

# EASTERN ATHLETICS

MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICE

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Feb. 1, 2023

For Immediate Release

## EMU FOOTBALL ADDS NINE IN LATE SIGNING PERIOD

*Eastern has added 27 total student-athletes for the upcoming 2023 season*

**YPSILANTI, Mich. (EMUEagles.com)** — The Eastern Michigan University football program continued to add to the roster for the upcoming 2023 campaign, as the Eagles welcomed nine student-athletes to the football program Wednesday, Feb. 1, on National Signing Day. In total, EMU has added 27 fresh faces to the roster for the upcoming season after 18 players committed during the Early Signing Period in December.

The newest additions include three offensive linemen, two wide receivers, two tight end, a running back, and a defensive back. Six of the nine signees are already on campus and will be part of spring practice.

"We have started this semester with a bang – five transfers, four early enrollee freshmen, and four junior college players" said Head Coach **Chris Creighton**, who is set to enter his 10th season at the school. "They are all on campus and working hard with our strength staff. **Gabe Hoffmann, Chase Arrington, and Joey Mattord** signed today and will join us with the rest of the incoming freshmen in June. It is a great group. We are very excited."

Overall, the highly anticipated class is ranked second in the Mid-American Conference and 85th in the FBS by 247Sports. However, Eastern jumps to first when looking at the average points per signee at 82.78.

EMU's average is the best since the service began tracking recruiting classes in 2011. The Green and White's previous best recruiting class according to 247Sports came in 2018 and again in 2020 when it tied for sixth-best in the MAC.

Eastern Michigan returns to the gray turf for its first spring practice in mid-March. The session kicks off a string of 15 practice dates during a four-week period that culminates with the program's annual spring football game in April.

Eastern Michigan is flying high after winning the 2022 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl, 41-27, over San Jose State University, Dec. 20, in Boise, Idaho. It was the second postseason bowl game win for the program, and its first since it defeated the same SJSU team in the 1987 California Bowl in Fresno, Calif. The Eagles finished the season with nine wins, the second-most in program history, and in addition to the Potato Bowl championship, also earned a co-Mid-American Conference West Division title, and won the Michigan MAC trophy (three-way rivalry between EMU, CMU, and WMU) for the first time since 2012.

In the midst of one of the most successful runs in program history, Eastern Michigan has made a bowl game appearance five times since 2016, a number that ties for the most by any team in the Mid-American Conference. Additionally, the team has now played in bowl games in four consecutive seasons (excluding COVID-shortened 2020 campaign) for the first time in school history, while 13 EMU student-athletes, as of yesterday, became the first in program history to be part of four postseason bowl games in their respective careers.

The following is a roster and biographical sketches for each of EMU's newest additions.

**2023 Eastern Michigan University Football Last Signing Period Additions**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Pos</b>	<b>Ht</b>	<b>Wt</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Hometown-High School-Previous School</b>
Chase Arrington	DB	5-10	180	Fr.	Pittsburgh, Pa.-North Catholic
Gabe Hoffmann	TE	6-6	245	Fr.	Sammamish, Wash.-Eastside Catholic
C.J. Horton	TE	6-5	230	Jr.	Fort Scott, Kan.-Fort Scott-Kansas State-Iowa Western
Terry Lockett Jr.	WR	6-0	180	Jr.	Minneapolis, Minn.-Minnehaha Academy-Michigan State
Joey Mattord	RB	6-1	180	Fr.	Hartland Mich.-Hartland
Chris Mayo	OL	6-5	310	Jr.	Deptford, N.J.-The Peddie School-West Virginia
Owen Snively	OL	6-4	310	Jr.	Fremont, N.H.-Tilton-Colorado State
Dan Sunderman	OL	6-5	315	Gr.	Omaha, Neb.-Millard South-Central Missouri
Javon Swinton	WR	6-1	185	Jr.	Stafford, Va.-North Stafford-Indiana

**2023 Eastern Michigan University Football Early Signing Period Additions**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Pos</b>	<b>Ht</b>	<b>Wt</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Hometown-High School-Previous School</b>
Cedric Anton	TE	6-4	235	Fr.	Poppenhausen, Germany-Rabun Gap-Nacoochee (Ga.)
Messiah Blair	DE	6-7	225	Fr.	Detroit, Mich.-Martin Luther King
Deion Brown	RB	5-8	170	Fr.	Kirkwood, Mo.-Kirkwood
Caleb Dobbs	CB	6-0	155	Fr.	Cocoa, Fla.-Cocoa
Bryce Eliuk	LB	6-2	224	Fr.	Linden, Mich.-Linden
Luke Fletcher	DL	6-3	246	Fr.	Port Huron, Mich.-Port Huron Northern
Jaheim Jenkins	CB	6-2	160	So.	Bainbridge, Ga.-Bainbridge-Iowa Western
Kellen McDonough	OL	6-5	240	Fr.	Pittsburgh, Pa.-Woodland Hills
Jaivian Norman	CB	5-10	180	Fr.	Springfield, Ohio-Springfield
Ugo Nosike	DT	6-4	295	So.	South Holland, Ill.-Thornwood-Arizona-Butler C.C.
Terrance Saunders	OL	6-4	270	Fr.	Overland Park, Kan.-Blue Valley West
Malik Tullis	DL	6-2	265	Fr.	Fairburn, Ga.-Creekside
Ike Udengwu III	QB	6-3	195	Fr.	City of Industry, Calif.-Workman-Mt. San Antonio
Trenton VanBoening	OL	6-7	290	Fr.	Libertyville, Ill.-Libertyville
Joseph Walker Jr.	WR	6-4	210	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind.-Warren Central
Kevion Wellington	DL	6-3	265	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind.-North Central
Daiquan White	CB	5-11	165	Fr.	Fairburn, Ga.-Creekside
Makhail Wood	WR	6-1	155	Fr.	Hoschton, Ga.-Mill Creek

**Chase Arrington**      **DB 5-10 180 Fr.**      **Pittsburgh, Pa.-North Catholic**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the program as an incoming recruit...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played at North Catholic High school under Head Coach Patrick O'Shea...As a senior, recorded 30 tackles, three tackles-for-loss, and a sack...In 233 coverage snaps, had four pass breakups and just six catches allowed for 54 yards...In six of 10 games, did not allow a reception...Selected second team All-WPIAL at defensive back in both 2021 and 2022...In 2019, was part of the team that won the 5A WPIAL championship while the 2021 team was the runner-up...Also a member of the track team...Finished third in the 4x100 at the 2022 WPIAL Championship...**PERSONAL:** Full name: Chase Nasir Arrington...Son of Russ and Deonne Arrington...Has two brothers, Corey and James, and two sisters, Nia and Amara...Undecided major.

**Gabe Hoffmann**      **TE 6-6 245 Fr.**      **Sammamish, Wash.-Eastside Catholic**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the program as an incoming recruit...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played at Eastside Catholic High School under Head Coach Dominic Daste...Rated a three-star prospect by 247Sports...Earned first team All-3A Metro Mountain Division accolades as a senior...Had 32 catches for 540 yards and six TDs...Reeled in seven receptions for over 100 yards in an upset of powerhouse Kennedy Catholic...Overall was named to all-metro league on three occasions in his career...Also participated in basketball and track and field...**PERSONAL:** Full name: Gabriel Lawrence Hoffmann...Son of Steve and Heidi Hoffmann...Dad attended the University of Washington, while his mom played basketball for the Huskies...Uncles, Dave Hoffmann and Brock Huard, both played at UW and in the NFL...Has a brother, Josh, and a sister, Emily...Business major.

**C.J. Horton**      **TE 6-5 230 Jr.**      **Fort Scott, Kan.-Fort Scott-Kansas State-Iowa Western**

**EMU: 2023:** Transferred to EMU from Iowa Western Community College...Enrolled in classes for the winter semester...**IOWA WESTERN:** Played in 17 career games, recording 18 catches for 179 yards and three touchdowns...Twice earned honorable mention all-conference accolades...Won the 2022 NJCAA National Championship...2022: Played in 10 games, posting nine receptions for 93 yards and two scores...Had a season-best grab of 31 yards...Helped the program collect its second national title in a dominating performance over Hutchinson (11-1)...2021: Played in seven games, recording nine catches for 86 yards and a TD...Hauled in a 53 yard reception...**KANSAS STATE: 2020:** Did not see any game action...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played at Fort Scott under head coaches Bob Campbell and Bo Graham...Earned honorable mention all-state honors as a senior from both the Topeka Capital-Journal and Wichita Eagle...Selected to play in the Kansas Shrine Bowl...A four-year member of the honor roll...**PERSONAL:** Full name: Curtis Franklin Horton...Son of Curtis and Cetra Horton...Has a sister, Carley...Engineering major.

**Terry Lockett Jr.**    **WR**    **6-0**    **180**    **Jr.**    **Minneapolis, Minn.-Minnehaha Academy-Michigan State**

**EMU: 2023:** Transferred to EMU from Michigan State University...Enrolled in classes for the winter semester...

**MICHIGAN STATE:** Two-year letterwinner that played in 15 career games for the Spartans...Recorded four catches for 22 yards...**2022:** Did not see game action...**2021:** Earned Academic All-Big Ten accolades...Played in nine of the 13 games, snaring three catches for 17 yards in 49 total offensive snaps...Played nine snaps vs. Maryland...Logged one catch for four yards at Miami, in playing 12 snaps...Was in on season-high 15 snaps in Youngstown State game, registering two catches for 14 yards...**2020:** Played in six games to earn his first letter...

Played in 30 offensive snaps along with special teams...Saw action on two snaps in the Northwestern game... Had the first catch of his Spartan career at Iowa, going for four yards...Played 22 snaps at Michigan...Made his debut in the season opener versus Rutgers, seeing action on special teams and one offensive snap...**HIGH SCHOOL:**

Ranked the top wide receiver prospect in the Class of 2020 in the state of Minnesota by 247Sports... Rated one of the best overall players in the state of Minnesota by Rivals.com (No. 2), 247Sports (No. 6), and ESPN.com (No. 8)...Listed as one of the top "athletes" in the nation by Rivals.com (No. 6)...Speedy wide receiver for the St. Paul Academy/Minnehaha Academy/Blake team that finished as Class 4A runner-up...Named to the Minnesota Vikings All-State Football Team, and was presented an award at the Vikings game at US Bank Stadium...Earned *Minneapolis Star Tribune* All-Metro second-team offense honors...Tallied 53 receptions for

1,030 yards with 14 TDs in 10 games as a senior...Recorded 27 receptions for 423 yards and seven TDs in five postseason games, including eight catches for 178 yards and three TDs in 36-30 win over Benilde-St Margarets in the Class 4A, Section 5 final, highlighted by a leaping TD catch for the game-winner with 44 seconds left, capping SMB's 13-point second-half comeback to get into the state tournament...A two-sport standout, also excelled in basketball, helping Minnehaha Academy to its second straight Class 2A state title as a sophomore in 2018...Started as a sophomore at Minnehaha, moved to Ohio to play basketball at the SPIRE Institute and

football at Ashtabula St. John's before returning to Minnehaha as a senior...Played junior season of football at Ashtabula St. John, while playing basketball at SPIRE Academy in Ohio, where his father, Terry Lockett Sr., was assistant coach, and was teammates with former Michigan State men's basketball guard Rocket Watts, as the team made a run to the Elite 8 of the 2018 Prep School National Championships, averaging 11.8 points, 4.6 assists and 2.3 rebounds per game...In his first football game at Ashtabula St. John, caught a 67-yard TD catch... Had six catches for 134 yards and three TDs in the second game, while only playing the first half...**PERSONAL:**

Full name: Terry Lamont Lockett Jr....Son of Terry Lockett Sr. and Erin Hottinger...Has a brother, Tyree, and two sisters, Aejah and Alexis...Business major.

**Joey Mattord**    **RB**    **6-1**    **180**    **Fr.**    **Hartland Mich.-Hartland**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the program as an incoming recruit...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played at Hartland High school under

Head Coach Brian Savage....Eclipsed the 2,000-yards rushing in his career...As a senior in 2022, ran for 1,311 yards and 17 touchdowns...Accounted for 78 percent of the Eagles' rushing yards...Had a punt return, an interception, and threw a passing TD...Finished the year with 21 total scores...Named the Livingston County Offensive Player of the Year...Selected all-conference at running back and linebacker in 2022...Took part in the Legacy Senior All-Star Game...Ran 29 times for 296 yards and all four touchdowns in a 29-7 victory over Howell, breaking free for scoring runs of 73 and 55 yards...Ran 12 times for 285 yards and three touchdowns in a 35-10 victory over Salem and ran 16 times for 184 yards and five touchdowns in a 48-20 victory over Plymouth...Also took a punt return 42 yards to the house in the Plymouth game, becoming the first Livingston County player since Brighton running back Joey Clifford in 2014 to score six touchdowns in a game...As a junior was the only player to rush for 1,000 yards in Livingston County, running 174 times for 1,109 yards and 13 touchdowns...Is also a key member of a lacrosse team that won the state Division 1 championship in June 2022, scoring 14 goals and adding 15 assists...**PERSONAL:** Full name: Joey Mattord...Son of Joe and Erin Mattord...Has a two brothers, Jake and Austin, and a sister, Kayleen...Digital media production major.

**Chris Mayo**      **OL**      **6-5**      **310**      **Jr.**      **Deptford, N.J.-The Peddie School-West Virginia**

**EMU: 2023:** Transferred to EMU from West Virginia University...Enrolled in classes for the winter semester...  
**WEST VIRGINIA: 2022:** Played in one game versus Towson...Saw 22 total snaps as a Mountaineer....Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll...**2021:** Redshirted...**2020:** Did not see game action during the COVID season...  
**HIGH SCHOOL:** Rated as a four-star recruit and the No. 19 offensive guard in the 2020 class by ESPN...Three-star rating by rivals and 247Sports Played offensive guard for Coach Christopher Malleo at The Peddie School...A first team All-MAPL (Mid-Atlantic Prep League) selection in his senior season at the Peddie School...2019 Mercer County Prep Offensive Lineman of the Year...Helped the Falcons to an 8-0 record and the MAPL Championship in 2019...Anchored an offensive line that helped Peddie's offense to 1,700 rushing yards in 2019...Allowed just one sack in 142 pass attempts by Peddie...Named to the MAPL First Team for the first time as a junior...Earned Second-Team All-MAPL honors after helping the Falcons to a share of the MAPL Championship as a sophomore in 2017...Also offered by Arizona State, Auburn, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Nebraska, North Carolina, Pitt, Purdue, Rutgers, Syracuse, Tennessee, UCLA, Virginia and Wake Forest...Garrett Ford Academic Honor Roll...  
**PERSONAL:** Full name: Christopher Elijah Hairston Mayo...Son of Eli and Tia Mayo...Has a brother, Kori...African American History major.

**Owen Snively**      **OL**      **6-4**      **310**      **Jr.**      **Fremont, N.H.-Tilton-COLORADO STATE**

**EMU: 2023:** Transferred to EMU from Colorado State University...Enrolled in classes for the winter semester...  
**COLORADO STATE: 2022:** Did not see game action...**2021:** Did not see game action...**2020:** Redshirted...  
**HIGH SCHOOL:** A three-star recruit by Rivals and 247Sports...Coached by Matt Dawson...Played three sports in high school, including baseball and hockey...A two-way performer on football, playing offensive and defensive line...  
**PERSONAL:** Full name: Owen B. Snively...Son of Robert and Marcia Snively...Has a sister, Shannon.... Communications major.

**Dan Sunderman**      **OL**      **6-5**      **315**      **Gr.**      **Omaha, Neb.-Millard South-Central Missouri**

**EMU: 2023:** Transferred to EMU from the University of Central Missouri...Enrolled in classes for the winter semester...  
**UCM: 2022:** Voted Second Team All-MIAA...Started in all 11 games for the Mules and helped UCM rank third in the MIAA in passing yards with 2,712 yards...**2021:** Started on the offensive line for UCM in all 11 games...Second Team All-MIAA offensive lineman...Named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll...**2020:** Team did not play due to COVID-19...**2019:** Jumped into the Mules starting lineup and started all 13 games at left guard... Helped lead the Mules offense to No. 1 rankings in the MIAA in scoring, total offense, and passing offense...UCM scored 31 rushing touchdowns and gained more than 200 yards per game on the ground...Made the All-MIAA Third Team as an offensive lineman, the only freshman offensive lineman to make the All-MIAA First, Second or Third Team...**2018:** Redshirted and did not appear in any games...  
**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played under head coach Andy Means at Millard South High School...Earned All-State and All-Metro honors during his prep career... Selected to play in the Shrine Bowl...Also competed in track and field...Named to the honor roll from 2016-2018...  
**PERSONAL:** Full name: Daniel Robert Sunderman...Son of Kurt and Holly Sunderman...Has a brother, Jake...Working on his MBA.

**Javon Swinton      WR      6-1      185      Jr.      Stafford, Va.-North Stafford-Indiana**

**EMU: 2023:** Transferred to EMU from the University of Indiana...Enrolled in classes for the winter semester...

**INDIANA:** Appeared in 28 games for the Hoosiers...Recorded 31 catches for 289 yards and a score...**2022:** Appeared in nine games with one start...Caught two passes for eight yards against Illinois (Sept. 2)...Made three catches for 28 yards against Western Kentucky (Sept. 17)...Caught two passes for 33 yards at Nebraska...Career long catch of 28 yards in the second quarter against the Huskers (Oct. 1)...Caught three balls for 41 yards at Rutgers (Oct. 22)...Caught two passes for 12 yards against No. 16 Penn State (Nov. 5)...**2021:** Played in 11 games with one start...Caught 15 passes for 115 yards and one touchdown...Returned a blocked punt for a four-yard TD in the Idaho win (Sept. 11)...Also made three receptions for 33 yards and his first career score...Pulled in a career-high four balls against No. 10 Michigan State (Oct. 16)...IU special teams player of the week (Idaho)...**2020:** Appeared in all eight games and made his first career start in the Outback Bowl vs. Ole Miss (Jan. 2)...Caught four passes for 52 yards...Made a pair of catches for 23 yards in his collegiate debut and the season-opening win over No. 8 Penn State (Oct. 24)...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Wide receiver and cornerback for head coach Neil Sullivan at North Stafford High School...Two-time all-region selection...Posted 48 catches for 858 yards and 13 touchdowns his senior season...Added 46 tackles, two interceptions, seven pass breakups, and one forced fumble...Made 26 receptions for 632 yards (24.3 average), and 10 touchdowns in 2018...Ranked the No. 20 prospect in Virginia by Rivals...Also lettered in basketball...North Stafford's all-time leading scorer...Named the 2019 Free-Lance Star Boys Basketball Player of the Year...Averaged 27.0 points per game...**PERSONAL:** Full name: Javon Swinton...Son of Gene Swinton and Tiffany Hunter...Has a brother, Julian, and two sisters, Kianna and Brittany...Individualized studies major.

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Dec. 22, 2021

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## EMU FOOTBALL INKS 18 IN EARLY SIGNING PERIOD

*Eastern set to add players from nine different states in 2023*

**YPSILANTI, Mich. (EMUEagles.com)** — The Eastern Michigan University football program officially welcomed 18 student-athletes to the football program Wednesday, Dec. 21, during the Early Signing Period. All have committed to join the Eagles for the 2023 campaign.

The class includes 18 total players, 17 of which hail from nine different states across the country. Head Coach Chris Creighton continued to demonstrate his ability to recruit international talent as well, with one of the signees coming from Germany.

The Eagles are said to have the fourth-best 2023 recruiting class in the Mid-American Conference as ranked by 247Sports, earning an overall score of 128.07 points and an average rating of 82.35 (of out 100) per player. The fourth-place ranking is the highest in Eastern Michigan's modern history.

"We try to find guys who fit who we are," said Creighton. "We have a really high standard. We want people who want to be coached, and people who want to be a part of something bigger than themselves, and so when you find players that fit, and you know that they are can succeed here, it is a really big deal. This class is made up of those players, and I am so excited to get them to campus."

In its sixth year, the Early Signing Period was approved by the NCAA in May 2017. The early signing period allows high school seniors a 72-hour window in December to sign a National Letter of Intent with the school of their choice. It comes about two months before National Signing Day, which is Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023.

Eastern Michigan is flying high after winning the 2022 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl, 41-27, over San Jose State University, Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 20, in Boise, Idaho. It is the second postseason bowl game win for the program, and its first since it defeated the same SJSU team in the 1987 California Bowl in Fresno, Calif. The Eagles finished the season with nine wins, the second-most in program history, and in addition to the Potato Bowl championship, also earned a co-Mid-American Conference West Division title, and won the Michigan MAC trophy (three-way rivalry between EMU, CMU, and WMU) for the first time since 2012.

In the midst of one of the most successful runs in program history, Eastern Michigan has made a bowl game appearance five times since 2016, a number that ties for the most by any team in the Mid-American Conference. Additionally, the team has now played in bowl games in four consecutive seasons (excluding COVID-shortened 2020 campaign) for the first time in school history, while 13 EMU student-athletes, as of yesterday, became the first in program history to be part of four postseason bowl games in their respective careers.

The following is a roster and biographical sketches for each of EMU's newest additions.

**2023 Eastern Michigan University Football Newest Additions**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Pos</b>	<b>Ht</b>	<b>Wt</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Hometown-High School-Previous School</b>
Cedric Anton	TE	6-4	235	Fr.	Poppenhausen, Germany-Rabun Gap-Nacoochee (Ga.)
Messiah Blair	DE	6-7	225	Fr.	Detroit, Mich.-Martin Luther King
Deion Brown	RB	5-8	170	Fr.	Kirkwood, Mo.-Kirkwood
Caleb Dobbs	CB	6-0	155	Fr.	Cocoa, Fla.-Cocoa
Bryce Eliuk	LB	6-2	224	Fr.	Linden, Mich.-Linden
Luke Fletcher	DL	6-3	246	Fr.	Port Huron, Mich.-Port Huron Northern
Jaheim Jenkins	CB	6-2	160	So.	Bainbridge, Ga.-Bainbridge-Iowa Western
Kellen McDonough	OL	6-5	240	Fr.	Pittsburgh, Pa.-Woodland Hills
Jaivian Norman	CB	5-10	180	Fr.	Springfield, Ohio-Springfield
Ugo Nosike	DT	6-4	295	So.	South Holland, Ill.-Thornwood-Arizona-Butler C.C.
Terrance Saunders	OL	6-4	270	Fr.	Overland Park, Kan.-Blue Valley West
Malik Tullis	DL	6-2	265	Fr.	Fairburn, Ga.-Creekside
Ike Udengwu III	QB	6-3	195	Fr.	City of Industry, Calif.-Workman-Mt. San Antonio
Trenton VanBoening	OL	6-7	290	Fr.	Libertyville, Ill.-Libertyville
Joseph Walker Jr.	WR	6-4	210	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind.-Warren Central
Kevion Wellington	DL	6-3	265	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind.-North Central
Daiquan White	CB	5-11	165	Fr.	Fairburn, Ga.-Creekside
Makhail Wood	WR	6-1	155	Fr.	Hoschton, Ga.-Mill Creek

**Cedric Anton**      **WR**      **6-4**      **235**      **Fr.**      **Poppenhausen, Germany-Rabun Gap-Nacoochee (Ga.)**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit for the winter semester...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Originally from Germany, but moved to Georgia and attended Rabun Gap-Nacoochee High School...Played under Head Coach Joe Sturdivant as an Eagle...Considered a three-star recruit by 247 Sports...Listed as a top-100 tight end in the nation...Considered a top-200 overall prospect in the State of Georgia...Also played lacrosse as a prep athlete...**PERSONAL:** Full Name: Cedric Jeremiah Anton...Son of Frank Anton and Daniela Herpich...Has a brother, Elias, and a sister, Jennifer...Business intent.

**Messiah Blair**      **DE**      **6-7**      **225**      **Fr.**      **Detroit, Mich.-Martin Luther King**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended Martin Luther King High School and played under Head Coach Tyrone Spencer...Was a multiple-year letterwinner as a Crusader...Was named team captain for his senior season...Considered a three-start prospect by nearly every major recruiting service, including 247Sports, Rivals, and ESPN...Listed by 247Sports and the fourth-highest-rated recruit in EMU history with an overall composite score of 0.8597 on a 1.0 scale...Considered the 17th-best overall collegiate prospect in the State of Michigan and a top-100 player at defensive end nationally...Named to the 2022 MLive Metro Detroit Football Dream Team...Helped MLK to a 10-3 overall record, including a MHSAA Division III State Championship in 2022...Helped lead King to back-to-back state titles...Received 23 offers out of high school, including four from 'Power Five' institutions and 11 Mid-American Conference Institutions...**PERSONAL:** Full Name: Messiah Lazar Blair...Son of Daniel and Amelia Blair...Has two sisters, Queautae and N'Dya...Business intent.

**Deion Brown**      **RB**      **5-8**      **170**      **Fr.**      **Kirkwood, Mo.-Kirkwood**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit for the winter semester...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended Kirkwood High School and played under Head Coach Jeremy Maclin...Was a multiple-time letterwinner with the Pioneers...Was named a team captain for his senior season...Considered a three-star prospect by most major recruiting services, including 247Sports, Rivals, and ESPN...Was a first team all-conference honoree in 2022...Helped his team to a 7-4 overall record during his senior campaign...Rushed for 1690 total yards during his final season at Kirkwood, and was able to set numerous school rushing records along the way...Helped propel the Kirkwood offense to a 38.4 points per game average in 2022...Rushed for 27 of the team's 50 total offensive touchdowns (54%)...Set the school record for most rushing yards in a single game (352)...Broke the Kirkwood record for rushing touchdowns in a single game (7)...His 27 touchdowns in a single season is also a school record, along with his 162 total points...Also ran track and participated in wrestling while in high school...**PERSONAL:** Full Name: Deion Keith Brown...Son of Derek Brown and Shea Webb...Has a brother, Derrion...Communications intent.

**Caleb Dobbs**      **CB**      **6-0**      **155**      **Fr.**      **Cocoa, Fla.-Cocoa**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended Cocoa High School and played under Head Coach Ryan Schneider...Was a multiple-time letterwinner for the Tigers...Considered a three-star prospect by numerous major recruiting services...Helped his team to a 11-3 overall record and Class 2S State Championship in the State of Florida in 2022...Was named to the All-State Championship tournament team...Propelled his team to victory in the state title when he took an interception all the way back for a score in the third quarter...The play put his team ahead, 31-21, and they did not look back...Recorded 59 tackles and three interceptions during his senior campaign.

**Bryce Eliuk**      **LB**      **6-2**      **224**      **Fr.**      **Linden, Mich.-Linden**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended Linden High School and played under Head Coach Chad Williams...Was a four-year letterwinner and two-time team captain as an Eagle... Considered a two-star prospect by both 247Sports and Rivals...Named to the *Associated Press* Division 3-4 All-State Team in Michigan...Named the MLive Flint Area Football Dream Team in 2022...Named to the *Detroit News* All-State Football Team...Helped his team to a 7-5 overall record and a district championship in 2022...Recorded 117 tackles, including 15 tackles for loss, during his senior campaign...Also hauled in five interceptions, and registered three sacks on the season... Was a three-time all-state honoree as a prep athlete...Earned State Bank Athlete of the Week honors twice...Was named to the aforementioned Flint All-Area Dream Team three times during his high school stint...Earned Kiwanis Athlete of the month honors while at Linden...Was a First Team All-Flint Metro League honoree following his senior season...Led Linden with 91 tackles during his junior season, and had 125 stops as a sophomore...Also played offense as a junior...Rushed for 641 yards, racked up 379 yards receiving, and scored 13 touchdowns...Also earned two letters in lacrosse...**PERSONAL:** Full Name: Bryce Gerald Eliuk...Son of John and Tina Eliuk...Has two sisters, Shelby and Hailey...Economics intent.

**Luke Fletcher**      **DL**      **6-3**      **246**      **Fr.**      **Port Huron, Mich.-Port Huron Northern**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended Port Huron Northern High School and played under Head Coach Larry Roelens...Four-time letterwinner and two-time captain as a member of the Huskies...Ranked as a three-star prospect by 247 Sports...Named a top-50 recruit in the State of Michigan by MLive... Selected as an honorable mention All-East football player by the *Detroit News*...Named an All-Blue Water Area selection by *The Times Herald*...Helped his team to an 8-2 overall record and Macomb Area Conference Blue Division title in 2022... Played in six games, recording 33 tackles, including 13 TFLs...Registered six sacks and 26 quarterback hurries...Added 15 quarterback hits...Notched two blocked punts, one forced fumble, and two fumble recoveries in his final high school campaign...Was selected as an All-Macomb Area Conference selection...Also earned two varsity letters as a track athlete...**PERSONAL:** Full Name: Luke Allen Fletcher...Son of Jason and Andrea Fletcher...Has two brothers, Ty and James, and a sister, Tia...Business intent.

**Jaheim Jenkins**      **CB**      **6-2**      **160**      **So.**      **Bainbridge, Ga.-Bainbridge-Iowa Western**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit for the winter semester...**IOWA WESTERN:** Has spent the last three seasons as a member of the Iowa Western football team...Has played in 16 career games, including a career-high 10 during the 2021-22 campaign...Recorded 10 tackles and six pass break ups in the corner position.

**Kellen McDonough**      **OL**      **6-5**      **240**      **Fr.**      **Pittsburgh, Pa.-Woodland Hills**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended Woodland Hills High School and played under Head Coach Tim Bostard...Was a four-year letterwinner as a Wolverine...Was a team captain during his senior campaign...Helped lead his team to a 6-6 overall record his senior season...Recorded 50 pancake blocks during his final 12 games at Woodland Hills...Was a First Team All-Big 56 Conference selection following his senior campaign... Was a nominee for the 2022 Bill Fralic Award, given by the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League to the state's best offensive lineman...Was a four-year letterwinner in basketball as well...**PERSONAL:** Full Name: Kellen Eager McDonough...Son of Jason and Kelly McDonough...Has a sister, Bailey...Undecided major.

**Jaivian Norman**      **CB**      **5-10**      **180**      **Fr.**      **Springfield, Ohio-Springfield**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit for the winter semester...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended Springfield High School and played under Head Coach Maurice Douglass...Was a four-time letterwinner with the Wildcats...Was named a team captain for his senior campaign...Considered a two-star prospect by both 247Sports and Rivals...Was named the Co-Player of the Year in the Southwest Ohio Conference...Was named a Division I All-State honoree by the Columbus Dispatch...Led his team to a 13-2 overall record in 2022, including a trip to the state championship game...Finished as state runner-ups...Helped lead Springfield to at least a state semifinal appearance in each of his four seasons...Racked up 124 total tackles, including 20 tackles for loss and three sacks during his senior season...Recorded one interception for Springfield in 2022...Was a two-time First Team All-Ohio selection at linebacker...Started on varsity in each of his four seasons...Finished his high school career with more than 300 tackles...Also played baseball...**PERSONAL:** Full Name: Jaivian Anthony Clinton Norman...Son of George and Tanisa Norman...Has four brothers, Jovon, Jayvin, Julian, and Zion, as well as two sisters, Lynae and Trin...Undecided major.

**Ugo Nosike**      **DT**      **6-4**      **295**      **So.**      **South Holland, Ill.-Thornwood-Arizona-Butler C.C.**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit for the winter semester...**BUTLER C.C.:** Spent one season at Butler Community College as a member of the Grizzlies...Played in 10 total games in 2022...Recorded 19 tackles, including two sacks...Also added a pass break up as a defensive lineman...**ARIZONA: 2021:** Did not see any action...**2020:** Did not see any game action...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended Thornwood High School and Midwest Prep Academy...Lettered four years in football along the defensive line...Also earned two letters in wrestling as a heavy weight and three letters in track and field competing in shot put and discus...Led the team with 9.5 sacks as a senior...**PERSONAL:** Full Name: Ugochukwu Clement Nosike...Son of Reginald and Stella Nosike...Has four sisters, Ashley, Jessica, Christine, and Stephanie...Undecided major.

**Terrance Saunders**      **OL**      **6-4**      **270**      **Fr.**      **Overland Park, Kan.-Blue Valley West**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended Blue Valley High High School and played under Head Coach Josh Kerkenmeier...Was a four-time letterwinner as a Jaguar...Named a Class 6A All-State honoree by the Kansas Football Coaches Association...Earned first team all-conference recognition as a senior...Helped his team to a 5-6 overall record in 2021...Earned two playoff victories in 2021...Was a multi-time letterwinner for the Blue Valley track and field program while in high school...**PERSONAL:** Full Name: Terrance Lamont Saunders II...Son of Terrance and LaRonna Saunders...Has a brother, Darius, and a sister, Samara...Business intent.

**Malik Tullis**      **DL**      **6-2**      **265**      **Fr.**      **Fairburn, Ga.-Creekside**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended Creekside High School and played under Head Coach Maruice Dixon...Was a three-year letterwinner as a member of the Seminoles...Considered a three-star prospect by both 247Sports and ESPN...Listed as a top-100 prospect in the nation at the defensive line position by multiple major scouting services...Led his team to a 10-3 overall record and a regional championship in 2022, his senior campaign...Recorded 40 tackles, including five sacks in 2022...Notched two interceptions...Became the first defensive lineman in Creekside High School history to record multiple interceptions in a season...Was a first team all-region selection as a senior...Second team all-region honors as a junior...Had 67 tackles and 8.5 sacks as a junior...Also played tennis and basketball in high school...**PERSONAL:** Full Name: Malik William Tullis...Son of Kenneth Tullis and Rachel Davos...Has two brothers, Lynox Bowles and Joshua Tullis, and two sisters, Katelyn and Kennedy Tullis...Sport management intent.

**Ike Udengwu III**      **QB**      **6-3**      **195**      **Fr.**      **City of Industry, Calif.-Workman-Mt. San Antonio**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit for the winter semester...**MT. SAN ANTONIO:** Spent the 2022 campaign quarterbacking for Mt. San Antonio...Was selected the team MVP and selected the SoCal Regional Game Player of the Game...Collected first team All-Southern California Football Association Central Conference...Played in eight games, amassing 444 yards through the air on 40-of-76 (53%) passing...Threw for seven touchdowns...Added more than 300 yards on the ground...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended Workman High School in City of Industry, Calif...Amassed an incredible 3,440 yards passing and 34 touchdowns as a senior... Threw for 2,200 yards and 13 touchdowns as a junior...Ran for over 1,000 yards in each of the last two seasons...Showed off his versatility by kicking, punting and playing defense...**PERSONAL:** Full Name: Ike Ferdinand Udengwu III...Son of Ike Udengwu Sr. and Winnie Clark...Has three brothers, Ikewin, Ike, and Semaj, and a sister, Royalty...Kinesiology major.

**Trenton VanBoening**      **OL**      **6-7**      **290**      **Fr.**      **Libertyville, Ill.-Libertyville**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit for the winter semester...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended Libertyville High School and played under Mike Jones...Was a three-time letterwinner as a Wildcat...Was named a team captain during his senior campaign...Listed as a three-star prospect by 247Sports...Helped his team to a 5-5 overall record during his final stint as a prep player...Was named a *Daily Herald* All-Area Team honoree...Was an All-North Suburban Conference selection in 2022...Was named the league's most valuable offensive lineman...Was a *News-Suns* Football All-Area Team honoree...Was a three-year varsity starter and made 24 appearances during his career...Earned all-state honors during his high school career...Recorded more than 60 pancake blocks during his final campaign at Libertyville...**PERSONAL:** Full Name: Trenton Jacob VanBoening...Son of Simon and Susan VanBoening...Has two brothers, Rhett and Wyatt...Business intent.

**Joseph Walker Jr.**      **WR**      **6-4**      **210**      **Fr.**      **Indianapolis, Ind.-Warren Central**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended Warren Central High School and played under Head Coach Mike Kirschner...Was a four-time letterwinner as a Warrior...Was named a team captain in each of his final three seasons with Warren Central...Considered a three-star prospect by multiple major recruiting services, including 247Sports, Rivals, and ESPN...Was named Indiana's Mr. Football at the wide receiver position in 2022...Led his team to a 6-6 overall record and sectional championship during his senior campaign...Earned All-State honors from the Indiana Football Coaches Association in 2022...Hauled in 35 receptions for 696 yards in 2022...Recorded 10 touchdowns, including one kickoff return for a score...Averaged 31 yards per kick return during his senior season, including a season-best 97 return...Also played on the defensive side of the ball, grabbing one interception as a member of the team's backfield...**PERSONAL:** Full Name: Joseph Lee Walker Jr...Son of Joseph and Ameeya Walker...Has a brother, Liam, and a sister, Jazmine...Business intent.

**Ke'Vion Wellington**      **DL**      **6-3**      **265**      **Fr.**      **Indianapolis, Ind.-North Central**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended North Central High School and played under Head Coach Kevin O'Shea...Was a three-year letterwinner and two-time team captain as a Panther...Ranked as a two-star prospect by 247Sports...Referenced as a "top high school football player in Indiana" by *High School Football America*...Earned All-Metropolitan Interscholastic Conference and all-state honors during his senior campaign...**PERSONAL:** Full Name: Ke'Vion Jandelle Wellington...Son of Mike and Christique Wellington...Has one sister, Chozley...Business intent.

**Daiquan White**      **CB**      **5-11**      **165**      **Fr.**      **Fairburn, Ga.-Creekside**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended Creekside High School and played under Head Coach Maurice Dixon as a Seminole...Considered a three-star prospect by multiple major recruiting services, including 247Sports, Rivals, and ESPN... Led his team to a 10-3 overall record and a regional championship in 2022, his senior campaign...Joins fellow Creekside teammate Malik Tullis as an incoming signee...Recorded 68 total tackles, including 34 solo and 34 assisted, during his senior season...Added 4.0 tackles for loss...Recorded an interception, which he was able to return back for a score...Added five pass deflections...Racked up 155 punt return yards including a long of 70...Earned a spot in the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association All-Star Game in 2022...Was a two-time all-region first team selection...Earned two player of the game awards while at Creekside...Also ran track...**PERSONAL:** Full Name: Daiquan Ahmari White...Son of David and Sonya White...Has two brothers, Justin White and Trevon Jackson, and one sister, Jamesha Fambro...Undecided major.

**Makhail Wood**      **WR**      **6-1**      **155**      **Fr.**      **Hoschton, Ga.-Mill Creek**

**EMU: 2023:** Joins the EMU football program as an incoming recruit...**HIGH SCHOOL:** Attended Mill Creek High School and played under Head Coach Josh Lovelady...Was a two-year letterwinner with the Hawks...Served as a team captain during his senior campaign...Considered a three-star prospect by multiple major recruiting services, including 247Sports, Rivals, and ESPN...Listed as a top-200 receiver in the nation...Captained his team to a 14-1 overall record, including an eight-game win streak to finish the season and capture the Georgia Class 7A High School state championship, the first ever for Mill Creek...Helped Mill Creek earn national top-25 rankings in seven different publications for the first time in school history... Returned a kickoff 96 yards for a score in the state championship game to officially record one of the longest scoring plays in Georgia high school history...Hauled in five passes for 152 yards and three touchdowns in Mill Creek's semifinal matchup...Hauled in 58 receptions for 1,055 yards and 14 touchdowns during his senior campaign with Mill Creek...Set numerous Mill Creek receiving records during his career...Was both an all-country and all-region honoree during his senior campaign...Was named to the Georgia High School Association's All-Finals Football Team following his outstanding play in the state championship game...Caught 23 passes for 361 yards and four touchdowns as a junior...Also played varsity basketball as a prep student...**PERSONAL:** Full Name: Makhail Matthew Wood...Son of Matthew and Kendra Wood...Has a brother, Matthew, and six sisters, Deara, Leara, Johnae, Mone, Alahni, and Arie...Undecided major.