

UB Football Announces Initial 2023 Signing Class - UPDATED

- Following more signings, below is the updated signing class (as of Feb. 1, 2023)

BUFFALO, NY- University at Buffalo football head coach Maurice Linguist announced the initial signees for the 2023 recruiting class on the first day of the National Signing Period on Wednesday. The updated 29-member signing class consists of 19 offensive players and 10 defensive players.

The class is comprised of five tight ends, four offensive linemen, four wide receivers, four quarterbacks, three running backs, three defensive ends, two linebackers, two safeties, a cornerback, a defensive tackle and an athlete. The newest class comes to UB from 11 different states and Canada, including New York (6), Georgia (4), Florida (3), Mississippi (3), Michigan (2), Canada (2), Ohio (2), California (2), Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Virginia.

"We love the guys that we have signed," Linguist said. "Across the board, we have a lot of length and speed. But, most importantly, we have guys that want to come here and win championships with us."

The updated members of the 2023 signing class:

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Joe Andreessen*	LB	6-1	232	Depew, NY/Lancaster HS/Bryant
Nick Beans*	OL	6-4	315	Akron, OH/Manchester HS/Notre Dame College
Trevor Brock*	OL	6-6	305	St. Louis, MO/Affton HS/Iowa Western CC
Messiah Burch	ATH	5-10	165	Staten Island, NY/Monsignor Farrell HS
Zion Carter	TE	6-6	265	Odessa, FL/Berkeley Prep/Dartmouth
Dion Crawford*	LB	6-1	225	Suwanee, GA/Collins Hill HS
Mason Crumbie*	QB	6-2	190	Hopewell, VA/Hopewell HS
Ryan Daly*	TE	6-6	235	Mountain View, CA/St. Francis HS/City College of SF
Jamarr Davis	OL	6-4	315	West Point, MS/West Point HS/NW Mississippi CC
Jamari Ford*	RB	5-6	164	Miami, FL/Northwestern HS
Jevell Fugerson	WR	6-1	182	Leesburg, GA/Lee County
Gunnar Gray*	QB	6-4	190	San Diego, CA/University City HS/San Diego Mesa College
D'Andre Greeley*	DB	6-0	180	Monroe, LA/Ballard HS/Colorado State

Darrell Harding Jr.	WR	6-4	222	Winter Garden, FL/West Orange HS/Duke
Demetrius Harris*	S	6-2	191	Muskegon, MI/Muskegon HS/Cornell
Dylan Kedzior*	RB	6-0	212	Claremore, OK/Claremore HS/Hutchinson CC
Jayden Lewis	S	6-0	190	Buffalo, NY/Bennett HS
Devonyal Lofton*	DE	6-2	240	Forest, MS/Forest HS/East Mississippi CC
Charles McCatherens*	CB	5-11	160	Kennesaw, GA/North Cobb HS
CJ Ogbonna*	QB	6-2	212	Marietta, GA/Wheeler HS/Southeast Missouri State
Jake Orlando*	TE	6-6	245	Buffalo, NY/Williamsville North HS/UMass
Junior Poyer	DT	6-2	315	Brampton, Ontario/Williston Northampton School
Nickolas Roy*	DE	6-3	213	Montreal, Quebec/Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School
Qua Sanders*	WR	6-2	200	Columbia, MS/West Lowndes HS/Jones College
Andrew Schnackenberg*	TE	6-5	230	Arkansas City, KS/Arkansas City/Coffeyville CC
Lamar Sperling	RB	5-10	180	Akron, OH/Archbishop Hoban HS
Jyaire Stevens	DE	6-4	237	Wappingers Falls, NY/Ketchum HS/Lafayette
Henry Tabansi	OL	6-5	285	Staten Island, NY/Moore Catholic HS
Richie Watts	QB	6-3	210	Rocklin, CA/Rocklin HS/College of San Mateo
Micah Woods*	WR	6-0	175	Pinson, AL/Pinson Valley HS/Hutchinson CC
Mitch Viviano*	TE	6-6	255	Oxford, MI/Oxford HS/Fork Union Military Academy

*Will enroll in January 2023

Mid-Year Enrollees

Joe Andreessen

Linebacker

Graduate

6-1, 232

Depew, NY/Lancaster HS/Bryant

Local product who is transferring back home after spending five seasons at Bryant...earned All-America honors after setting a school record with 116 tackles in 2022...finished his career at Bryan third in career tackles with 256...ranked eighth in FCS in 2022, averaging 10.5 tackles per game...was a two-year starter at Lancaster High School where he was a two-time All-State linebacker...had 118 tackles, 18 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks his senior season.

Nick Beans

Offensive Line

Senior

6-4, 310

Akron, OH/Manchester HS/Notre Dame College

Transfer from Notre Dame College where he was a three-year starter at center...a three-time All-MEC First Team selection...named All-Super Region 1 in 2022...part of a program that went 35-9 in his time there.

Trevor Brock

Offensive Line

Sophomore

6-6, 305

St. Louis, MO/Affton HS/Iowa Western

Offensive lineman transfer from Iowa Western where he was a first-team All-American...helped lead the Reivers to the 2022 National Championship...a graduate of Affton High School in St. Louis where he was an All-District selection.

Dion Crawford

Linebacker

Freshman

6-1, 225

Suwanee, GA/Collins Hill HS

A two-time first-team All-State linebacker from Collins Hill High School in Georgia...had 123 tackles, 23 tackles for loss and 11 sacks his senior season.

Mason Cumbie

Quarterback

Freshman

6-2, 190

Hopewell, VA/Hopewell

Dual-threat quarterback from Hopewell High School in Virginia...threw for 1,312 yards and 12 touchdowns as a senior...selected to play in the Big River Rivalry All-Star Game.

Ryan Daly

Tight End

Sophomore

6-6, 235

Mountain View, CA/St. Francis/City College of San Francisco

Tight end who transferred from City College of San Francisco after playing one season...in seven games at CCSF, he had 13 catches for 135 yards and four touchdowns...the Mountain View, CA native is a graduate of St. Francis High School.

Jamari Ford

Running Back

Freshman

6-1, 182

Miami, FL/Northwestern HS

Running back from Northwestern High School in Miami...rushed for 818 yards while averaging 7.1 yards per carry over his career...scored 10 rushing touchdowns and 18 total touchdowns...though his senior season was shortened due to an injury, still averaged 16.4 yards per carry over six games.

Gunnar Gray

Quarterback

Junior

6-4, 190

San Diego, CA/University City HS/San Diego Mesa College

Transfer from San Diego Mesa College where he spent two seasons as the starting quarterback...threw for 4,048 yards and 40 touchdowns over 18 games...named MVP of the Southern California Bowl after leading the Olympians to a 21-20 win over El Camino...a two-time first-team All-Conference selection...a graduate of University City High School in San Diego where he threw for 8,401 yards and 85 touchdowns over his career...had his best season as a junior when he threw for 3,758 yards and 39 TDs.

D'Andre Greeley

Defensive Back

Sophomore

6-0, 180

Monroe, LA/Ballard HS/Colorado State

Transfer from Colorado State where he spent one season...began his career at City College of San Francisco...tallied 10 interceptions including two pick-sixes and a three-interception game vs. Diablo Valley...named a CCCAA first-team All-American...helped lead CCSF to their eighth state football title with his 10th interception of the season and a junior college national championship with a 13-0 record and the top ranking.

Darrell Harding Jr.

Wide Receiver

Graduate

6-4, 222

Winter Garden, FL/West Orange HS/Duke

Graduate transfer from Duke where he spent four seasons...appeared in 42 games and made five starts for the Blue Devils...totaled 35 catches for 452 yards (12.9 ypc) over his career...a graduate of West Orange High School in Florida where he was a two-time All-Metro and All-Central Florida selection...named the Orlando Touchdown Club Player of the Year following his senior season...had 52 receptions for 1,067 yards and 15 touchdowns as a senior.

Demetrius Harris

Safety

Graduate

6-2, 191

Muskegon, MI/Muskegon HS/Cornell

Graduate transfer from Cornell where he played 30 games over three seasons... totaled 97 tackles, two interceptions, eight passes defended, two forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries in his time with the Big Red... was a team captain his senior season... had 43 tackles, an interception, four pass breakups, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery en route to earning All-Ivy League Honorable Mention honors in 2022... a native of Michigan, helped lead Muskegon High School to a state championship as a senior while playing safety, outside linebacker and wide receiver... played in the M.A.C. all-star game after making 28 tackles with six pass breakups and an interception during his senior season.

Dylan Kedzior

Running Back

Junior

6-0, 212

Claremore, OK/Claremore/Hutchinson CC

Transfer from Hutchinson Community College where he was a JUCO All-American as a running back... rushed for 1,090 yards and 11 touchdowns in 2022...had his best game against Butler when he rushed for 230 yards and three touchdowns...was named the KJCCC Offensive Player of the Year...a graduate of Claremore High School in Oklahoma when he was selected to play in the Oklahoma Football Coaches Association All-State Game...played primarily wide receiver for the Zebras and had 57 receptions for 937 yards and 14 touchdowns as a senior.

Devonyal Lofton

Defensive End

Junior

6-2, 240

Forest, MS/Forest HS/East Mississippi CC

Defensive end who transferred from East Mississippi Community College...over two seasons with the Lions, had 74 tackles, 15.5 tackles for loss, 11 sacks and four forced fumbles...a graduate of Forest High School where he was a 3A All-State Second Team selection.

Charles McCatherens

Cornerback

Freshman

5-11, 160

Kennesaw, GA/North Cobb HS

Cornerback from North Cobb High School in Georgia...was a first-team All-Region selection...had 70 tackles, five tackles for loss, three forced fumbles, an interception and eight pass breakups his senior season.

CJ Ogbonna
Quarterback
Graduate
6-2, 212

Marietta, GA/Wheeler HS/Southeast Missouri State

Dual-threat quarterback who is a graduate transfer from Southeast Missouri State... had his best season in 2021 when he started all 11 games and threw for 1,521 yards and 12 touchdowns and ran for 357 yards and another three scores... named to the Ohio Valley Conference All-Newcomer Team... began his career at Hutchinson Community College where he spent two seasons and helped the Blue Dragons to the NJCAA National Championship in 2020... a graduate of Wheeler High School in Georgia where he threw for 2,280 yards and 28 touchdowns as a senior.

Jake Orlando
Tight End
Redshirt Senior
6-6, 245

Buffalo, NY/Williamsville HS/Umass

Tight end who returns to Western New York after spending four seasons at UMass... appeared in 21 games over the last two seasons and had six receptions for 54 yards and a touchdown... a graduate of Williamsville North High School where he was a three-sport standout.

Nickolas Roy
Defensive End
Freshman
6-3, 213

Montreal, Quebec/Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School

From Canada but played linebacker and tight end at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School in Georgia...an All-Conference selection...as a senior had 48 tackles, two sacks and eight tackles for loss...as a tight end, had seven catches for 75 yards and a touchdown.

Qua Sanders
Wide Receiver
Junior
6-2, 200

Columbia, MS/West Lowndes/Jones College

Transfer from Jones College where he was an All-MACCC Honorable Mention selection...totaled 63 catches for 702 yards and five touchdowns in his time with the Bobcats...a graduate of West Lowndes High School in Mississippi...had 600 receiving yards and 499 rushing yards over 10 games his senior season.

Andrew Schnackenberg
Tight End
Junior
6-5, 230

Arkansas City, KS/Arkansas City/Coffeyville College

Tight end transfer from Coffeyville Community College...totaled 13 receptions for 144 yards and two touchdowns...averaged 11.1 yards per catch...graduate of Arkansas City High School in Kansas where he was an All-League selection.

Mitch Viviano**Tight End****Freshman****6-6, 255****Oxford, MI/Oxford HS/Fork Union Military Academy**

Tight end who prepped at Fork Union Military Academy...a versatile player, he was a standout defensive end at Fork Union where he had 11 sacks, five tackles for loss, three fumble recoveries, a safety and a defensive touchdown in helping the Blue Devils to a 7-2 record...a graduate of Oxford High School in Michigan where he was an All-League selection.

Micah Woods**Wide Receiver****Junior****6-0, 175****Pinson, AL/Pinson Valley HS/Hutchinson CC**

Transfer from Hutchinson Community College where he spent two seasons as a wide receiver and helped lead the Blue Dragons to a spot in the 2022 JUCO National Championship game...in two seasons at Hutchinson, had 47 receptions for 694 yards and eight touchdowns...a graduate of Pinson Valley High School in Alabama where he helped the Indians win the 2020 state championship.

Fall Enrollees**Messiah Burch****Athlete****Freshman****5-10, 165****Staten Island, NY/Monsignor Farrell HS**

All-league running back from Monsignor Farrell High School in Staten Island...as a junior, despite missing the first four games with an injury, still rushed for 986 yards and 15 touchdowns...named CHSFL All-League.

Zion Carter**Tight End****Graduate****6-6, 265****Odessa, FL/Berkeley Prep/Dartmouth**

Graduate transfer from Dartmouth where he spent four years as a tight end... helped lead the Big Green to a share of the Ivy League crown in 2021... appeared in all 10 games in 2022 and excelled as a blocking

tight end... a native of Florida, graduated from Berkeley Prep where he was a standout on the hardwood before turning to football as a senior... was a team captain.

Jamarr Davis

Offensive Line

Junior

6-4, 315

West Point, MS/West Point HS/NW Mississippi CC

Offensive lineman who transferred from Northwest Mississippi Community College...was an All-Region selection in 2022 and helped the Rangers finish third in the final JUCO rankings...a graduate of West Point High School in West Point, MS...represented Mississippi in the Mississippi/Alabama Football All-Star Classic following his senior campaign...also chosen 5A All-State first team offensive lineman by the Mississippi Association of Coaches after his senior season.

Jevell Fugerson

Wide Receiver

Freshman

6-1, 182

Leesburg, GA/Lee County HS

Wide receiver from Lee County High School in Georgia where he was a three-year starter...had 172 receptions for 2,566 yards and 24 touchdowns over his career.

Jayden Lewis

Safety

Freshman

6-0, 190

Buffalo, NY/Bennett HS

Local product who did a little bit of everything for Bennett High School in helping the Tigers win the 2022 State Championship...named the 2022 Buffalo News Co-Player of the Year...as a senior, rushed for 857 yards and 10 touchdowns and had 605 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns...on defense, had 64 tackles and seven interceptions.

Junior Poyser

Defensive Tackle

Freshman

6-2, 315

Brampton, ON/Williston Northhampton School

From Canada but played defensive tackle at Williston Northhampton School in Massachusetts...an All-NEPSAC selection.

Lamar Sperling

Running Back

Freshman

5-10, 180

Akron, OH/Archbishop Hoban HS

Running back from Archbishop Hoban High School where he was named 2022 Ohio Mr. Football...broke the single-season OHSAA record by rushing for 3,984 yards and 59 touchdowns his senior season...he rushed for 1,781 yards and 26 touchdowns on 192 carries in six playoff games alone...named Northeast Inland District Offensive Player of the Year... named Cleveland.com Offensive Player of the Year.

Jyaire Stevens**Defensive End****Graduate****6-4, 237****Wappingers Falls, NY/Ketcham HS/Lafayette**

Graduate Transfer defensive end from Lafayette where he played four seasons... As a senior, had 40 tackles, seven tackles for loss, 2.5 sacks, nine quarterback hurries, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery... a graduate of Ketcham High School where he earned *All-USA Today* First-Team defensive honors in New York State in 2018..named All-Section 1 as a senior while guiding the Indians to a 6-3 mark..played running back, wide receiver, linebacker, free safety and spent time at returner during his prep career.

Henry Tabansi**Offensive Line****Freshman****6-5, 285****Staten Island, NY/Moore Catholic HS**

Offensive lineman from Moore Catholic High School on Staten Island where he was a three-year starter... an All-State selection.

Richie Watts**Quarterback****Sophomore****6-3, 210****Rocklin, CA/Rocklin HS/College of San Mateo**

JUCO transfer quarterback who spent last season at the College of San Mateo... In his lone season with the Bulldogs, he threw for 2,148 yards, 21 touchdowns to only two interceptions while completing 63 percent of his passes... he helped lead San Mateo to a 12-1 record and a CCCAA Football state title... had his best performance against San Joaquin Delta, completing 16-of-18 passes for 269 yards and six touchdowns... a graduate of Rocklin High School in California where he was an All-Metro selection for the Thunder... threw for 1,893 yards and 10 touchdowns over his final two seasons, including a shortened four-game senior campaign due to COVID-19.