

AVE MARIA COMPLETES ITS 2025 RECRUITING CLASS

The 2025 recruiting class marks the deepest group of signees in at least eight years with players hailing from 19 different states and Canada. Nearly 60-percent of the signees come from out of state, with the most common being Michigan (seven prospects), Texas (four prospects), and Illinois (three prospects).

“We are thrilled with our incoming class,” said Head Coach Joe Patterson. “They will allow us to compete well this year.” Coach Patterson credited first-year Recruiting Coordinator Dylan Ramsey with spearheading the efforts. “Coach Ramsey pursued this class with relentless discipline. He led a staff that had a clear understanding of what needed to happen this offseason.”

“I’m excited because we brought in guys who want to graduate from Ave Maria and fit into our mission,” said Coach Ramsey. “The talent will show through--not just for this fall--but for years to come.”

The Gyrenes addressed its needs at offensive line, signing 11 offensive linemen, headlined by Cole Peyton (6-3, 305, Branford, Fla.), John Schambach (6-2, 285, Lakeland,

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2025 Recruiting Class by the Numbers

- Average unweighted High School GPA 3.44
- Number of US States represented 19

Top states (other than Florida):

- Michigan 7
- Texas 4
- Illinois 2
- Indiana 2
- Ohio 2
- California 2

Top Academic Majors:

- Business Administration 17
- Exercise Physiology 10
- Finance 5
- Health Science 3
- Marketing 3

AMU WELCOMES JOHN WEISBROD AS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

In January of this year, Joe Patterson announced that he would be stepping down as the AMU Director of Athletics after serving in that role for five years. Ave Maria received more than 100 applications for the open position, and it is with great excitement that the University announced John Weisbrod, a veteran sports executive with

more than three decades of high-level experience in professional hockey and basketball, as the next AMU Director of Athletics.

Notably, Weisbrod graduated from Harvard University as a standout student-athlete and a key contributor to

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- **Orlando Magic (NBA)** - Chief Operating Officer/General Manager (2000-2005)
- **Boston Bruins (NHL)** - Director of Scouting (2006-2011)
- **Calgary Flames (NHL)** - Asst. GM/Dir. of Player Personnel (2011-2013)
- **Vancouver Canucks (NHL)** - Asst. GM/VP of Player Personnel (2014-2023)

AMU FOOTBALL ALUMNI PROGRESS THROUGH PRIESTLY SEMINARY



Joe Stalonis (in the middle in the picture on the left) is joined by Jessiah Rojas, both of whom served at the installation of the new bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington. A short while later, that bishop (above) ordained Rojas as a transitional deacon.

Jessiah Rojas played linebacker at Ave Maria University and served as the program's linebackers coach on the 2018 Sun Conference Championship team. Joe Stalonis played defensive line and offensive line for the Gyrenes, earning a starting spot on the offensive line for the AMU title game versus Keiser during the 2021 season. Both Rojas and Stalonis are currently seminarians for the Archdiocese of Washington DC.

Rojas was ordained a deacon this past month. He will be ordained a priest next summer. Stalonis is entering his fourth year in the seminary this fall.

Please pray for both Jessiah and Joe as they continue to pursue their priestly calling!

JUNE PROSPECT CAMP SERVES AS UNOFFICIAL KICKOFF TO THE 2026 RECRUITING CLASS



Saturday
June 21, 2025

85 prospects
participated

SUPPORT THE AVE MARIA FOOTBALL PROGRAM!

*Your donation helps cover the costs associated with
travel, equipment, and team meals.*

*AMU Football relies greatly upon the generosity
of our supporters!*

Every donation makes a material difference.

Use this link to make your donation.

Make certain to make your “designation” to be **FOOTBALL.**

https://donate.avemaria.edu/AMU_Athletics

“The dramatic improvements in our facilities over the past few years have been the result of transformational donations. However, **we still need to cover operational expenses while providing a great student-athlete experience.** Donors can be confident that their donation will directly affect the lives of our football players.”

-- Head Coach Joe Patterson

Please feel free to reach out to Coach Patterson at: joseph.patterson@avemaria.edu



2025 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE INCLUDES TRIP TO TENNESSEE AND THE FIRST SEASON OPENING AT HOME SINCE 2019

For the first time since 2019, the Gyrenes will open the season with a home game as former NAIA National Champion Lindsey Wilson comes to town Saturday Sept. 6. For the second game, Ave Maria will fly to Nashville for their non-conference game against Cumberland University. In both cases, AMU is looking to avenge a loss. The sole match up in program history against each team took place during the 2018 season as the Gyrenes lost to Cumberland, 35-34, and lost to Lindsey Wilson, 44-15. Gyrene fans will remember that AMU proceeded to have a great season that year, winning the 2018 Sun Conference title.











Both teams were nationally ranked at various points last season, Lindsey Wilson as high as No. 20 and Cumberland as high as No. 22.

“We’re really excited about our non-conference schedule,” said Head Coach Joe Patterson. “The quality of their programs will prepare us well for conference play. And we’re super excited to open the season at home this year.”

The Fort Lauderdale home game will serve as Military Appreciation Day and will complete the non-conference schedule.

Sun Conference play begins with an Oct. 4 road game against St. Thomas, who qualified for the NAIA National Playoffs last season. There are three Sun Conference home games: Webber Oct. 11, Keiser Nov. 1, and Florida Memorial Nov. 8. In 2024, Keiser made it to the NAIA National Championship Game, the third straight year it accomplished that. The Florida Memorial game will serve as Homecoming as well as Senior Day.

The only overnight travel game--other than the one against Cumberland--will be an Oct. 18 match against Thomas University in Thomasville, Georgia.

	Sep 6 (Sat) / 7 p.m. vs Lindsey Wilson (Ky.)	Ave Maria, Fla.
	Sep 13 (Sat) / 6 p.m. at Cumberland (Tenn.)	Lebanon, Tenn.
	Sep 20 (Sat) / 7 p.m. vs Fort Lauderdale	Ave Maria, Fla.
	Oct 4 (Sat) / 12 p.m. at St. Thomas	SUN Miami Gardens, Fla.
	Oct 11 (Sat) / 7 p.m. vs Webber	SUN Ave Maria, Fla.
	Oct 18 (Sat) at Thomas	SUN Thomasville, Ga.
	Oct 25 (Sat) at Warner	SUN Lake Wales, Fla.
	Nov 1 (Sat) / 7 p.m. vs Keiser	SUN Ave Maria, Fla.
	Nov 8 (Sat) / 7 p.m. vs Florida Memorial Homecoming and Senior Day	SUN Ave Maria, Fla.
	Nov 15 (Sat) / 7 p.m. at Southeastern	SUN Lakeland, Fla.

AMU WELCOMES JOHN WEISBROD AS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

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Harvard’s 1989 NCAA Division I National Championship hockey team, the first and only national championship in Harvard University history. Following his collegiate playing career, he played professionally with the San Jose Sharks from 1991 to 1993.

Weisbrod’s executive career spans such positions in hockey as Director of Operations for the Albany River Rats, General Manager of the Orlando Solar Bears, Professional Scout for the Dallas Stars, Director of Pro and Collegiate Scouting for the Boston Bruins, Assistant General Manager and Director of Player Personnel for the Calgary Flames, and, most recently, Assistant General Manager and Vice President of Player Personnel for the Vancouver Canucks.

Throughout his career, Weisbrod has achieved championship success at every professional level—NHL (Stanley Cup, 2011), AHL (Calder Cup, 1995), and IHL (Turner Cup,

2001)—making him one of the few executives to hold titles in all three leagues.

Weisbrod also served as Chief Operating Officer and General Manager of the Orlando Magic of the NBA, overseeing all basketball and business operations. During his tenure, he reversed a multi-year financial downturn, managed a \$150-million budget, and drafted future NBA All-Stars Dwight Howard and Jameer Nelson, while also serving on the NBA Board of Governors.

“The entire athletic department is thrilled that John Weisbrod has chosen to come lead us,” said head football coach Joe Patterson. “He is obviously a competitive individual who sees the value of athletics. We are eager to work alongside him here at AMU.”

Weisbrod joined the University at the beginning of June and has been focused on setting the stage for a successful athletic year.

PATTERSON TAKES ON ROLE OF OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Earlier this year, Gage Hayes, who had served as the AMU Offensive Coordinator for the previous three seasons, took a job as the Offensive Coordinator for St. Anselm's in New England. Also at that time, Coach Patterson announced that he was stepping down as the AMU Director of Athletics after serving in that role for five years. The timing was fortuitous, as it allowed Patterson to take on the offensive coordinator responsibilities. He has served as an offensive coordinator for the majority of his 28-year coaching career, and he was excited to jump into the role.

"I'm grateful to have a super talented staff with which to work," said Coach Patterson. "The players bought in quickly, and I think we're in a great position heading into the fall."

Two other staff changes include alumni as Kristian Marks has taken on the quarterback coaching responsibilities and Courtland Duncan has taken on the tight end coaching responsibilities.



Joe Patterson
Head Coach/Off. Coordinator
 29th year coaching
 10th season at AMU



Kristian Marks
Quarterbacks
 1st year coaching
 BA and MA from AMU



Keith Gilmore - DC/DL
 41st year coaching
 6th season at AMU
 Notre Dame, North Carolina,
 Colorado State, Illinois, Cincinnati,
 Central Michigan, Michigan State



John Klacik - Offensive Line
 27th year coaching
 8th season at AMU
 Youngstown State, Wake Forest,
 Lock Haven (Head Coach),
 Miami (Ohio)



Jarvis McGarrah - RBs
 16th year coaching
 9th season at AMU
 Former European Football Head
 Coach and Defensive Coordinator,
 most recently Jireh Prep (NC)



**Dylan Ramsey - S. Teams
 Coord.; Rec. Coord.; DFO**
 10th year coaching
 2nd season at AMU
 Montana Western, Wisconsin La
 Crosse, Northern Illinois



Matt Millhouse - Secondary
 18th year coaching
 3rd season at AMU
 St. Francis (Ind.)
 Bishop Luers HS (Ind.)



Tommy Streeter - WRs
 3rd year coaching
 3rd season at AMU
 Played four seasons in the NFL:
 Baltimore, Buffalo, Tampa, Miami



Dominic Morgan - LBs
 2nd year coaching
 2nd season at AMU
 Played football at Ave Maria
 University



Courtland Duncan - TEs
 2nd year coaching
 2nd season at AMU
 Played football at Ave Maria
 University

EIGHTH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT IS A GREAT SUCCESS

Another sellout as The National of Ave Maria serves as hosts

The 2025 Ave Maria Golf Tournament took place on a beautiful April day at The National Golf and Country Club of Ave Maria. The day featured great fellowship and competition. Ave Maria Mutual Funds was again the Tournament Sponsor, ensuring that the day would be a tremendous financial success.

It was the last tournament under the direction of outgoing athletic director Joe Patterson. "It's always thrilling to see such support for the athletic programs at AMU," said Coach Patterson. "Every dollar raised truly makes a difference. The tournament is also about fellowship and growing Gyrene Nation."

Keep an eye out for the 2026 tournament, and please consider being a sponsor.



FOOTBALL PLAYERS PERFORM NEARLY 600 HOURS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE DURING MOST RECENT ACADEMIC YEAR



As part of the Offseason Challenge, football players are expected to perform Christian service hours. From left to right: Members of the AMU defense work at a Habitat for Humanity site, players bought pizzas and delivered them to the homeless in Immokalee, linebacker J.J. Coleman organized a toy giveaway at Village Oaks Elementary School.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL FOR THE 2025 SEASON ELECTED



JOEY BARRISE
Defensive Back
Politics
Totowa, N.J.



OWEN CAMPIONE
Linebacker
Exercise Physiology
Land O' Lakes, Fla.



ELIJAH DOUGE
Defensive Line
Business Administration
Fort Wayne, Ind.



LUIS NUNEZ
Defensive Back
Exercise Physiology
Land O' Lakes, Fla.



LUKE SANDS
Defensive Line
Business Administration
Rochester Hills, Mich.



TRISTON SCHULTZ
Defensive Line
Accounting
Oak Lawn, Ill.



TOBIO SCIENZO
Offensive Line
Exercise Physiology
Hobe Sound, Fla.

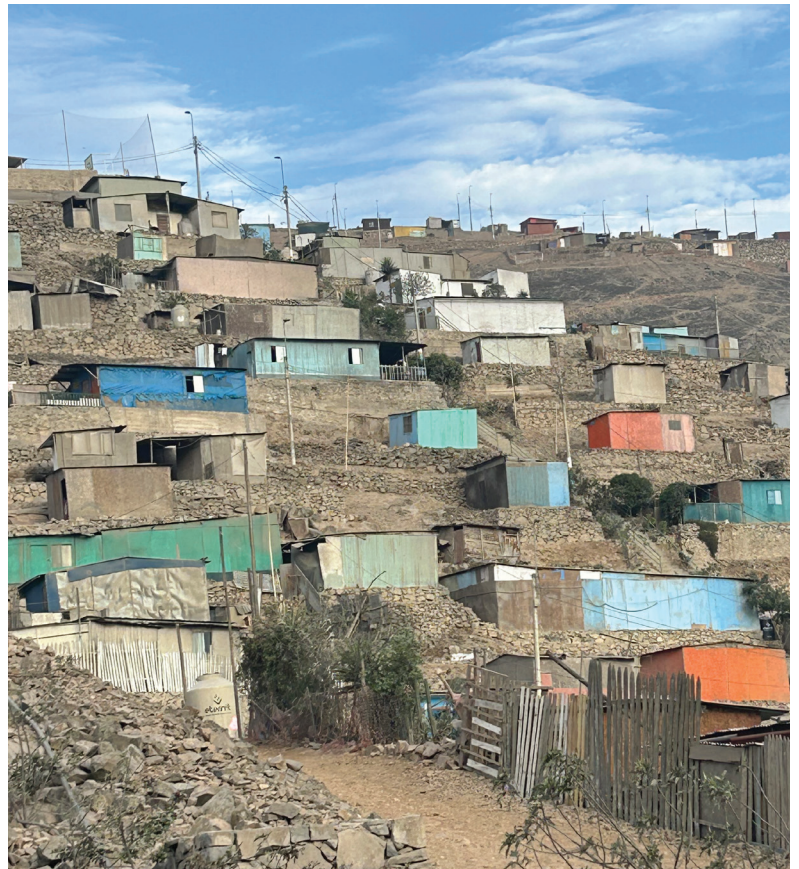


DJ VAN HORN
Wide Receiver
Exercise Physiology
Lexington, Ky.

MEMBERS OF AMU FOOTBALL PARTICIPATE IN MAY 2025 SERVICE TRIP TO PERU



John Suran (pictured above with Coach Patterson) earned the 2024 Ave Maria Football Most Valuable Player award. The week after graduation, he took part in a 10-day service trip to Peru alongside other Ave Maria students and staff. To the left, Suran is assisting at a Eucharistic blessing of Pampuna, a shanty town just west of Lima. The AMU contingent was tasked with helping to build a retaining wall. Such walls are critical in the town, which is located in the Andes mountain range.



ALUMNI COACHES SERVE IN VITAL ROLES FOR 2025

The AMU football coaching staff boasts of nearly 150 years of coaching experience, but three young alumni provide a very different experience, namely that of having played at Ave Maria under Coach Patterson. As such, they have a valuable perspective that serves the staff well.

Dominic Morgan, going into his second year as the linebackers coach, sees his role as one that allows him to give back to his alma mater. "AMU holds such a special place in my heart," said Coach Morgan. "I learned so much during my time here about myself and what it means to be a man of Christ. I feel so blessed for the opportunity to give back to a place that gave so much to me."

Coach Morgan's linebacking group excelled during the 2024 season as senior John Suran received all-conference honors and was named the team's MVP.

Coach Courtland Duncan enters the 2025 season as AMU's tight ends coach after serving in 2024 as an assistant to wide receivers coach Tommy Streeter. "As an alumnus of Ave Maria, this university holds value in the trajectory of my life and professional career," said Coach Duncan. "Ave Maria is a place that promotes excellence in faith, education, and athletics. I feel grateful to give back to a program and university that has made me a better man."

Kristian Marks, who holds the AMU record for career completion percentage (57 percent), finished his Ave Maria career in the top four all-time in pass attempts, completions, passing yards, and passing touchdowns. The competitive spirit that served him well as a Gyrene quarterback informs how he approaches his new role as quarterback coach.



Dominic Morgan during the 2023 season



Courtland Duncan prior to the 2023 AMU Senior Game



Kristian Marks in the 2021 Sun Conference Title Game versus Keiser University

2025 RECRUITING CLASS ENTERS WITH HIGH EXPECTATIONS

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Fla.), Dylan Koroly (6-5, 275, Gainesville, Fla.), and Levi Watson (6-1, 320, Moore Haven, Fla.) Offensive line coach John Klacik views the incoming players as being able to sync up well with the returning linemen. "We have good size coming in with plenty of potential from guys who can plan multiple positions," said Coach Klacik.

Possibly the most heralded recruit is Jayden George, a post-grad quarterback who signed with the Gyrenes in late June. George, who guided Marian Central (Ind.) to a state title as a high school quarterback, originally went to the University of Alabama before spending time on other FBS rosters, including the University of Miami. The backfield and wide receiver corps both gained playmakers as well, setting the stage for a competitive August camp.

Defensively, the Gyrenes added middle linebacker J.J. Coleman in time for spring ball, and then inked four defensive backs who should immediately solidify the secondary. Defensive Coordinator Keith Gilmore returns many starters from this past season, but it was imperative to continue to bolster the defense.

"The 2025 defensive recruiting class is very talented and deep," said Coach Gilmore, who is going into his sixth season at Ave Maria. "We met some specific needs in our secondary. We signed some players that will add speed and depth to that unit. Our linebacker and defensive line signees have the potential to be impact players and contribute early in their careers."



Transfer quarterback Jayden George (above) headlines a 2025 recruiting class that heralds from 19 different states. John Schambach (upper left) and Cole Payton (bottom right) provide size and strength to the offensive line while wide receiver Joey Audia from Pennsylvania (middle of the page) and defensive back Aiden Holmes from Georgia (bottom left) bring playmaking abilities with them.



SAVOHN HUNT INDUCTED INTO THE AMU HALL OF FAME

In November of 2024, Savohn Hunt became the third Ave Maria football player to be inducted in the Ave Maria Athletics Hall of Fame, joining offensive lineman Jeff Lindenmoyer (inducted in 2021) and linebacker John Preyer (inducted in 2023). While at AMU, Hunt was a force on the defensive line, ranging from 2016-2019. The Maryland native was a four-year starter for the Gyrenes and a two-time All-Sun Division selection, including earning first-team honors following his senior season of 2019. Hunt also earned Honorable Mention NAIA All-American honors in 2019, becoming just the third All-American in program history, and the second on the defensive side of the ball. Hunt finished his playing career with 169 total tackles, including 24 tackles for loss and seven sacks.



Accolades: 2019 Honorable Mention All-American; 2019 First Team All-Sun Division; 2018 Second Team All-Sun Division; One-time Sun Div. Defensive Player of the Week

Career Stats: 169 total tackles, 24 tackles for loss, seven sacks, one blocked kick, one safety



Savohn Hunt is pictured here with former teammates Max Michel (defensive line) and Matt Hunt (offensive line).

Savohn stayed close to the program upon graduation and currently serves as a full-time student support advisor as well as a residence hall director on campus.