yards per game ... helped lead Iowa Western to 2,410 total rushing yards, which ranked second overall in the junior college ranks ... Iowa Western averaged the 11th highest points per game average nationally. **2021:** Redshirted.

In High School: Was a two-year starter on the offensive line at North Farmington HS ... played for the team in 2019 when it appeared in the Division 2 Michigan State playoffs and finished with a record of 10-1 ... a catalyst to North Farmington's undefeated regular season in 2019 ... started along the offensive line and keyed North Farmington to a 6-4 record in 2020.

Jack Hestera

6-0; 180; WR

Cedar Park, Texas / Cedar Park / Colorado



At Colorado: Two seasons at Colorado ... played in 11 games in 2022 ... had 14 receptions for 157 yards ... best performance came on the road against USC, where he had three receptions for 39 yards with a long of 26 yards ... Redshirted during 2021 season... Walked-on to the team in 2021.

In High School: Played two years of varsity football at Ralston Valley High School before transferring to Cedar Park for his senior season ... helped lead Cedar Park to a 13-1 record and a berth in the Texas 5A State Championship game ... 53 receptions for 1,061 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior ... first team All-District 11 5A ... set multiple receiving records at Cedar Park, including TD catches in a season and consecutive games with a TD catch (seven) ... fourth in career receiving touchdowns and seventh in career receptions and receiving yards, despite only playing one year at the school ... also played lacrosse and track & field in high school.

Kameron Howard

6-0; 190; DB

Fort Washington, Md. / Saint Frances



At Saint Frances Academy: Three-star recruit by ESPN.com ... led SFA to a 9-1 record against a national schedule in 2022 ... SFA was ranked 8th in the nation by MaxPreps, their fifth straight season in the nation's Top 10

... Panthers went 8-1 in 2021 ... opened the 2021 season ranked 8th in MaxPreps Top 25 national rankings ... a 34-24 win over IMG Academy in the season finale lifted the Panthers to No. 5 in the MaxPreps Top 25.

Terron Kellman

5-10; 187; RB

Clinton, Md. / Saint Frances / Northern Illinois



At Northern Illinois: Red shirt season as a freshmen in 2022.

At Saint Frances Academy: Three-star prospect by 247Sports, 247Sports Composite and ESPN.com ... helped SFA to an 8-1 mark in 2021 ... were ranked No. 5 after 34-24 victory over IMG Academy in season finale ... Panthers outscored opponents 332-100 ... also played on Panthers' unbeaten, 15-0 team as a sophomore in 2019 ... SFA did not compete in 2020 due to pandemic.

Dominick Kelley

6-5; 285; OL

Waxhaw, N.C. / Cuthbertson



At Cuthbertson H.S.: Three-star recruit by On3 and On3 Consensus ... two-star prospect by Rivals ... First team All-Conference ... participated in the Queen City Senior Bowl ... invited to the Blue-Grey All-American Bowl ... Cuthbertson reached Sweet 16 of the 2021 NCHSAA 4A playoffs ... three-year varsity player.

Tequan Latimore

6-2; 190; DB

Milledgeville, Ga. / Cairo / Georgia Military



At Georgia Military: Led GMC with five interceptions and nine PBUs in 2022 ... had 15 tackles with 1.5 TFL ... had nine tackles with 1.0 TFL in 2021 ... Played in 19 games over the last two seasons.

At Cairo: Pulled in three INTs for the Syrupmakers ... Cairo went 8-3 in 2019 and advanced to the AAAA GHSA playoffs.

Breon Noel

5-11; 190; DB

Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances / St. Francis Univ.



At St. Francis Univ: Spent three seasons with the Red Flash ... played 10 games as a freshman in 2021 ... 2020 season was canceled due to the pandemic ... did not see action in 2022 ... recorded 17 tackles with 2.0 TFL as a freshman ... added four PBUs and a FF ... earned an NEC Rookie of the Week Award ... had a high of seven tackles with a TFL in his debut at Eastern Michigan ... had three tackles, a TFL and forced fumble against Sacred Heart.

At Saint Frances Academy: Key for the Panthers' nationally-recognized program ... SFA was ranked No. 3 in the nation following an 11-1 season in 2019 ... top-ranked team in Maryland regularly played a national schedule.

Malik Puryear

6-6; 250; DL

Greensboro, N.C. / High Point Christian Academy / Wake Forest / Coahoma C.C.



At Coahoma C.C.: Three-star junior college recruit according to On3 ... strong defensive career with 12.0 TFL and 6.5 sacks over his two years ... played in seven games in 2022 with 12 tackles, including 5.0 TFL ... recorded 2.5 sacks and one QB hurry ... registered 25 tackles in eight games in 2021 with 7.0 TFL and 4.0 sacks ... began collegiate career at Wake Forest in 2020.

At High Point Christian Academy: Second team all-state and first team all-conference as a senior by the North Carolina Independent Schools Association ... Helped Cougars to an 8-4 record and the second round of the state playoffs ... Had seven sacks, 21 hurries and 15 tackles for loss as a senior ... 8.5 sacks, 20 QB hurries and 20 TFL as a junior.

Durell Robinson

6-1; 190; RB

Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances



At Charlotte: Officially announced his signing at the Under Armour Next All-America Game on ESPN2, Jan. 3.

At Saint Frances Academy: Four-star recruit by ESPN.com/Scout ... three-star recruit by 247 Sports Composite, On3 and Rivals ... 2023 Under Armour All-American Game ... ESPN.com ranked him 23rd by position and 8th in state of Maryland ... ranked as the 12th best running back in Maryland and the 51st in the country by 247Sports ... Rivals lists him as the 33rd-best back in the country ... averaged 116.4 rushing yards as a senior in 2022 ... had a 62-yard TD run as SFA defeated no. 3 IMG Academy, 34-24, to catapult Panthers to a no. 5 national ranking ... chose the 49ers over Georgia Tech, Indiana, Maryland and Rutgers.

Zion Shockley

6-3; 250; DT

Berlin, Md. / Saint Frances / Maryland



At Maryland: Spent two seasons at Maryland ... played three games as a true freshman in 2021 ... had one tackle: vs. Virginia Tech in the New Era Pinstripe Bowl ... did not see action in 2022.

At Saint Frances Academy: Three-star prospect according to 247Sports Composite, Rivals and ESPN.com ... Invited to play in the Blue-Grey All-American Bowl ... starred for two-time MIAA Champion Panthers ... nationally-recognized SFA was ranked in the nation's top 10 ... was the 20th-ranked player in Maryland.

Micah Sumpter

6-2; 292; OL

Knightdale, N.C. / Knightdale



At Knightdale: Four-year varsity star ... three-star recruit according to On3 and Rivals ... led Knightdale to the 2022 NCHSAA 4A playoffs.

Tyler Thomas

6-3; 310; OL

Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances / Kent State / Grambling



At Grambling: Played 19 games in two years at Grambling ... starting center in 2022 ... named preseason Third Team All-SWAC by Phil Steele ... played one game as a freshman at Kent State.

Jonathan Wallace

6-3; 315; DT

Claymont, Dela. / Saint Frances / Holmes C.C.



At Holmes C.C.: Registered 21 tackles with 3.5 TFL and 1.0 sack as a freshman in 2021 ... added a blocked kick.

At Saint Frances Academy: Three-star recruit according to 247Sports ... played 2020 season at Milford Academy ... recorded 15 tackles, 3.0 TFL, 2.0 sacks and 1 fumble recovery.

PJ Wilkins

6-7; 335; OL

Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances



At Saint Frances Academy: Three-star recruit according to ESPN.com, On3 and ON3 Consensus ... originally committed to Georgia Tech ... led SFA to a 9-1 record against a national schedule in 2022 and an 8-1 mark in 2021.



Dec. 21, 2022
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Poggi Goes Big In Early Signing Period; Nets 28 to Start First Recruiting Class

Charlotte 49ers first-year head football coach Biff Poggi, who joined the 49ers program in November, wasted no time in amassing a huge signee class during December's early signing period.

"A really exciting day for us," said Poggi. "Lots of long days getting to today. I'm really pleased with how the staff has recruited. The response we've received has been amazing. I will say this -- coaches don't win games, players do, so you've got to have players. We want to build our football team around stopping the run on defense, running the football on offense and great special teams. I'm really very, very proud of the staff and and I'm very proud of the kids that have decided to come be with us."

DECEMBER 2022 SIGNEES

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Keoni Denny	6-0	225	LB	Riverview, Fla. / Sumner
Lacota Dippre	6-4	244	TE	Jermyn, Pa. / Lakeland
Osita Ekwonu	6-0	235	DL	Charlotte, N.C. / Providence Day / Notre Dame
Katron Evans	6-4	320	DT	Norfolk, Va. / Saint Frances / Jackson State
Austin Fontaine	6-3	283	OL	Waldorf, Md. / DeMatha Catholic / Maryland
Grant Gonya	6-2	195	P	Hudson, Ohio / Hudson / Youngstown State / John Carroll
Jack Hestera	6-0	180	WR	Cedar Park, Texas / Cedar Park / Colorado
Kameron Howard	6-0	190	DB	Fort Washington, Md. / Saint Frances
Terron Kellman	5-10	187	RB	Clinton, Md. / Saint Frances / Northern Illinois
Dominick Kelley	6-5	285	OL	Waxhaw, N.C. / Cuthbertson
Tequan Latimore	6-2	190	DB	Milledgeville, Ga. / Cairo / Georgia Military
Breon Noel	5-11	190	DB	Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances / St. Francis Univ.
Malik Puryear	6-6	250	DL	Greensboro, N.C. / High Point Christian / Wake Forest / Coahoma
Zion Shockley	6-3	250	DT	Berlin, Md. / Saint Frances / Maryland
Micah Sumpter	6-2	292	OL	Knightdale, N.C. / Knightdale
Tyler Thomas	6-5	320	OL	Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances / Kent State / Grambling State
Jonathan Wallace	6-3	315	DT	Claymont, Dela. / Saint Frances / Holmes C.C.
PJ Wilkins	6-7	335	OL	Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances



2023 CHARLOTTE 49ERS RECRUITING CLASS (DECEMEBER ANNOUNCEMENTS)

Andrew Adair

6-3; 320; OL

Warrenton, Va. / Saint Frances; Kettle Run / Liberty / James Madison

At James Madison: Played in two games during the 2022 season.

At Liberty: True freshman played in nine games with the Flames in 2021 ... saw action in the Lending Tree Bowl win ... Dean's List.

In High School: Three-star recruit (247Sports Composite) ... transferred to Saint Frances but DNP do to cancelled season ... heled Kettle Run to VHSL 4A State Playoffs ... also lettered in wrestling and baseball ... honor roll student ... athletic family includes his mother, Cherie, who swam at Miami (Ohio) and father Brian, who played football at North Carolina.

Al-Ma'Hi Ali

5-11; 175; DB

Philadelphia, Pa. / Saint Frances / Old Dominion / St. Francis Univ.

At St. Francis Univ.: Played in 10 games in 2022 with 38 tackles, 2.5 TFL and 0.5 sacks ... was second on the team with two interceptions and five pass break-ups ... added two blocked kicks.

At Saint Frances: Three-star recruit by 247Sports Composite; ESPN.com ... also attended Martin Luther King H.S. in Philadelphia.

Emmanuel Balogun

6-7; 267; DL

Oshogba, Nigeria / Fork Union / Marshall

At Marshall: Played 16 games over two seasons at Marshall... had 11 tackles with 0.5 sacks in eight games in 2022 ... had nine tackles in eight games in 2021.

In high school: Three-star recruit according to 247Sports ... attended Fork Union and Saint Frances Academy (Baltimore, Md.) ... also played basketball.

Johnathan Bass

6-4; 290; OL

Acworth, Ga. / Kell / Georgia State

At Georgia State: Spent five seasons with the Panthers ... enjoyed string of 22 consecutive starts ... started every game in 2021 for the FBS' eighth-ranked rushing offense (226.4 rushing yards/game) ... started all but one game in 2020 as Panthers averaged a school-record 33.3 points per game 424.3 yards of total offense ... played in five games with two starts in 2022.

at Kell H.S.: Honorable mention all-state in Class AAAAA by Recruit Georgia ... All-Metro/Cobb County by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution ... offensive line unit earned the "Line of Distinction" Award from Georgia High School Football Daily after paving the way for 365 yards rushing vs. Lassiter and again after a 516-yard offensive effort – 326 rushing, 190 passing – in a 58-46 victory over Paulding County ... Chosen to play in the Cobb Senior Bowl ... Two-time all-county and three-time all-region selection in his career ... Helped team win three region titles.

NINER NEWS

Carson Black

6-2; 186; QB

Fort Mill, S.C. / Nation Ford

At Nation Ford H.S.: Three-star recruit according to On3 Consensus, 247 Sports Composite, ESPN.com and Rivals ... ranked as the 14th-best QB in the nation and No. 2 in North Carolina in 2020 following freshman year at Sun Valley ... pro-style QB threw for over 4500 yards in his three-year career at Nation Ford ... averaged 286.1 passing yards/game ... threw for 49 touchdowns ... had 2771 passing yards as a junior with 27 TD ... 1704 yards and 21 TDs as a sophomore ... spent freshman season at Sun Valley High ... ranked third in Union County in passing yards in 2019 ... named to UnionCounty Dream Team.

Jaden Bradley

6-4; 190; WR

Fayetteville, N.C. / DeMatha Catholic (Md.) / Pittsburgh

At Pittsburgh: Played 18 games in two seasons with the Panthers ... 10 catches for 130 yards in six games as a sophomore ... had two TD catches, both came vs. Georgia Tech ... nine catches for 129 yards as a freshman in 2021 ... had a season-high 45 receiving yards vs. UMass.

At DeMatha Catholic (Md.): Three-star prospect according to 247 Sports Composite and On3 ... ranked the No. 21 overall prospect in Maryland by Rivals ... selected to play in the Big 33 Football Classic (Pennsylvania vs. Maryland) ... played QB before making switch to wide receiver as a junior.

Terrance "TJ" Butler

6-3; 220; Edge

Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances / Maryland

At Maryland: Played in three games for the Terrapins in 2021 ... registered one tackle in New Era Pinstripe bowl vs. Virginia Tech ... did not see action in 2022.

At Saint Frances: Three-star prospect by 247Sports Composite, Rivals and ESPN.com ... 25th-ranked player in Maryland ... 52nd-ranked defensive end in the nation ... two-time National Champion ... two-time MIAA Champion.

Demon Clowney

6-4; 250; Edge

Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances / Ole Miss

At Ole Miss: Played in 11 games over three seasons at Ole Miss ... had four tackles, 2.0 TFL and 1.0 sacks in three games in 2022 two TFL and sack came at Georgia Tech ... six games played in 2021 with six tackles and 1.0 sack ... had two tackles, two QBh and his first career sack vs. Austin Peay ...played two games as a true freshman in 2020 with two tackles

At Saint Frances: Consensus four-star recruit ... ranked No. 201 in ESPN 300 and 206 by Rivals ... No. 9 weakside defensive end by Rivals, No. 10 by 247Sports ... Second-team all-Metro as a senior ... SFA enjoyed undefeated seasons and MIAA A Conference Championships as a sophomore and junior ... cousin on NFL star Jadeveon Clowney.

Colin Coates

6-2; 300; DT

Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances

At Saint Frances: Three-star prospect according to ESPN.com/Scout ... Defensive /Line MVP at the 1 Percent Showcases in Dec., 2021 ... led SFA to a 9-1 record against a national schedule in 2022 and an 8-1 mark in 2021.

NINER NEWS

Ephraim Deese

6-3; 221; DE

Marshville, N.C. / Forest Hills

At Forest Hills: A three-year varsity player ... collected 103 tackles, 19.0 TFL and 8.5 sacks in his career ... had 40 tackles with 8.0 TFL and 6.0 sacks as a senior ... led Forest Hills to a 9-2 mark and a berth in the NCHSAA 2A state playoffs ... had 43 tackles and 11.0 TFL as a junior to help the Yellow Jackets to a 7-5 mark.

Keoni Denny

6-0; 225; LB

Riverview, Fla. / Sumner

At Sumner H.S.: Three-star recruit by On3 Consensus ... a three-year varsity player ... recorded 147 tackles, 26.0 TFL and 9.0 sacks in his career ... added 4 interceptions, 11 fumble recoveries and nine forced fumbles ... had 65 tackles as a senior as Sumner went 8-3 ... added 7.0 TFL and 2.0 sacks ... 48 tackles as a junior with a high of 10.0 TFL with 2.0 sacks ... had 34 tackles, 9.0 TFL and 5.0 sacks as a sophomore.

Lacota Dippre

6-4; 244; TE

Jermyn, Pa. / Lakeland

At Lakeland H.S.: All-State standout as a tight end and defensive end ... two-time All-District 2 ... was named two-time District 2 Defensive Player of the Year ... a three-year starter who led Lakeland to 12-1 record, an unbeaten regular-season and a District 2 Class 3A Championship ... led Lackawanna Football Conference with 62 receptions, 920 receiving yards and 12 touchdowns in 2022 ... had 113 career receptions for 1494 yards, which is the all-time record for LFC Tight Ends ... put up 149 tackles, 49 TFL and 20.5 sacks in his career ... 2022 Time-Tribune Defensive Player of the Year after collecting 62 tackles with 22 TFL and 11 sacks ... added six QBh and three INTs.

Osita Ekwonu

6-0; 235; DL

Charlotte, N.C. / Providence Day / Notre Dame

At Notre Dame: Spent four seasons with the Fighting Irish, playing in 15 games ... Played three games with two tackles in 2022 ... did not appear in a game in 2021 ... nine games played in 2020 with three tackles and a blocked punt ... blocked punt was returned for a TD ... three games played, primarily on special teams in 2019.

At Providence Day: Four-star recruit by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN.com ... 2018 North Carolina Independent School Athletic Association Second Team All-State and First Team All-Conference ... ESPN.com ranked him 173 overall, nationally, and No. 5 in North Carolina ... 247Sports ranked him No. 215 overall in the nation, No. 13 at ILB and No. 7 in North Carolina

NINER NEWS

Katron Evans

6-4; 320; DT

Norfolk, Va. / Saint Frances / Jackson State

At Jackson State: Played in eight games over his two-year career ...had 14 tackles (three solo) with 2.5 TFL and 1.5 sacks as a true freshman ... played in one game as a sophomore ... had a high of five tackles with 1.0 TFL and 0.5 sacks vs.Tennessee State in 2021.

At Saint Frances: Consensus four-star defensive line prospect by 247Sports.com, Rivals.com, and ESPN.com ... ranked as the No. 4 player in Maryland and No. 10 defensive tackle in the country by Rivals.com and the No. 7 player in Maryland and No. 13 defensive tackle in the country by 247Sports Composite ... An ESPN 300 recruit ... did not play in 2020 after Maryland high school season was cancelled due to the pandemic ... Panthers went 11-1 in 2019 and were ranked No. 4 in the nation by MaxPreps ... allowed just 4.8 points per game ... Played at Norfolk Granby prior to SFA ... originally signed with Tennessee.

Austin Fontaine

6-3; 283; OL

Waldorf, Md. / DeMatha Catholic / Maryland

At Maryland: Spent five seasons with the Terrapins ... played on the offensive line and at tight end at Maryland before moving back to defensive line in 2022 ... played in all 12 games with nine tackles and a fumble recovery ... made six starts in 12 games played as a red-shirt freshman in 2019 ... appeared in nine games as a tight end in 2021 ... played in two games in 2018 to preserve redshirt season.

In High School: Consensus four-star recruit ... a 2017 Under Armour All-American ... ranked 147th overall in the ESPN300 ... member of the Rivals250 ... ranked as the No. 7 defensive tackle in the country (247Sports Composite) ... rated the fourth overall player in the state of Maryland by ESPN ... Second Team All-Metro as a senior.

Grant Gonya

6-2; 195; P

Hudson, Ohio / Hudson / Youngstown State / John Carroll

At John Carroll: Played two seasons ... named 2022 Second Team All-America ... Second Team All-Region by D3Football.com ... two-time first team All-Ohio Athletic Conference ... named OAC Special Teams Player of the Week,twice ... and D3 Football SpecialTeams Player of the Week three times ... longest punt of 82 yards vs. Mount Union ... led OAC with 10 field goals made in 2021 with a long of 47 yards (longest in OAC, 2021) ...

At Youngstown State: Spent three seasons at YSU ... played in two games to preserve redshirt status as a freshman in 2018 ... served as placekicker ... appeared in two games in 2019 as a kicker.

At Hudson H.S.: First-team Division II All-Ohio selection as a placekicker ... set the Ohio record for career field goals made with 44 breaking the old mark of 40 held by Danny Milligan of Cincinnati St. Xavier ... also owns a state mark by making 17 consecutive field goals ... finished career ranking second in state history in points by a kicker with 286 (just 19 shy of record) ... was a first-team Division II All-Northeast Inland District pick ... made 44-of-55 career FG attempts and 154-of-160 PAT kicks ... a first-team all-state selection as a sophomore in 2015 ... Hudson was 11-3 in 2015 advancing to the Division II semifinals ... as a junior was an honorable-mention Division II All-Northeast Inland District selection.

NINER NEWS

Jack Hestera

6-0; 180; WR

Cedar Park, Texas / Cedar Park / Colorado

At Colorado: Two seasons at Colorado ... played in 11 games in 2022 ... had 14 receptions for 157 yards ... best performance came on the road against USC, where he had three receptions for 39 yards with a long of 26 yards ... Redshirted during 2021 season... Walked-on to the team in 2021.

In high school: Played two years of varsity football at Ralston Valley High School before transferring to Cedar Park for his senior season ... helped lead Cedar Park to a 13-1 record and a berth in the Texas 5A State Championship game ... 53 receptions for 1,061 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior ... first team All-District 11 5A ... set multiple receiving records at Cedar Park, including TD catches in a season and consecutive games with a TD catch (seven) ... fourth in career receiving touchdowns and seventh in career receptions and receiving yards, despite only playing one year at the school ... also played lacrosse and track & field in high school.

Kameron Howard

6-0; 190; DB

Fort Washington, Md. / Saint Frances

At Saint Frances Academy: Three-star recruit by ESPN.com ... led SFA to a 9-1 record against a national schedule in 2022 ... SFA was ranked 8th in the nation by MaxPreps, their fifth straight season in the nation's Top 10 ... Panthers went 8-1 in 2021 ... opened the 2021 season ranked 8th in MaxPreps Top 25 national rankings ... a 34-24 win over IMG Academy in the season finale lifted the Panthers to No. 5 in the MaxPreps Top 25.

Terron Kellman

5-10; 187; RB

Clinton, Md. / Saint Frances / Northern Illinois

At Northern Illinois: Red shirt season as a freshman in 2022.

At Saint Frances Academy: Three-star prospect by 247Sports, 247Sports Composite and ESPN.com ... helped SFA to an 8-1 mark in 2021 ... were ranked No. 5 after 34-24 victory over IMG Academy in season finale ... Panthers outscored opponents 332-100 ... also played on Panthers' unbeaten, 15-0 team as a sophomore in 2019 ... SFA did not compete in 2020 due to pandemic.

Dominick Kelley

6-5; 285; OL

Waxhaw, N.C. / Cuthbertson

At Cuthbertson H.S.: Three-star recruit by On3 and On3 Consensus ... two-star prospect by Rivals ... First team All-Conference ... participated in the Queen City Senior Bowl ... invited to the Blue-Grey All-American Bowl ... Cuthbertson reached Sweet 16 of the 2021 NCHSAA 4A playoffs ... three-year varsity player.

Tequan Latimore

6-2; 190; DB

Milledgeville, Ga. / Cairo / Georgia Military

At Georgia Military: Led GMC with five interceptions and nine PBUs in 2022 ... had 15 tackles with 1.5 TFL ... had nine tackles with 1.0 TFL in 2021 ... Played in 19 games over the last two seasons.

At Cairo: Pulled in three INTs for the Syrupmakers ... Cairo went 8-3 in 2019 and advanced to the AAAA GHSA playoffs.

NINER NEWS

Breon Noel

5-11; 190; DB

Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances / St. Francis Univ.

At St. Francis Univ: Spent three seasons with the Red Flash ... played 10 games as a freshman in 2021 ... 2020 season was cancelled due to the pandemic ... did not see action in 2022 ... recorded 17 tackles with 2.0 TFL as a freshman ... added four PBU's and a FF ... earned an NEC Rookie of the Week Award ... had a high of seven tackles with a TFL in his debut at Eastern Michigan ... had three tackles, a TFL and forced fumble against Sacred Heart.

At Saint Frances Academy: Key for the Panthers' nationally-recognized program ... SFA was ranked No. 3 in the nation following an 11-1 season in 2019 ... top-ranked team in Maryland regularly played a national schedule.

Malik Puryear

6-6; 250; DL

Greensboro, N.C. / High Point Christian Academy / Wake Forest / Coahoma C.C.

At Coahoma C.C.: Three-star junior college recruit according to On3 ... strong defensive career with 12.0 TFL and 6.5 sacks over his two years ... played in seven games in 2022 with 12 tackles, including 5.0 TFL ... recorded 2.5 sacks and one QB hurry ... registered 25 tackles in eight games in 2021 with 7.0 TFL and 4.0 sacks ... began collegiate career at Wake Forest in 2020.

At High Point Christian Academy: Second team all-state and first team all-conference as a senior by the North Carolina Independent Schools Association ... Helped Cougars to an 8-4 record and the second round of the state playoffs ... Had seven sacks, 21 hurries and 15 tackles for loss as a senior ... 8.5 sacks, 20 QB hurries and 20 TFL as a junior.

Zion Shockley

6-3; 250; DT

Berlin, Md. / Saint Frances / Maryland

At Maryland: Spent two seasons at Maryland ... played three games as a true freshman in 2021 ... had one tackle: vs. Virginia Tech in the New Era Pinstripe Bowl ... did not see action in 2022.

At Saint Frances Academy: Three-star prospect according to 247Sports Composite, Rivals and ESPN.com ... Invited to play in the Blue-Grey All-American Bowl ... starred for two-time MIAA Champion Panthers ... nationally-recognized SFA was ranked in the nation's top 10 ... was the 20th-ranked player in Maryland.

Micah Sumpter

6-2; 292; OL

Knightdale, N.C. / Knightdale

At Knightdale: Four-year varsity star ... three-star recruit according to On3 and Rivals ... led Knightdale to the 2022 NCHSAA 4A playoffs.

Tyler Thomas

6-5; 320; OL

Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances / Kent State / Grambling State

At Grambling State: Played 19 games in two years at Grambling ... starting center in 2022 ... named preseason Third Team All-SWAC by Phil Steele ... played one game as a freshman at Kent State.



Jonathan Wallace

6-3; 315; DT

Claymont, Dela. / Saint Frances / Holmes C.C.

At Holmes C.C.: Registered 21 tackles with 3.5 TFL and 1.0 sack as a freshman in 2021 ... added a blocked kick.

At Saint Frances Academy: Three-star recruit according to 247Sports ... played 2020 season at Milford Academy ... recorded 15 tackles, 3.0 TFL, 2.0 sacks and 1 fumble recovery.

PJ Wilkins

6-7; 335; OL

Baltimore, Md. / Saint Frances

At Saint Frances Academy: Three-star recruit according to ESPN.com, On3 and ON3 Consensus ... originally committed to Georgia Tech ... led SFA to a 9-1 record against a national schedule in 2022 and an 8-1 mark in 2021.