

Austin Peay Football 2024 Signing Class

Athlete	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	Hometown	High School	Previous Schools
Za'Heir Barnes-Vaughn ‡	6-0	265	DL	Somerset, N.J.	Mooreville HS (N.C.)	Shaw / Notre Dame College
Grace'son Beach †	6-1	215	LB	Clarksville, Tenn.	Pearl-Cohn HS	
BJ Blake †	5-9	180	RB	Memphis, Tenn.	Germantown HS	
Gabe Bobbitt †‡	6-4	235	TE	Villa Rica, Ga.	South Paulding HS	
Malik Bowen-Sims †‡	6-2	198	WR	Mt. Juliet, Tenn.	Mt. Juliet HS	Duke
Leon Brigham III †	6-0	303	OL	DeSoto, Texas	DeSoto HS	
Dorian Davis †‡	6-0	194	DB	Shelby, N.C.	Shelby HS	Towson / Southern Illinois / Western Carolina
Stephen Ellison II †	5-11	190	DB	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	Oakland HS	
Mason Garcia †‡	6-5	242	QB	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	Carolina Forest HS	East Carolina
Ethan Goodin †	6-5	265	OL	Evansville, Ind.	Mater Dei HS	
Malachi Harris †‡	6-4	320	OL	Huntsville, Ala.	Mae Jemison HS	
Tyler Hicks †	6-1	197	LB	Alabaster, Ala.	Thompson HS	
Jesse Johnson III ‡	6-1	175	DB	Brookville, Ohio	Marion-Franklin HS	Tiffin / Eastern Illinois
CJ Jordan †	5-10	160	ATH	Memphis, Tenn.	Lausanne Collegiate School	
Jade Kneeland †	6-2	190	WR	Bartlett, Tenn.	Bartlett HS	
Jeffson Locke †	6-3	235	ATH	Dalton, Ga.	Dalton HS	
Jay Morrow †	6-2	260	DL	Memphis, Tenn.	Lausanne Collegiate School	
Chinazo Obobi ‡	6-5	300	OL	London, England	Lea Valley Academy	Marshall / Laney College (Calif.)
Alec Pell ‡	6-4	235	TE	Englewood, Colo.	Cherry Creek HS	Northern Colorado / Colorado
Marcus Phillips Jr. ‡	6-2	235	TE	Las Vegas, Nev.	Cimarron-Memorial HS	Northern Arizona / Southern Utah / UNLV
Kinstin Reaves ‡	6-0	285	DL	Statesville, N.C.	Statesville HS	UNC Pembroke / Eastern Illinois
Corey Richardson †	5-9	170	ATH	Fayetteville, Ga.	Whitewater HS	
Joshua Robinson ‡	6-6	285	OL	St. Louis, Mo.	Cardinal Ritter College Prep	Hutchinson CC (Kan.) / Butler CC (Kan.)
Christopher Scott Jr. ‡	6-0	161	WR	Atlanta, Ga.	Dacula HS	North Carolina State
Jase Skoglund †‡	6-5	240	TE	Austin, Texas	Vandegrift HS	
Austin Smith ‡	6-2	218	QB	Jonesboro, Ga.	Cedar Grove HS	Eastern Michigan
Carson Smith ‡	5-11	170	K	Belmont, N.C.	South Point HS	East Carolina
Bo Spearman ‡	6-1	226	LB	Irondale, Ala.	Shades Valley HS	Chattanooga
Spence Tankersley †‡	6-5	320	OL/DL	Lewisburg, Tenn.	Forrest HS	
Cinque Williams ‡	5-9	180	DB	Southlake, Texas	Southlake Carroll HS	UTSA / North Texas

† - signed during December early signing period (18), ‡ - mid-year enrollee (19)

January Early Enrollee Biographies

Za'Heir Barnes-Vaughn

6-0, 265, DL, Somerset, New Jersey (Notre Dame College)

Prior to Austin Peay: Began his career at Shaw University (2022) before transferring to Notre Dame College (2023) for one season. **2023:** Played in five games for the Falcons... Had a season-best five tackles and a fumble recovery in his debut against Ohio Dominican (Sept. 2)... Had two tackles and a tackle for loss against West Virginia Wesleyan (Sept. 9)... Had four tackles and a tackle for loss at Glenville State (Sept. 16)... Recorded three tackles and a tackle for loss against Fairmont State (Sept. 23)... Picked up four tackles in his final appearance at Frostburg State (Sept. 30)... Finished the season with 18 tackles, three tackles for loss, and a fumble recovery. **2022:** Played in three games for the Bears... Recorded five tackles and a tackle for loss in his collegiate debut at Wayne State (Sept. 10)... Posted a career-best 11 tackles, 1.5 tackles for loss, a sack, and a pass breakup at Fayetteville State (Oct. 29)... Finished the season with 21 tackles, 2.5 tackles for loss, a sack, and a pass breakup.

High School: Played offensive and defensive line for head coach Joe Nixon at Mooresville High School in Mooresville, North Carolina... Twice named an all-conference and all-county selection as a defensive lineman... Also competed in wrestling and track and field for the Blue Devils.

Jesse Johnson III

6-1, 175, DB, Brookville, Ohio (Tiffin)

Prior to Austin Peay: Began his career at Eastern Illinois (2020) before transferring to Tiffin (2021-23) at the start of the spring 2021 season. **2023:** Played in 11 games for the Dragons... Recorded a career-best six tackles and a pass breakup in the season opener against McKendree (Sept. 2)... Had four solo tackles against Saint Anselm (Sept. 9)... Matched his career high with six tackles against Kentucky Wesleyan (Oct. 21)... Had a career-high two pass breakups at Findlay (Nov. 11)... Closed the season with 28 tackles – including 20 solo stops – and six pass breakups. **2022:** Appeared in five games... Picked up a season-best two tackles at Truman State (Sept. 24)... Had a pass breakup at Kentucky Wesleyan (Nov. 5)... Finished the season with five tackles and a pass breakup. **2021:** Played in 10 games for the Dragons... Recorded his first career interception in the season opener at Marian (Sept. 4)... Picked up three tackles in back-to-back games against Northwood (Sept. 11) and UIndy (Sept. 18)... Totaled four tackles at Lake Erie (Oct. 9)... Had a season-best five tackles to go along with a half tackle for loss and an interception at Walsh (Nov. 6)... Closed the season with 17 tackles, half a tackle for loss, two interceptions, and two pass breakups... Ranked second on the team with two picks. **2020-21:** Did not see action at EIU in fall 2020... Played in six games for Tiffin in spring 2021... Had a tackle in his debut at Walsh (March 13)... Finished his freshman season with four tackles, including three solo stops.

High School: Played defensive back and wide receiver for head coach David Lasko at Marion-Franklin High School... Recorded eight interceptions during his senior season en route to being named the Division IV District Defensive Player of the Year and an All-Ohio selection... Added 1,094 receiving yards and 13 touchdown receptions on the offensive side during his senior campaign... Rated a two-star prospect by 247Sports.com... Also competed in track and field for the Red Devils.

Chinazo Obobi

6-5, 300, OL, London, England (Marshall)

Prior to Austin Peay: Began his career at Laney College (2022) before transferring to Marshall (2023). **2023:** Did not see action for the Thundering Herd during his lone season in Huntington, West Virginia. **2021-22:** Spent two seasons at Laney College in Oakland, California... Was the Eagles' offensive freshman of the year in 2021... Rated a three-star prospect by 247Sports.com and a two-star by Rivals after two junior college seasons.

High School: Played soccer and basketball at Lea Valley Academy in Enfield Town, England... Was rated the No. 1 offensive lineman in Europe.

Alec Pell

6-4, 235, TE, Englewood, Colorado (Northern Colorado)

Prior to Austin Peay: Began his career at Colorado (2019-21) before transferring to Northern Colorado (2022-23). **2023:** Played in the season's first five games for the Bears... Had four catches for 21 yards and a touchdown in the season opener at Abilene Christian (Aug. 31)... Had two catches and two special teams tackles at Washington State (Sept. 16)... Added four more receptions for a season-best 31 yards at Idaho State (Sept. 23)... Finished the season with 10 receptions for 61 yards and a touchdown. **2022:** Appeared at tight end in nine games for the Bears... Had a career-high eight receptions for 68 yards and a touchdown in his Northern Colorado debut against Houston Christian (Sept. 3)... Posted three receptions in back-to-back games at Wyoming (Sept. 10) and Lamar (Sept. 17)... Recorded six catches for a career-best 86 yards against Idaho State (Sept. 24)... Finished his first season in Greeley, Colorado with 26 receptions for 253 yards and a touchdown. **2021:** Appeared in eight games for the Buffaloes... Recorded a 17-yard catch in the season opener against Northern Colorado (Sept. 3) for his first collegiate reception... Added three tackles on special teams. **2020:** Moved from linebacker to tight end during fall camp... Played in the final five games of the season for the Buffaloes... Posted his first collegiate tackle on special teams against San Diego State (Nov. 28)... Added another tackle against Arizona (Dec. 5)... Finished the season with two tackles. **2020:** Played linebacker during his first season in Boulder, Colorado... Appeared in four games on special teams.

High School: Played linebacker and running back for head coach Dave Logan at Cherry Creek High School... Racked up 88 tackles, 25.0 tackles for loss, six sacks, three pass breakups, two forced fumbles, and one fumble recovery during his senior season en route to being named an All-State selection by the Colorado High School Activities Association and Mile High Sports Magazine... Helped the Bruins win the 2019 Colorado Class 5A State Championship as a senior... Started his junior season on the offensive side of the ball, totaling 109 rushes for 617 yards and six touchdowns to go along with 13 receptions for 139 yards and three touchdowns... Finished his junior campaign on defense, recording 25 tackles, 5.0 tackles for loss, a sack, and an interception in four games... Earned honorable mention All-State honors as a junior... As a sophomore, he rushed 66 times for 329 yards and three touchdowns while adding 23 receptions for 170 yards and a touchdown... Rated a three-star prospect by 247Sports.com, Rivals, and ESPN.

Marcus Phillips Jr.

6-2, 235, Las Vegas, Nevada (Northern Arizona)

Prior to Austin Peay: Began his collegiate career at UNLV (2019-21) before transferring to Southern Utah (2022) and Northern Arizona (2023). **2023:** Played in all 11 games for the Lumberjacks as a tight end... Posted his first reception of the season at North Dakota (Sept. 9)... Recorded two catches for 37 yards with a 23-yard touchdown grab against Utah Tech (Sept. 16)... Had three catches for a career-best 56 yards and a career-long 48-yard touchdown against Montana (Sept. 23)... Added a 22-yard touchdown catch at Weber State (Oct. 7)... Had a 14-yard touchdown reception in the season finale at Eastern Washington (Nov. 18)... Closed the season with 12 receptions for 166 yards and four touchdowns. **2022:** Played in nine games as a wide receiver for the Thunderbirds... Made a special teams tackle in his debut at Utah (Sept. 10)... Added another tackle at Eastern Kentucky (Oct. 1)... Had a season-best four receptions for 15 yards at Abilene Christian (Oct. 14)... Made two catches for 32 yards at Utah Tech (Nov. 5)... Recorded a season-best four catches for 48 yards and a 27-yard touchdown against Lincoln (CA) (Nov. 12)... Finished his lone season in Cedar City, Utah with 14 receptions for 129 yards and a touchdown to go along with a pair of tackles. **2021:** Played in 11 games for the Rebels... Had a season-best four receptions for 26 yards at Nevada (Oct. 29)... Added three more catches for 20 yards and a 15-yard touchdown – his first collegiate touchdown – at New Mexico (Nov. 6)... Also picked up a tackle against New Mexico... Had a career-best two tackles against Hawaii (Nov. 13)... Totaled four catches for 36 yards and added a tackle against San Diego State (Nov. 19)... Finished the season with 12 receptions for 88 yards and a touchdown in addition to four tackles. **2020:** Played in four games for the Rebels... Picked up his first tackle in his collegiate debut against Fresno State (Nov. 7)... Recorded his first collegiate reception in a two-catch, 17-yard outing at Hawaii (Dec. 12). **2019:** Did not see action in his first season at UNLV.

High School: Played wide receiver and defensive back for head coach Shane Kaine at Cimarron-Memorial High School... Led the Sunset Region Team to a win and earned MVP honors in the 46th West Charleston Lions Club Charity All-Star Game with two touchdown receptions and an interception... Was a first team all-conference selection at wide receiver and a second-team selection at defensive back... Also played basketball for the Spartans.

Kinstin Reaves

6-0, 285, DL, Statesville, North Carolina (UNC Pembroke)

Prior to Austin Peay: Began his collegiate career at Eastern Illinois (2021) before transferring to UNC Pembroke (2022-23). **2023:** Played in eight games for the Braves... Recorded two tackles and a half tackle for loss at West Virginia State (Sept. 7)... Added three tackles and a half tackle for loss at Frostburg State (Oct. 7)... Posted career highs with seven tackles and three tackles for loss, including a sack, against Fairmont State (Oct. 14)... Had two tackles and a sack against Glenville State (Oct. 28)... Added two tackles and a half tackle for loss against Concord (Nov. 11)... Finished the season with 18 tackles. 6.0 tackles for loss, and two sacks. **2022:** Recorded a tackle in his UNC Pembroke debut against Fayetteville State (Sept. 3)... Had a season-best four tackles and a half tackle for loss at Glenville State (Sept. 17)... Posted four tackles and a forced fumble against West Virginia State (Oct. 13)... Picked up a sack at Notre Dame (OH) (Nov. 5)... Recorded four tackles and a blocked field goal against Concord (Nov. 12)... Closed his first season in Pembroke, North Carolina with 18 tackles, 1.5 tackles for loss, a sack, a forced fumble, and a blocked kick. **2021:** Played in one game during his lone season at Eastern Illinois... Posted his first collegiate tackle at Tennessee Tech (Sept. 25).

High School: Played defensive line for head coach Randall Gusler at Statesville High School... Recorded 44 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, and three sacks during his senior campaign en route to earning all-conference honors for the second straight season... Earned an invitation to the Blue-Grey All-American Bowl following his senior season... Totaled 48 tackles, including 10 tackles for loss, during his junior season... Tallied 37 tackles, 12.0 tackles for loss, and four sacks as a sophomore for the Greyhounds... Rated a two-star prospect by 247Sports.com.

Joshua Robinson

6-6, 285, OL, St. Louis Missouri (Hutchinson CC (Kan.))

Prior to Austin Peay: Began his collegiate career at Butler Community College (2021-22) before transferring to Hutchinson Community College (2023). **2023:** Moved to offensive line and played in one game during his lone season as a Blue Dragon. **2021-22:** Spent two seasons at Butler Community College as a defensive lineman.

High School: Played offensive and defensive line at Cardinal Ritter College Prep... Also played basketball for the Lions.

Christopher Scott Jr.

6-0, 161, WR, Atlanta, Georgia (North Carolina State)

Prior to Austin Peay: Spent four seasons at North Carolina State (2020-23), appearing in eight games as a wide receiver and defensive back. **2023:** Played in two games as a defensive back... Recorded a tackle against VMI (Sept. 16). **2022:** Moved from wide receiver to defensive back during fall camp... Played in three games for the Wolfpack... Had tackles in back-to-back games against Charleston Southern (Sept. 10) and Texas Tech (Sept. 17). **2021:** Missed the 2021 campaign due to injury. **2020:** Played in two games as a wide receiver and on special teams... Had two catches for 49 yards with one reception going for 34 yards at North Carolina (Oct. 24)... Picked up his first collegiate tackle in the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl against Kentucky (Jan. 2).

High School: Played wide receiver and defensive back for head coach Clint Jenkins at Dacula High School... Helped the Falcons go 13-1 and advance to the GHSA 5-A State Semifinals during his senior campaign... Hauled in 31 passes for 832 yards and seven touchdowns during his senior season to earn All-Region honors... Rated a three-star prospect by 247Sports.com and Rivals... Also played basketball and competed in track & field for the Falcons.

Austin Smith

6-2, 218, QB, Jonesboro, Georgia (Eastern Michigan)

Prior to Austin Peay: Played three seasons at Eastern Michigan (2021-23), appearing in 22 games and making 16 starts at quarterback. **2023:** Played in 12 games and made 10 starts at quarterback for the Eagles... Completed 19-of-28 passes for 175 yards and a touchdown in the season opener against Howard (Sept. 1)... Went 13-of-26 for 157 yards and a touchdown while adding four carries for 45 yards on the ground against Massachusetts (Sept. 16)... Matched his career high with 20 completions for 186 yards and a touchdown while also rushing 19 times for a career-high 71 yards and a touchdown at Central Michigan (Sept. 30)... Was 18-of-28 for 192 yards and two touchdowns against Ball State (Oct. 7)... Recorded 15 completions for a career-high 231 passing yards and a touchdown against Western Michigan (Oct. 28)... Matched his career high with 20 completions for 214 yards and a touchdown against Akron (Nov. 14)... Went 19-of-27 for 141 yards and a touchdown while rushing six times for 29 yards and a touchdown in the regular-season finale at Buffalo (Nov. 21)... Finished his final season in Ypsilanti, Michigan completing 171-of-298 passes for 1,775 yards and nine touchdowns... Also carried the ball 101 times for 134 yards and two touchdowns. **2022:** Played in nine games and made six starts at quarterback for the Eagles... Completed four passes for 60 yards and his first collegiate passing touchdown at Arizona State (Sept. 17)... Fired 12 completions for 190 yards, including a 67-yard touchdown, while adding 12 carries for 74 yards and a rushing touchdown against Buffalo (Sept. 24)... Went 13-of-24 for 122 yards and two touchdowns against Massachusetts (Oct. 1)... Completed a career-best 20 passes for 197 yards at Ball State (Oct. 22), also carried the ball 19 times for 52 yards and a touchdown against the Cardinals... Was 16-of-28 for 190 yards and a touchdown at Akron (Nov. 8)... Went 68-of-118 for 774 yards and six passing touchdowns during his sophomore season... Also had 61 carries for 255 yards and two touchdowns. **2021:** Made one appearance against Texas State (Sept. 25), completing his lone pass attempt for 16 yards in his collegiate debut.

High School: Played quarterback for head coach Miguel Patrick at Cedar Grove High School... Completed 65 passes for 985 yards and eight touchdowns while rushing for 206 yards and three touchdowns in just five games during his senior season... Helped lead the Saints to the GHSA Class 3-A State Championship in 2018 and 2019, including a 13-2 overall record during the 2019 campaign... Rated a three-star prospect by 247Sports.com and ESPN and a two-star by Rivals... Also ran track for the Saints.

Carson Smith

5-11, 170, K, Belmont, North Carolina (East Carolina)

Prior to Austin Peay: Spent three seasons at East Carolina (2021-23) and did not see action for the Pirates.

High School: Was a kicker for head coach Adam Hodge at Southpoint High School... Was twice named the Southwestern 2A Kicker of the Year... Also played soccer and golf for the Red Raiders.

Bo Spearman

6-1, 226, LB, Irondale, Alabama (Chattanooga)

Prior to Austin Peay: Played four seasons at Chattanooga (2020-23), appearing in 33 games and making nine starts at linebacker. **2023:** Made eight starts and played in all 13 games for the Mocs... Had five tackles, two pass breakups, and a fumble recovery in the season opener against North Alabama (Sept. 2)... Recorded seven tackles and a career-best two tackles for loss against Kennesaw State (Sept. 9)... Picked up four tackles – all solo stops – and recovered a fumble at Samford (Sept. 23)... Posted a career-best nine tackles, with five solo stops, at Wofford (Sept. 30)... Tallied seven more tackles against Western Carolina (Oct. 7)... Had two tackles and shared a tackle for loss at VMI (Oct. 28)... Had one tackle against Austin Peay (Nov. 25) in the first round of the 2023 FCS Playoffs... Finished his final season as a Moc with 48 tackles, 2.5 tackles for loss, two fumble recoveries, two pass breakups, and two quarterback hurries. **2022:** Played in 10 games and made one start at linebacker... Had four tackles – all solo stops – in the season opener against Wofford (Sept. 3)... Added two more tackles at Illinois (Sept. 22)... Recorded one tackle and a fumble recovery against Mercer (Oct. 22)... Tallied a pair of tackles at The Citadel (Nov. 5)... Closed the season with three tackles at Western Carolina (Nov. 19)... Closed the season with 15 tackles – including 10 solo stops – and a fumble recovery. **2021:** Played in six games... Had a tackle in his first appearance of the season at North Alabama (Sept. 11)... Had three tackles and a half tackle for loss at Wofford (Nov. 6)... Added three more tackles at Mercer (Nov. 13)... Finished with eight tackles and a half tackle for loss. **2020:** Played in four games and recorded his first collegiate tackle against Mercer (March 27, 2021).

High School: Played linebacker at Shades Valley High School for head coach David Partridge... Missed the majority of his senior season due to injury... Totaled 79 tackles and five tackles for loss during his junior campaign... Recorded three tackles, five tackles for loss, two sacks, two forced fumbles, and an interception as a sophomore... Rated a three-star prospect by 247Sports.com... Also played basketball for the Mounties.

Cinque Williams

5-9, 180, DB, Southlake, Texas (UTSA)

Prior to Austin Peay: Began his collegiate career at North Texas (2021) before transferring to UTSA (2022-23). **2023:** Played in five games for the Roadrunners. **2022:** Appeared in seven games... Recorded a tackle against Texas Southern (Sept. 24). **2021:** Played in five games during his lone season at North Texas... Made his collegiate debut against Southern Methodist (Sept. 11).

High School: Played defense back, wide receiver, and returned kicks for head coach Riley Dodge at Southlake Carroll High School... Helped lead the Dragons to a runner-up finish in the 2020 UIL Class 6A Division I State Championship... Recorded 70 tackles, five tackles for loss, one sack, an interception, three forced fumbles, and one fumble recovery that he returned for a touchdown during his senior campaign to be named the 2020 District 4-6A Defensive Player of the Year... Also returned nine kicks for 232 yards and three punts for 25 yards as a senior... Rated a three-star prospect by 247Sports.com and a two-star by Rivals... Also competed in track & field, posting personal-best times of 11.14 in the 100 meters and 23.51 in the 200 meters.

December Signing Class Biographies

Grace'son Beach

6-1, 215, LB, Clarksville, Tennessee (Pearl-Cohn HS)

High School: Played linebacker for head coach Tony Brunetti at Pearl-Cohn High School... Finished his prep career with 239 tackles, 37 tackles for loss, four sacks, one forced fumble, and one fumble recovery... Earned the 2023 William E. Hume Award, which is Metro Nashville Public Schools' most prestigious football award and is based on academic success, sportsmanship, individual performance, and value to their team... Totaled 58 tackles, 13 tackles for loss, and three sacks in just eight games during an injury-shortened senior season... Helped lead the Firebirds to the 2023 TSSAA Class 4A State Championship, despite being sidelined by injury for the final seven games of the season... A First Team All-Region 5-4A selection as a junior after recording 154 tackles, 20 tackles for loss, and one sack in 15 games... Helped Pearl-Cohn finish as the Class 4A State runner-up during his junior season in 2022... Rated a three-star prospect by 247Sports.com and a two-star prospect by Rivals... Also competed in wrestling.

BJ Blake

5-9, 180, RB, Memphis, Tennessee (Germantown HS)

High School: Played running back for head coach Gene Robinson at Germantown High School... Played in the 2023 Tennessee Athletic Coach Association (TACA) East-West All-Star Classic at Fortera Stadium and scored the game-winning touchdown on a seven-yard rush with 13 seconds remaining to give the West Team a 14-7 victory... Rushed for 93 yards and a touchdown on 11 carries in the TACA East-West All-Star Classic... Totaled 2,609 all-purpose yards and 28 total touchdowns during his prep career... A Second Team All-Region 8-6A selection as a junior in 2022... Rated a three-star prospect by 247Sports.com... Also played basketball for the Red Devils.

Gabe Bobbitt

6-4, 235, TE, Villa Rica, Georgia (South Paulding HS)

High School: Played tight end for head coach Maurice Allen at South Paulding High School... Finished his prep career with 28 receptions for 350 yards and three touchdowns... Recorded 13 receptions for 148 yards during his senior campaign... Earned Honorable Mention All-Region 5-6A recognition after totaling 14 catches for 195 yards and two touchdowns during his junior season.

Malik Bowen-Sims

6-2, 198, WR, Mt. Juliet, Tennessee (Duke)

Prior to Austin Peay: Appeared in 31 games over four seasons at Duke (2020-2023), where he was recruited by and played the 2020 season for now APSU head coach Jeff Faris. **2023:** Appeared in six games for the Blue Devils... Recorded a pair of catches for 16 yards against Lafayette (Sept. 9)... Finished the season with three receptions for 13 yards. **2022:** Played in a career-high 11 games and posted two catches for 18 yards... Also recorded a tackle against Virginia Tech (Nov. 12). **2021:** Totaled career-highs with five catches for 40 yards in seven games played... Had two receptions for 13 yards at Virginia Tech (Nov. 13) and had a career-long 14-yard catch against Miami (Nov. 27). **2020:** Appeared in seven games as a true freshman... Recorded his first collegiate reception and posted career-highs with three catches for 36 yards against Virginia Tech (Oct. 3)... Picked up his first collegiate tackle against Miami (Dec. 5).

High School: Played wide receiver for head coach Trey Perry at Mt. Juliet High School... Helped the Golden Bears to a 29-7 record and three trips to the TSAAA Playoffs... A two-time First Team All-Region 4-6A section and the Region 4-6A Offensive Player of the Year in 2018... Was named The Tennessean's 2019 Dandy Dozen... Totaled 72 receptions for 1,241 yards and 15 touchdowns during his prep career... Rated a three-star prospect by 247Sports.com, Rivals, and ESPN.

Leon Brigham III

6-0, 303, OL, DeSoto, Texas (DeSoto HS)

High School: Played offensive line for head coach Claude Mathis at DeSoto High School... Helped the Eagles win back-to-back Texas 6-A Division 2 State Championships in 2022 and 2023... The Eagles went 14-0 during the 2023 season... An all-district selection during his sophomore, junior, and senior seasons.

Dorian Davis

6-0, 194, DB, Shelby, North Carolina (Towson)

Prior to Austin Peay: Began his collegiate career at Western Carolina (2019-20) before transferring to Southern Illinois (2021) and Towson (2022-23). **2023:** Played in all 11 games and totaled a career-best 73 tackles, which ranked third among Towson players... Also led the Tigers with 46 solo tackles... Picked up six tackles at Maryland (Sept. 2)... Had seven tackles – all solo stops – and a pass breakup against Monmouth (Sept. 9)... Posted five tackles and an interception with a three-yard return at Morgan State (Sept. 16)... Had nine tackles at New Hampshire (Sept. 30)... Recorded a career-high 13 tackles – with eight solo stops – at North Carolina A&T (Nov. 4)... Finished the season with seven tackles against Rhode Island (Nov. 18). **2022:** Appeared in nine tackles with 17 tackles, three pass breakups, and a fumble recovery... Had a season-high five tackles against New Hampshire (Sept. 24)... Picked up three tackles and a pass breakup at Delaware (Oct. 1)... Recorded four tackles and a fumble recovery at Elon (Oct. 8)... Had a tackle and a pass breakup against William & Mary (Oct. 22)... Notched two tackles and a pass break up against Monmouth (Oct. 29). **2021:** Played in 10 games during his lone season at Southern Illinois... Had two tackles in his SIU debut against Southeast Missouri (Sept. 2)... Had a season-high four tackles against Dayton (Sept. 18)... Matched his season-high with four tackles at Indiana State (Nov. 13)... Recorded on tackle, a forced fumble, and a pass breakup at South Dakota (Nov. 27)... Finished the season with 14 tackles, a forced fumble, a pass breakup, and a quarterback hurry. **2020:** Played in all nine games for Western Carolina during the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 seasons... Picked up two tackles and a fumble recovery in his collegiate debut at Liberty (Nov. 14)... Had eight tackles – with a season-best seven solo stops – at Samford (Feb. 20)... Notched for tackles and a pass breakup against The Citadel (March 13)... Posted a season-best 10 tackles and a PBU at Mercer (March 20)... Closed his freshman campaign with eight tackles and a pass break up at ETSU (March 27)... Finished the season with 42 tackles, a forced fumble, and three pass breakups to earn 2020-21 HERO Sports Freshman All-America and 2021 Southern Conference All-Freshman Team honors. **2019:** Redshirted in his first season at WCU.

High School: Played cornerback for head coach Lance Ware at Shelby High School... Helped the Golden Lions win the NCHSAA 2AA State Championships in 2015, 2016, and 2018... Was named an All-Southwestern Athletic Conference selection during his junior and senior seasons... Finished his prep career with 85 tackles and 11 interceptions, including five picks as a senior and six during his junior season... Rated a two-star prospect by Rivals... Also was an all-conference performer in track & field after qualifying for the regional meet in the 110-meter hurdles.

Stephen Ellison II

5-11, 190, DB, Murfreesboro, Tennessee (Oakland HS)

High School: Played defensive back for head coach Kevin Creasy at Oakland High School... Helped the Patriots win TSSAA Class 6A State Championships in 2020, 2021, and 2022 with a runner-up finish in 2023... Finished his prep career with 119 tackles, 12 pass breakups, and two interceptions... Was a 2023 Scholar Athlete All-America Team nominee... Totaled 37 tackles, 1.5 tackles for loss, a sack, and five pass breakups during his senior campaign... Recorded 77 tackles, a sack, an interception, six pass breakups, two forced fumbles, and two fumble recoveries as a sophomore in 2021 before missing his junior season in 2022 with an injury... Rated a three-star prospect by 247Sports.com and a two-star by Rivals.

Mason Garcia

6-5, 242, QB, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina (East Carolina)

Prior to Austin Peay: Played four seasons at East Carolina (2020-23), appearing in 20 games and making four starts at quarterback. **2023:** Played in a career-high eight games and made a career-high three starts in his fourth season at ECU... Opened the season as the starter against No. 2 Michigan (Sept. 2), completing 11 passes for 80 yards and rushing eight times for 36 yards... Made his second-straight start against Marshall (Sept. 9), completing 10 passes for 62 yards and a touchdown while rushing 16 times for a career-best 118 yards... His 118 rushing yards against Marshall marked the first 100-yard rushing performance by a Pirates quarterback since 2018... Tallied nine completions for 89 yards against Gardner-Webb (Sept. 23) while also carrying the ball six times for 18 yards and a touchdown... Posted career-highs with 12 completions for 155 yards against Southern Methodist (Oct. 12), also rushed 12 times for 38 yards and a touchdown against the Mustangs... Made his final start of the campaign against Charlotte, throwing for 19 yards on four completions and rushing five times for 12 yards... Completed 48-of-95 passes for 408 yards and a touchdown during the 2023 season, and also rushed 50 times for 268 yards and two touchdowns – he ranked third on the team in rushing yards and second in touchdowns. **2022:** Appeared in three games off the bench at quarterback... Completed 5-of-7 passes for 39 yards and rushed twice for 11 yards against Campbell (Sept. 17)... Completed 7-of-12 passes for 54 yards and added 14 rushing yards on five attempts during his third season at ECU. **2021:** Played in six games in a reserve role at quarterback... Posted a three-yard rushing touchdown in his season debut against Charleston Southern (Sept. 25)... Completed his lone passing attempt against Tulane (Oct. 2) for a 14-yard touchdown – his first collegiate touchdown pass... Finished the season with two completions for 21 yards and eight rushes for 19 yards. **2020:** Appeared in three games and made his first collegiate start against Navy (Oct. 17)... Completed 10-of-20 passes for 104 yards against the Midshipmen while rushing 15 times for 63 yards and a touchdown.

High School: Played quarterback for head coach Marc Morris at Carolina Forrest High School... Threw for 2,149 yards and 19 touchdowns while rushing for 761 yards and 14 touchdowns to lead the Panthers to a 12-2 overall record and a 6-0 mark in region play during his senior season... Guided Carolina Forrest to the Lower State 5A finals for the first time in school history as a senior before falling to Dutch Fork in the championship game... Earned All-Region 6-5A honors as a junior after passing for 2,100 yards and 28 touchdowns while tallying 700 yards on the ground... Helped the Panthers go 8-2 overall and 4-1 in Region 6 during his junior season in 2018 while also leading the program to its first playoff victory since 2004... Took over the reins at quarterback as a sophomore in 2017 and passes for nearly 1,600 yards and 14 touchdowns while adding 500 yards and 13 touchdowns on the ground... Was invited to play in the Blue-Gray All-American Bowl – a North vs. South All-Star Showcase – at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida at the conclusion of his prep career... Was also selected to represent South Carolina at the 2019 Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas... Rated a four-star prospect by 247Sports.com and Rivals... Also played basketball for the Panthers, averaging 7.7 points, 7.6 rebounds, and 1.6 assists per game during his prep career.

Ethan Goodin

6-5, 265, OL, Evansville, Indiana (Mater Dei HS)

High School: Played offensive line for head coach Mike Goebel at Mater Dei High School... An Indiana Class 2A Senior All-State Team selection in 2023... Also earned 2023 Second Team SIAC All-Conference and All-Metro honors during his senior campaign... Helped the Wildcats win the 2022 Indiana Class 2 AA State Championship with a 20-10 win over Andrean at Lucas Oil Stadium... Also played baseball for the Wildcats.

Malachi Harris

6-4, 320, OL, Huntsville, Alabama (Mae Jemison HS)

High School: Began his prep career as an offensive lineman for head coach Rich White at Anniston High School before playing his senior season for White at Mae Jemison High School... Helped Anniston go 11-1 and win the Alabama Class 4A State Championship as a junior in 2022... Rated a three-star prospect by 247Sports.com and a two-star by Rivals.

Tyler Hicks

6-1, 197, LB, Alabaster, Alabama (Thompson HS)

High School: Played linebacker for Mark Freeman at Thompson High School... Totaled 63 tackles with nine tackles for loss, two sacks, and four pass breakups during his senior season... Was selected to play in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic at M.M. Roberts Stadium in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and recorded seven tackles in the contest to help Alabama claim a 26-11 victory... Helped Thompson win the Alabama Class 7A State Championship in 2020, 2021, and 2022 with a runner-up finish in 2023.

CJ Jordan

5-10, 160, ATH, Memphis, Tennessee (Lausanne Collegiate School)

High School: Played wide receiver and defensive back for head coach Kevin Locastro at Lausanne Collegiate School... A four-time Division II-AA West All-Region selection for the Lynxs... Rushed for 74 yards and a touchdown during his prep career while also recording 40 receptions for 715 yards and 11 touchdowns... Also finished his prep career with 349 kick-return yards, 322 punt return yards, and 93 interception return yards en route to 1,553 career all-purpose yards... Recorded 68 tackles, one sack, five interceptions, and 15 passes defended in four years at Lausanne... Picked up 18 tackles and three interceptions during his senior season while also posting career-highs with 123 kick return yards and 195 punt return yards... Also rushed for 81 yards and a touchdown in addition to recording nine receptions for 196 yards and two touchdowns as a senior... Had 18 catches for 346 yards and five touchdowns during his junior campaign after recording 13 catches for 173 yards and four touchdowns as a sophomore... Rated a three-star prospect by 247Sports.com.

Jade Kneeland

6-2, 190, WR, Bartlett, Tennessee (Bartlett HS)

High School: Played wide receiver for head coach Chris Smith at Bartlett High School... Selected to play in the Nashville All-American Bowl... Third-Team All-Region 8-6A in 2022, helping Bartlett reach Class 6A semifinal round... Also competed in track and field for the Panthers.

Jeffson Locke

6-3, 235, ATH, Dalton, Georgia (Dalton HS)

High School: Played tight end and defensive line for head coach Kit Carpenter at Dalton High School... A Region 7-5A first-team selection at tight end as a senior... Had 316 receiving yards on 20 receptions, scoring two touchdowns... Defensively, he was credited with 126 tackles, 19 tackles for loss, and 11 sacks... Region 7-5A honorable mention in 2022... Began prep career at Christian Heritage... A Region 7-A Private first-team selection after recording nine tackles for loss and two sacks as a sophomore in 2021... Rated a two-star prospect by Rivals.

Jay Morrow

6-2, 260, DL, Memphis, Tennessee (Lausanne Collegiate School)

High School: Played defensive line for head coach Kevin Locastro at Lausanne Collegiate School... Missed 2022 due to transfer rules... Named the Division II-AA West Region Defensive MVP after recording 29 tackles and eight sacks during his senior season in 2023... Also competed in track and field for the Lynx, throwing the shot put and discus.

Corey Richardson

5-9, 170, ATH, Fayetteville, Georgia (Whitewater HS)

High School: Played running back and defensive back for head coach Chad Frazier at Whitewater High School... Finished prep career with 992 rushing yards and 1,791 all-purpose yards... Amassed 576 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior in 2022 and had 902 all-purpose yards... Region 4-4A Special Teams Player of the Year... Ran for 204 yards and four touchdowns as a junior in 2021 while finishing with 307 kick return yards in a 625 all-purpose yard campaign... He was a Whitewater track & field program member, competing in the 100 and 200-meter dashes and the 4x100 relay... He qualified for the 2023 Class 4A state championship in the 100-meter dash and was a member of WHS' 4x100 relay team that competed in the state championship.

Jase Skoglund

6-5, 240, TE, Austin Texas (Vandegrift HS)

High School: Played tight end for head coach Drew Sanders at Vandegrift High School... A unanimous first-team 25-6A All-District selection as a senior in 2023 after receiving first-team honors as a junior in 2022... Finished his senior season with 40 receptions for 673 yards and seven touchdowns... Had 28 receptions for 370 yards and five touchdowns as a junior in 2022, helping Vandegrift reach the UIL Class 6A Division 2 state championship game... Also a pitcher and first baseman for the Vipers' baseball team... His brother, Austin, is a linebacker on the Austin Peay football team.

Spence Tankersley

6-5, 320, OL/DL, Lewisburg, Tennessee (Forrest HS)

High School: Played offensive and defensive line for head coach Eli Stephenson at Forrest High School... 2022 Honorable Mention All-Region 5-2A as a junior in 2022... Region 5-2A Offensive Lineman of the Year as a sophomore in 2021, helping Forrest High School reach the Class 2A state quarterfinals.